





I had never before seen a country of such beauty. This, then, is where the authors of the bible found their paradise. They came to Jamaica and wrote down what they saw. (Errol Flynn / My wicked, wicked ways, 1978)

Jamaica – a dream island in the Caribbean. With an exceedingly distinguished past. Even today, the aura of the elegant '50s and '60s hangs over many parts of Jamaica, from the time when the most prosperous and powerful retreated here to create an enclave in and around Port Antonio, where being rich was the most normal thing in the world. You would, after all, be amongst your own sort, far away from all mundane matters. Surrounded by lush vegetation, fantastic landscapes and an ever-mild climate: a world in which you could purely and simply enjoy life.

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Each of us has dreams. Most of them fade away too quickly. Some of them, perhaps, you can recall the next day. But only a few remain forever.

The BMW Z8.





Just seeing it isn't enough.

You've also got to hear, feel and d r i v e . . .

the BMW Z8.



Unfortunately, the ravages of time are invisibly gnawing away at many things. For example, at the Folly Estate, a country house in Jamaica which a jeweller once had built for himself and his family. Regrettably, the concrete used in its construction was mixed with seawater, which rapidly exposed the house to dilapidation. In contrast, the BMW Z8 has been designed so that the time factor is of no significance. Its design concept is a tribute to one of the finest cars ever built – the 1956 BMW 507 – and, despite changes in its sense of style and manner of creation, it remains sublime. Its engineering represents the pinnacle of automobile construction at the start of the new millennium. This is the only way the Z8 can meet the demands for which it is designed: an open two-seater as a dream car beyond the dictates of fashion and the taste of the moment.

Only if  
something  
is built for  
eternity  
do the  
years  
leave  
no trace.





In the Z8, time isn't measured in seconds. But in heartbeats.

heartbeats.

heartbeats.

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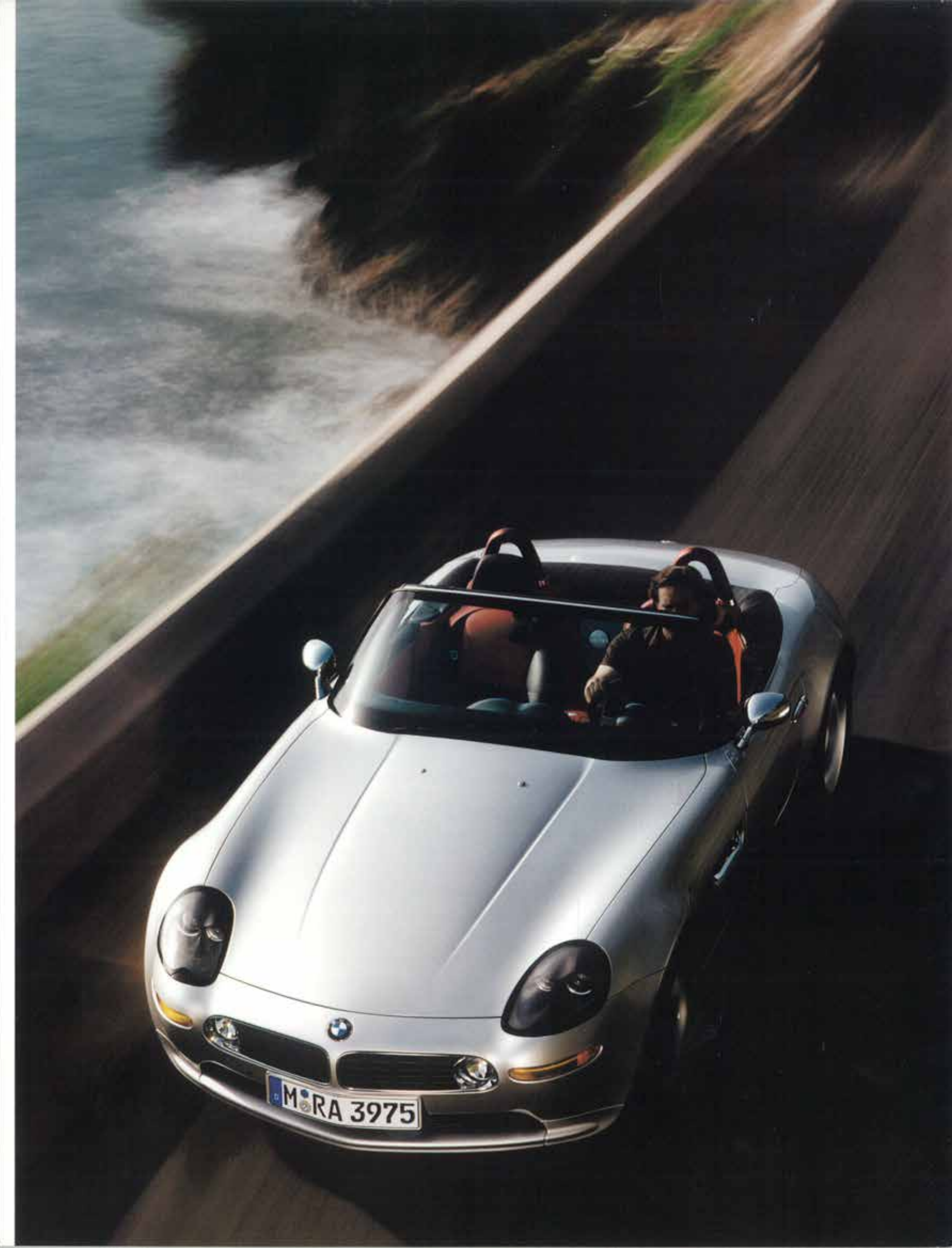
heartbeats.

