

Aydar Nigmatullin

Automotive Designer · Turin → Shanghai · EU work authorization (Italy, permanent)

English: Fluent | **Italian:** Fluent | **Mandarin Chinese:** Basic | **Russian:** Native | **Spanish:** Basic

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Automotive designer, 18 years experience, working the seam between European design culture and Chinese production reality. Formed in Turin — Bertone and FCA — and embedded in the Chinese EV transition across the last decade with Pininfarina Shanghai, Baoneng, and currently leading design at an EV startup in Shanghai. I translate design intent across cultures, studios, and continents: Italian and English fluently, shaped by a decade inside current Chinese automotive design culture, delivered production work in both hemispheres. Comfortable owning a program from early sketch through production sign-off. Permanent EU work authorization.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Exterior and interior concept development · Design language and brand identity development · Full-size clay model direction · Cross-cultural design team leadership (Italy / China) · Program ownership from sketch to production sign-off · European and Chinese market design sensibility

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Atom (KAMA) | Shanghai, China

Senior Lead Designer Interior & Exterior

Dec 2023 – Present

- Lead exterior and interior design for the company's future vehicle line-up, directing a design team of 2–3.
- Designed a patented steering wheel with integrated touch display as the primary driver interface, redistributing conventional cluster functions to the HUD. Owned the design from concept sketch to production.

Baoneng Auto | Shenzhen, China

Senior Lead Designer

Jul 2022 – Nov 2023

- Lead exterior designer for the launch of U-belief, Baoneng's new entry-level EV sub-brand. Owned exterior design language across two vehicle programs: an A00-segment urban BEV and an A0-segment compact EV built on a carry-over platform with fixed BIW hard points (firewall, pillars, roof, windshield).
- Presented U-belief exterior sketches publicly at Baoneng's investor event, September 2022 — sketches included in portfolio.
- Contributed refinement and accessory design work to the group's premium EV brand BAO and restyling exploration for Qoros.

Freelance Automotive Designer | Shanghai, China

Independent Projects & Skill Development

Jun 2021 – Jul 2022

- Independent automotive design and 3D modeling contracts for external clients.

Pininfarina | Shanghai, China

Lead Exterior Designer

Jun 2017 – Jun 2021

- Led Exterior Design team efforts for clients such as Nissan, Chery, Lynk&Co, SWM, Human Horizons, and other clients including several EV startups.
- Chery Big Ant Exterior Design Lead - from sketch to A-class (including quarter-scale clay, full-size clay, and CAS)
- Chery Ant 2 led design from the winning sketch to A-class release, including full-size clay, RP-enhanced painted model presentation etc.
- Led Exterior Design Team (team of 5) effort on Lynk&Co project in Design Proposals stage

Senior Designer

Jun 2016 – May 2017

- SWM Eroo showcar for 2017 Shanghai Auto Show - 4 months from brief to showtime at Shanghai Auto Show 2017.

Torino Crea / FCA - FIAT Style Center | Torino, Italy

Senior Designer

Dec 2015 – May 2016

- One of two Design Leads at Torino Crea, running client projects across automotive (e.g., Pininfarina) and broader mobility (e.g., Alstom, rail).

Exterior Designer

Aug 2015 – Dec 2015

- Design proposals for studio clients, including European and Asian OEMs and Studios. Followed a full-size clay model for an international client in China.

Exterior Designer - FIAT (FCA) (consultant via TorinoCrea)

Dec 2013 – Aug 2015

- Advanced exterior proposals for the FIAT 500 family and broader FIAT ranges.

Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) | Torino, Italy

Instructor, Digital Sketching (Master in Car Design)

Sep 2012 – Dec 2013

- Instructor on the IED Master in Car Design program (2013 and 2014 cohorts). Students presented full-scale show car thesis projects at the Geneva Auto Show; alumni now work at Hyundai Europe, FCA, Icona, and other European and Asian studios.

Bertone | Torino, Italy

Exterior Designer

Sep 2008 – Nov 2013

- FAW Bestune X80 production crossover Exterior
- FAW X Power showcar Exterior
- BAIC C50 small sedan Exterior design
- Participated in various projects such as with McLaren, AgustaWestland (unmanned flying vehicle), SANY, GM, Alfa Romeo etc.
- Worked on transportation design projects including yacht, helicopter interior and UMFV (Unmanned Flying Vehicles).

WIDER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Invited speaker, **PromDiz** - International Conference on Industrial Design, November 2025

Cross-studio design masterclasses, [org], 2025–2026

EDUCATION

Master's in Car Design – Istituto Europeo di Design (IED), Torino, Italy (2010 – 2011)

Bachelor's equivalent in Transportation/Car Design – IED, Torino, Italy (2005 – 2008)

SOFTWARE

Alias · Blender · Keyshot · Photoshop · Gravity Sketch · Vizcom · ComfyUI/Flux

Personal

Born 1987 · Married