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MINI Beachcomber Concept

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The North American International Auto Show in Detroit (16–24 January 2010) will be the venue of another creative unveiling by MINI... the four-seater Beachcomber Concept.

MINI's claim that it's 'a brand-new type of vehicle' is perhaps pushing it a bit (think 1960s **Mini Moke**, for a start), but it's certainly a big leap away from what the brand currently offers. The **Beachcomber** has four-wheel drive, an elevated seating position, generous spring travel, extra-large light-alloy wheels – but no doors or roof. The 'cutouts' (instead of doors) extend right down to the bottom of the seats, giving the occupants a no doubt wonderful feeling of connection to the outside world.



It sounds ideal for a spirited sprint across a private beach but, looking out at the vista of frost and snow outside the **Classic Driver** office window this December morning, one wonders just how much use the average British buyer could make of such a car.



There is, however, the option of fitting a soft (or hard) roof and lightweight doors, to enable motoring on normal roads.

Lovely idea, and another feather in MINI's creative bonnet.

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