There was a lot of visual lightening of car volumes (especially in the rear) to make them appear more lithe, lean and athletic. The trend was most obvious in the Citroën Cactus’ floating roof, but also in the Opel Monza and Jaguar C-X17 concepts, where a protruding tail lamp is the focus of the rear end, rather than a heavy rear bumper or diffuser design which can make the car look more connected to the road. On the Kia Niro and Renault Initiale Paris Concept, a pinched waist and door sill graphic is also used to visually lighten the car’s profile.

Cars:
1. Renault Initiale Paris
2. Jaguar C-X17
3. Opel Monza
4. Kia Niro Concept
5. Citroën Cactus Concept
Chrome has long been used as a decorative element on cars. The trend has become less prominent in recent years, as new materials and less ostentatious aesthetics were explored. At Frankfurt, chrome is back with a bang - not only as a traditional finisher, but as a key element of the design. Opel’s Monza uses it as an interconnecting element right along the car; Volvo almost as a pinstripe, inside the roof cant rail; while Cadillac and Ford used it as a finisher running right the way around the lower area.

Cars:
1. Cadillac Elminaj
2. Opel Monza
3. Volvo Coupe Concept
4. Ford S-Max Concept
Between Audi’s original Allroad and Volvo’s XC models (cross-country), the late nineties gave birth to the idea of the slightly raised estate car, complete with chunky lower body cladding. Slowly emerging on more cars at Frankfurt, this trend came of age - with lower body cladding everywhere and present on all types of vehicles, even ones with no off-road pretension. It is used in both matte and gloss finishes - the Mercedes GLA using both. Used on the Citroën Cactus, Kia Soul and Infiniti Q30 to give more of a crossover feel to cars; on the Kia Niro and Suzuki iV 4 it gives a greater sense of robustness to soft-rovers.

Cars:
1. Infiniti Q30
2. Citroën Cactus
3. Opel Insignia Tourer
4. Mercedes GLA
5. Honda Civic Tourer
6. Kia Soul
7. Skoda Fabia
8. Kia Niro
Many brands have now established a unique, or at least consistent daytime running light (DRL) graphic signature. With the evolving nature of technology however, the desire to be even more distinctive and to give greater facial expression, has led to a new trend - the headlamp “eyebrow” or a hooded DRL strip, that cuts horizontally across the main projectors below. It means the face of the car is still recognisably “human” - increasingly an issue as round bulb lights (synonymous with human eyes) disappear in car lighting technology.

Cars:
1. Opel Monza
2. BMW X5
3. Infiniti Q30
4. Mercedes GLA
5. Mercedes S-Class Coupe
6. BMW 4-Series
As cars become taller and heavier, we’re starting to see manufacturers physically or visually separating the roof from the body. On the production BMW i8 and the Citroën Cactus Concept we see an aero gap and dark glass separating the body from the roof. On the Kia Niro and on the production Citroën C4 Grand Picasso, metal is used, while the Suzuki iV-4 concept and new Kia Soul use a painted roof to reduce the overall visual center of gravity. BMW’s i3 and the Honda Civic Tourer both use a roof graphic and blacked-out D-pillar to achieve a similar effect.

Cars:
1. Citroën Cactus
2. Kia Niro
3. Kia Soul
4. Honda Civic Tourer
5. Suzuki iV-4
6. BMW i3
7. Citroën C4 Grand Picasso
8. BMW i8
**FRANKFURT MOTOR SHOW**

**ABOUT THE SHOW**

- Frankfurt Motor Show is the world's largest motor show
- This year's edition ran from September 10th - 22nd
- 1000+ exhibitors
- 1 million+ visitors predicted to attend
- High-end technology debuts include the Mercedes S-Class with self-drive capabilities, and the Nissan Nismo Smartwatch
- Premium models return as brands push upmarket with bigger and more expensive vehicles
- Frankfurt Motor Show