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heartbeats.

An 8-cylinder engine is always something special. And in this vehicle, it's something quite special. It sounds good – so good in fact that you'll prefer driving it with the hood down for this reason alone. And it's got performance – 294 kW (400 bhp) power takes the Z8 from a standstill to 100 km/h in less than 5 seconds; while the engine remains perfectly calm and composed.







Each incomparable day on Jamaica was matched by a perfect evening. The mix of chirping cicadas, tinkling glasses, cool jazz and the discreetly murmured conversation of the guests produces a unique ambience. Over seafood and rum cocktails, the bare essentials, the newly acquired yacht receives universal acclaim, the political situation is discussed and the latest information about the other guests is exchanged. In fact, nothing much has changed.









Travellers are often asked where most and where to.

However, the question of how is more interesting.



When driving the Z8, even the most beautiful destination is relative. Not just because you're sitting under open skies but because of the enthusiasm engendered by this, possibly the finest mode of transport. Every touch on the steering wheel is immediately transmitted to the front wheels and to the tautly engineered running gear – as though the car obeys your very thoughts. Its cornering stability will impress any driver – and yet the Z8 remains master of this situation at all times. It's almost a pity that you're at your destination so quickly.



Not everyone who spent time in Jamaica did so solely for reasons of relaxation. It was here, for example, that the British author, Ian Fleming, dreamed up the world's most famous secret agent up to now: James Bond. And, again and again, in the stories about 007, you keep finding echoes of the luxurious life which surrounded Fleming in Jamaica. The Z8 fits perfectly into a world full of style and good taste. Because its design is timeless. No detail, nothing about it has been left to chance. Everything has been tailor-made to create a perfected overall optical impression.





Jamaica, then: the days were endless and yet seemed too short. Sunbathing and the beach, champagne and cocktails. The men were charming and possessed style; the ladies radiated an aura of elegance. They both had money. Perhaps the world seemed a little less importunate than today; what these people got up to filled the pages of the world's tabloid press.







