

THE BATTLE TO STOP BIRD FLU • GOOGLE VS. CLICK FRAUD

WIRED

JANUARY 2006 GET SM

RAISE THE ROOF!
YOUR D.I.Y.
GUIDE TO THE
**WIRED
HOME**

50 BEST BOTS EVER

Einstein Bot, Mars Rovers, R2-D2, Predator Drones, Astroboy ...

Brain Scans
and the New
Science of
Lie Detection

The Worst Movie
of 2006 (and
Why It's Already
a Cult Hit!)

PLUS:
The Robot Car
That Won the
Great Desert
Road Race

The Albert Hubo robot:
Facial expression meets
mobility. Genius!



A RACY NEW LITTLE NUMBER

When is a Porsche not a Porsche? When it's a Triposto. Montreal-based mechanics Clyde and Hugh Kwok turned the quintessential sports car – a 1990 Porsche 911 C2 – into a bona fide street racer. They modified its 3.6-liter engine to hit 180 mph (up from 162 mph) and its horsepower to reach 300 (up from 250). Clyde, a retired engineering professor, and his son Hugh, a professional race car driver, also replaced the body with a Kevlar, carbon fiber, and aluminum skin similar to what's on Formula One cars. Though it no longer looks like a Porsche, aficionados won't be fooled: The air-cooled engine still emits the classic growl. And it can be yours for \$250,000, twice the price of the new, fully loaded 2006 Carrera 4S. – **Fred Langan**

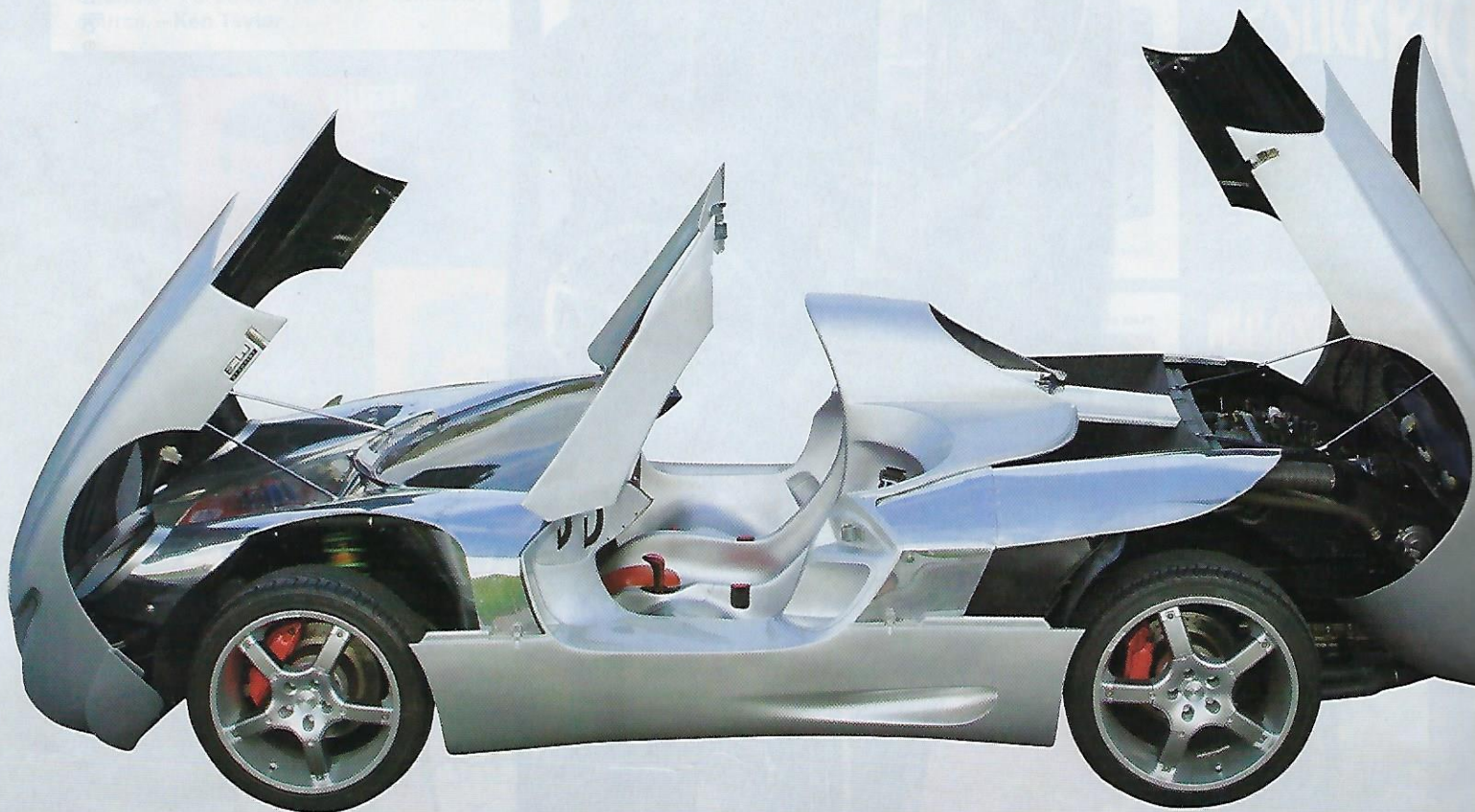
BEFORE



AFTER



Bye-bye, backseat: The modded 911 puts the driver in the center with a passenger on either side.



Stop Human Projectiles!

It's not a seat belt, but it's better than nothing: Honda is putting the first airbag on a mainstream motorcycle, its top-end Gold Wing, starting this summer. Safety-conscious riders will pay a yet-to-be-disclosed fee for the option over and above the bike's \$22,800 list. Sensors on the front forks detect an accident and trigger the bag mounted between the handlebars. In a head-on crash, the fabric bubble absorbs some of the rider's forward momentum. He'll still probably wind up on the pavement, but, hey, it beats flying through the air like a human lawn dart. – **Paul A. Eisenstein**