081_AI337_Books_PW_CR.qxp_AI Template 26/05/2025 09:37 Page 81






**Imola 70: Seventy Historic Races**
**By Enrico Mapelli**
**Giorgio Nada Editore**
**€42**

This wonderful book celebrates 70 years of the Imola race track through the novel medium of 70 individual races. As you'd expect of a circuit named after Enzo and Dino Ferrari, the cars of Maranello feature strongly but the book is certainly not partisan, even-handedly treating a whole variety of cars, motorbikes and drivers. Events include the Coppa Shell, 200 Miglia motorbike races, 500km endurance races and the San Marino F1 Grands Prix. Every major race from April 1953 to September 2022 is detailed in an appendix, too.

Over 192 pages, there are hundreds of photos in colour and black-and-white, many of which come from Franco Villani's archive, and most of which are previously unpublished. The engaging text is written in both Italian and English. The book was created in close collaboration with Imola itself, and the quality throughout – both in terms of image reproduction and storytelling – is excellent.






**Fissore: Una Firma di Prestigio**
**By Paolo Fissore**
**Fusta Editore**
**€25**

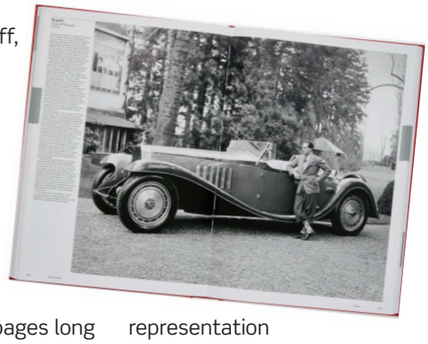
Books about Italian coachbuilders continue to multiply. Good books about Carrozzeria Fissore are rare, and the best ones have long since been out of print. It's a delight, therefore, to see a new volume dedicated to the Savigliano-based company. Moreover, it's written by Paolo Fissore, the grandson of Bernardo, one of the four brothers who founded the company.







From the 1930s to the 1980s, Fissore made all sorts of special bodies, particularly advertising and publicity vehicles. As you'd expect, there are some fairly extraordinary 'novelty' machines in here. But there's plenty of more exotic stuff, too, like the De Tomaso Vallelunga, OSCA 1600, TVR Trident, Monteverdi and the Pope's own coachbuilt Fiat 130.



This is a slim volume at 128 pages long and the text is in Italian only. Luckily there are plenty of images to look at, but it's a shame that some are so poorly reproduced – including the cover pic.




**The Atlas of Car Design: The World's Most Iconic Cars**
**By Jason Barlow & Guy Bird**
**Phaidon**
**£100**

Here's an idea we've wanted to see in print for some time: a proper global review of the history of car styling, country by country. Heavyweight nations predominate, of course, but we're delighted to see representation for some of the minnows of car production such as Egypt, Poland, Turkey and Uruguay.

As for Italy, that gets a full 109 entries out of a total of 650 or so – more than any other nation. These cover pre-war Alfas to the latest Pininfarina Battista hypercar, with everything from the Fiat 500 to the Maserati Quattroporte III in between. We like that it's not just the usual suspects under the spotlight – for instance, the Francis Lombardi Grand Prix gets a half page. The authors defend their "quixotic" choice of 'ugly' cars such as the Fiat Multipla because they show that "questionable car design can still be compelling".

We always say that design books need to be in large format and of high quality. *The Atlas of Car Design* scores on both fronts. It's a sizeable tome in terms of page count, too, totalling 568 pages and 750 illustrations. You also get a choice of red or black covers.