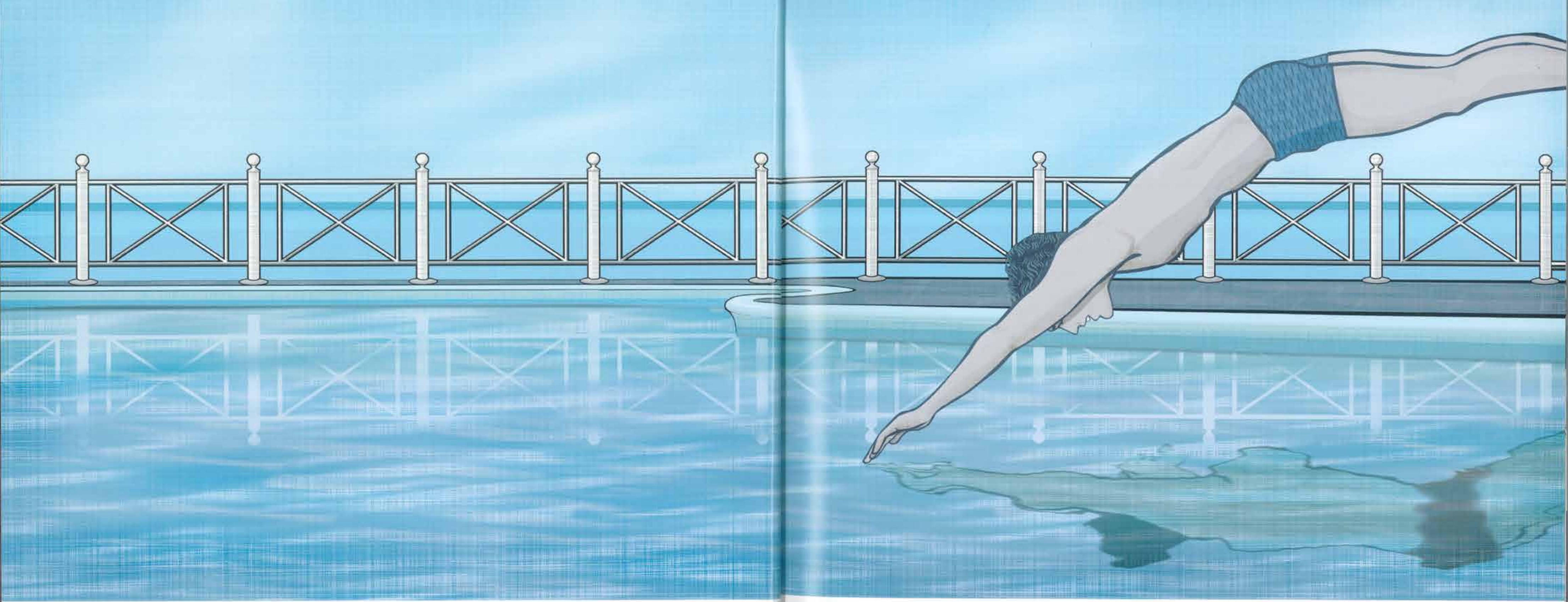




Every moment counts.

Good light means good vision – and good vision enhances safety. Therefore, only the latest lighting technology is used in the Z8. Naturally, that means xenon headlights with high luminosity and highly effective signalling. In addition, we've gone for innovation – for example, with the neon light technology used in the side indicators, the tail lights and the brake lights. Because in many situations not being noticed would be out of place.





Every member of the illustrious Port Antonio society had his own method of dealing with the heat of the long summer days. Dry Martinis on ice, screened by a shady veranda was one way. Diving into the cool water was another. Whatever refreshment was chosen, the main thing was that it should be stylish and achieve the desired result.





sky  
The has many colours.

Even in a paradise like Jamaica, it rains sometimes. A good job that the Z8 retains its elegant appearance even with the hood raised. And for cooler periods, it also comes equipped with a hardtop as standard.



