



Porsche 356 Speedster

ARCHITECTURE 'The point of departure for this house was my passion for cars. I'm fascinated by car garages with huge windows and lots of light', says the owner of this new construction on the Kempische Vaart in Belgium. Architect Frederik De Smet, founder of Icoon.be architecten, designed a glass box for him that takes full advantage of the view of the canal. But the feature of this house is the semi-sunken garage, which is visually involved in the living room by means of a glass floor. In this way, the collection car – a replica of a Porsche 356 Speedster – becomes a full-fledged interior accessory that you can enjoy from the comfort of your sofa.

CAR What car fanatic doesn't have a Porsche 356 Speedster in his or her imaginary collection? In 1948, the 356 was Porsche's first production car. It was designed by Ferry Porsche, son of Ferdinand, and further developed until 1965. Many parts came from Volkswagen, including the air-cooled Boxer engine. In essence it was a considerably reworked and tuned Beetle. And like that of the Beetle, the bodywork was drawn by Erwin Komenda. This Speedster dates from 1954. Its low windshield creates extra dynamism. Unlike the 356 Cabriolet, it was devoid of all luxury. The hood was very basic, the seats were plastic tubs. This made it cheaper but also pure and attractive, especially in sunny American states. Nine days after James Dean exchanged his 356 Speedster for a 550 Spyder, he crashed on September 30, 1955. Nowadays a lot of cars have added comfort, adapted to today's standards.

1948