

Diran Yazejian- Chrysler Designer

It seems Diran Yazejian (nick name, Darren) was all about cars from the start. At 16, he and his honey, Joyce, cruised Woodward in Detroit. It was while he was in the US Army, in Korea, that he was handed a magazine called DREAM CARS. It showed that a car's design began with an idea sketch that was followed by a realistic rendering with bright chrome and shiny paint. At that moment, he set a career goal.

After an honorable discharge and marriage to Joyce, they set out to California to attend Art Center School, (now Art Center College of Design) majoring in Transportation Design. Upon graduation, he was hired by Chrysler Corp. and went into the Chrysler-DeSoto Exterior Studio. In 1962, he transferred to Dodge where he remained for many years, the high point being on the design team that designed the '68 Charger.

Off hours, he could be found in their garage doing body-off restorations on a '36 Dodge, '38 Imperial and '37 Cadillac, all of which were convertible sedans. Later, a '57 Imperial with 9,100 miles and a '41 Dodge Business Coupe entered the garage, neither of which needed a restoration.

After 36 years with Chrysler, it was time to retire but the work in the garage continued with Joyce at his side working on a '34 Dodge Cabriolet, '38 Chrysler Sedan, a '54 Chrysler Town and Country Wagon and the crown jewel, a '57 Dodge Custom Royal D 500 convertible.