It may seem unusual to find a sports car with a GPS navigation system. However, we believe that in the future this technology should be fitted as standard in every car. After all, you want to concentrate on the driving – and not have to stop every two kilometres to ask the way.

What's the benefit of a navigation system? Ask any seafarer.  
W n e s







Looks f a s t .

Is f a s t .

Fills you with enthusiasm f a s t .

One glance under the long bonnet of the BMW Z8 confirms your initial impressions. Things are enormously powerful in the world of the Z8. With a cubic capacity of approximately 5 litres, the driver can lean back and relax – or let himself be pressed firmly into his seat, just as he likes.





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The ideal material for engineering

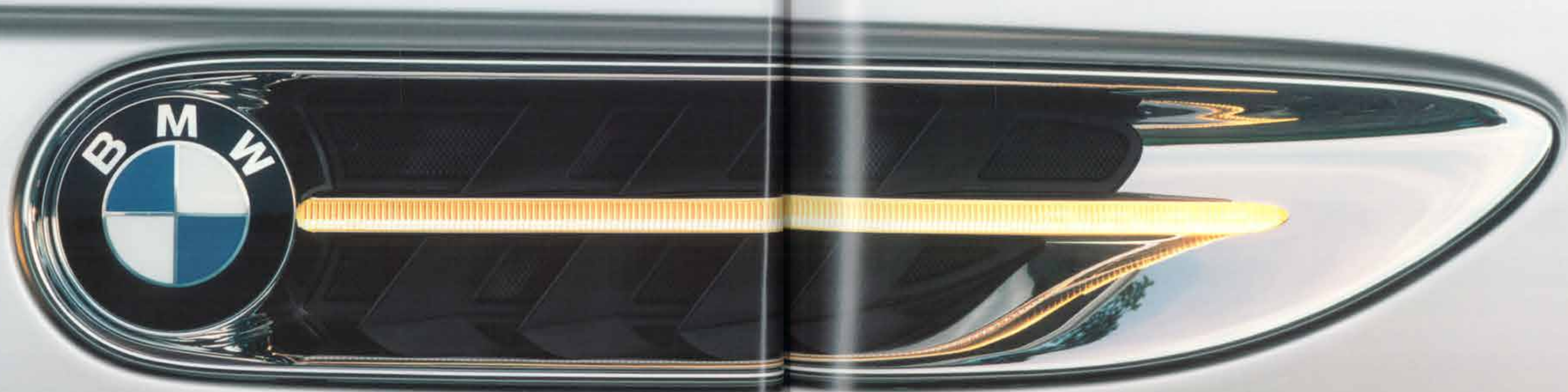
can be found here on the side of the street.

Bamboo, seen here growing in profusion on Bamboo Avenue, is keenly sought after in scaffolding construction. The main requirements are great rigidity and strength combined with low weight. The same requirements apply to a sports car. That's why the Z8's bodywork – except for the bumpers – consists entirely of aluminium.



Passion is not a sensation usually experienced by design engineers.

Unless they work for BMW.







The whole is more than the sum of its parts.

Much more.



The driver, the car, the road – a combination which, as long as it involves the Z8, always leads to a positive result: sheer driving pleasure in its purest form. The centrally positioned displays don't interrupt the driver's view of the road. The information supplied by the instruments becomes a secondary matter when the Z8 is given its free rein.







A journey is enjoyable if you're travelling in a pleasant environment. The BMW Z8's interior is dominated by leather and aluminium and a number of special touches. The starter button, for instance, evokes memories of classic racing and sports cars, triggering an emotional response. The exclusive spoked steering wheel conceals a full-size airbag that, together with the passenger's airbag, forms our Impact Depending (ID) airbag system, which inflates in stages depending on the severity of the impact. And the HiFi system treats the connoisseur with an 8 x 40 watt amplifier and 10 loudspeakers. When these factors are combined, driving the Z8 is a feast for the senses.

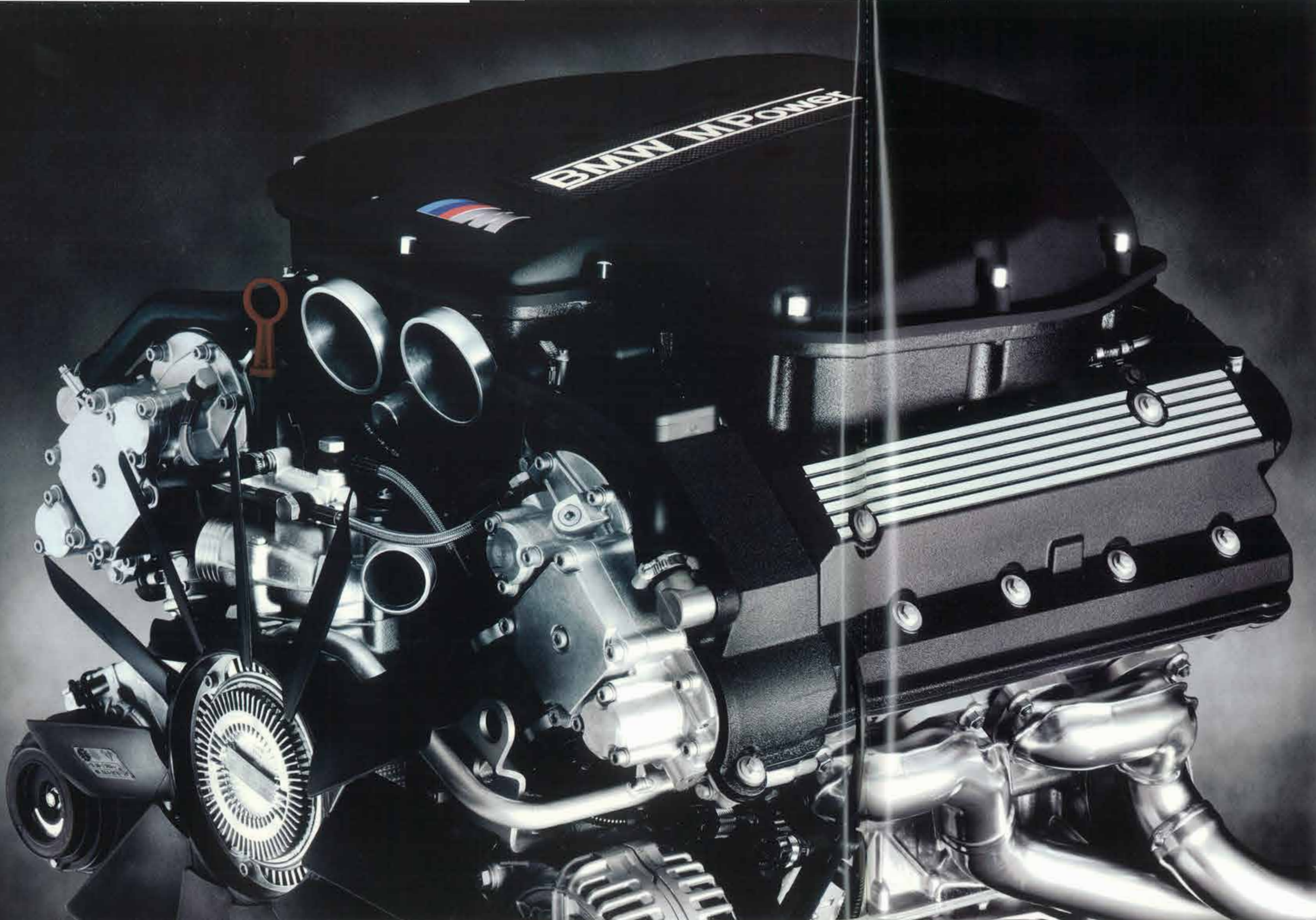


You shouldn't just concentrate on external appearances.

Although it's sometimes worth it.





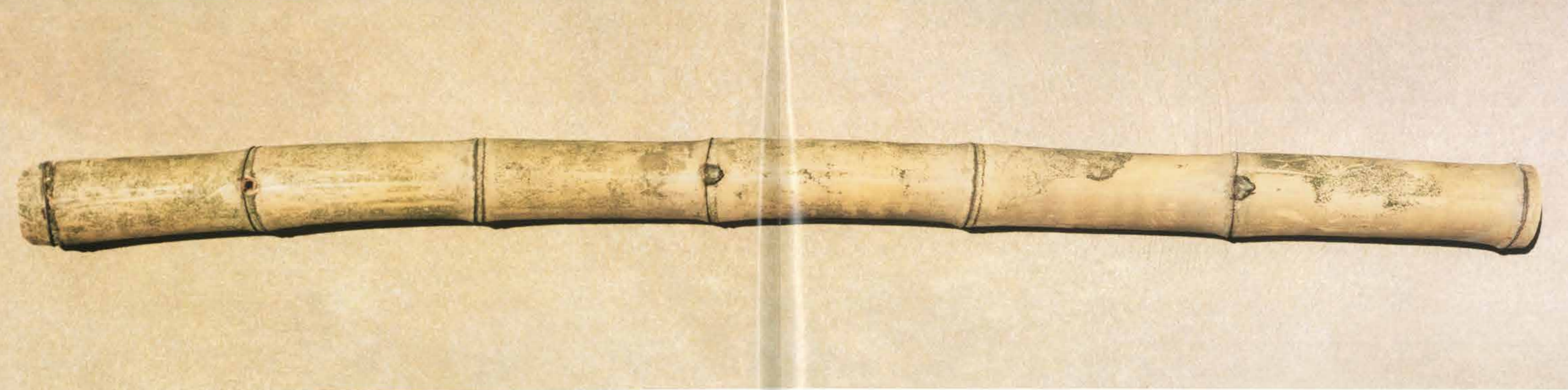


Even when stationary, an eight-cylinder engine with a cubic capacity of almost five litres provokes a physical reaction in any observer. The BMW Z8's V8 engine is, of course, a high-performance unit incorporating typical BMW advanced technology: four valves per cylinder, double VANOS, lateral regulated oil supply, intake system with electrically controlled individual throttles, cross-flow cooling and oil/water heat exchanger. Just how dynamic the engine is, you can decide. At the touch of the 'Sport' switch, activating M drive dynamics, the engine takes on a more sporting character. What's more, it's positioned far behind the front axle, creating perfect 50:50 weight distribution for the best possible traction.

The driving force behind the

Z8 is its power plant.



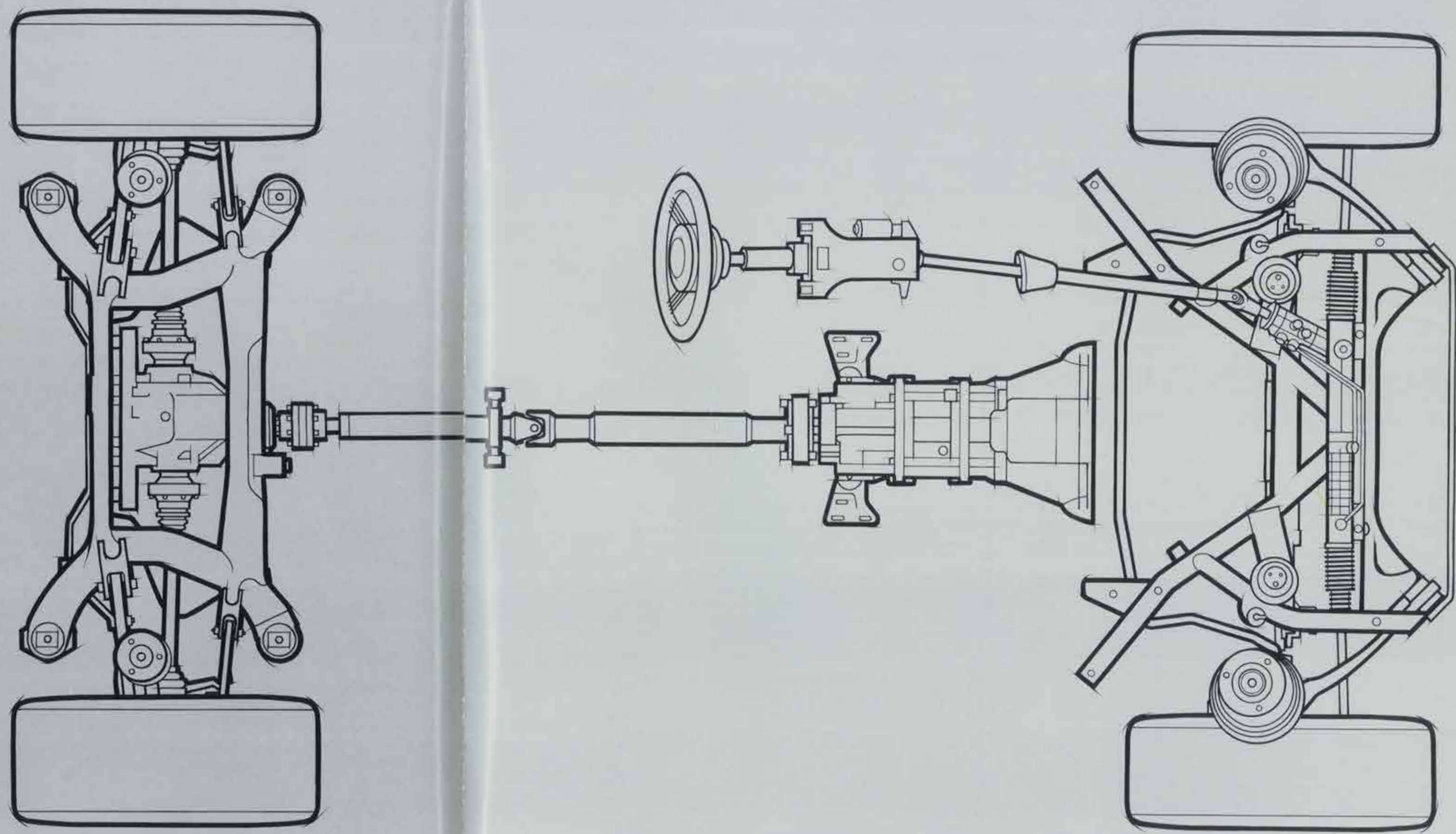


**Hard shell, soft centre.**

Aluminium and bamboo have more in common than you might think; both are extremely light but enormously strong. The backbone of the BMW Z8 is the self-supporting spaceframe structure. Just like the outer skin, it is manufactured solely from aluminium. This design principle has achieved high torsional rigidity – particularly important for an open sports car that does not have the additional strength provided by a fixed roof. Other advantages are low weight and excellent crash protection.



The best we could fit  
into a sports car.



The ultra-modern running gear is based on an aluminium front axle and a lightweight multi-link rear axle. The weight distribution is a perfect 50:50, producing well balanced handling characteristics, even on the limit. The 18 inch light alloy wheels, with five double spokes, also play their part since their low weight reduces unsprung mass. It goes without saying that the BMW Z8 offers Cornering Brake Control (CBC), Automatic Stability Control and Traction (ASC+T) and third generation Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) as standard. And, because this is a BMW, both can be switched off if you occasionally allow the Z8 to be used on the racetrack.



dream

dream

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Anyone lucky enough to be able to hold onto a dream shouldn't hesitate for long.



BMW Z8



The Ultimate  
Driving Machine

[www.bmw.com](http://www.bmw.com)