

# GEAR & GADGETS

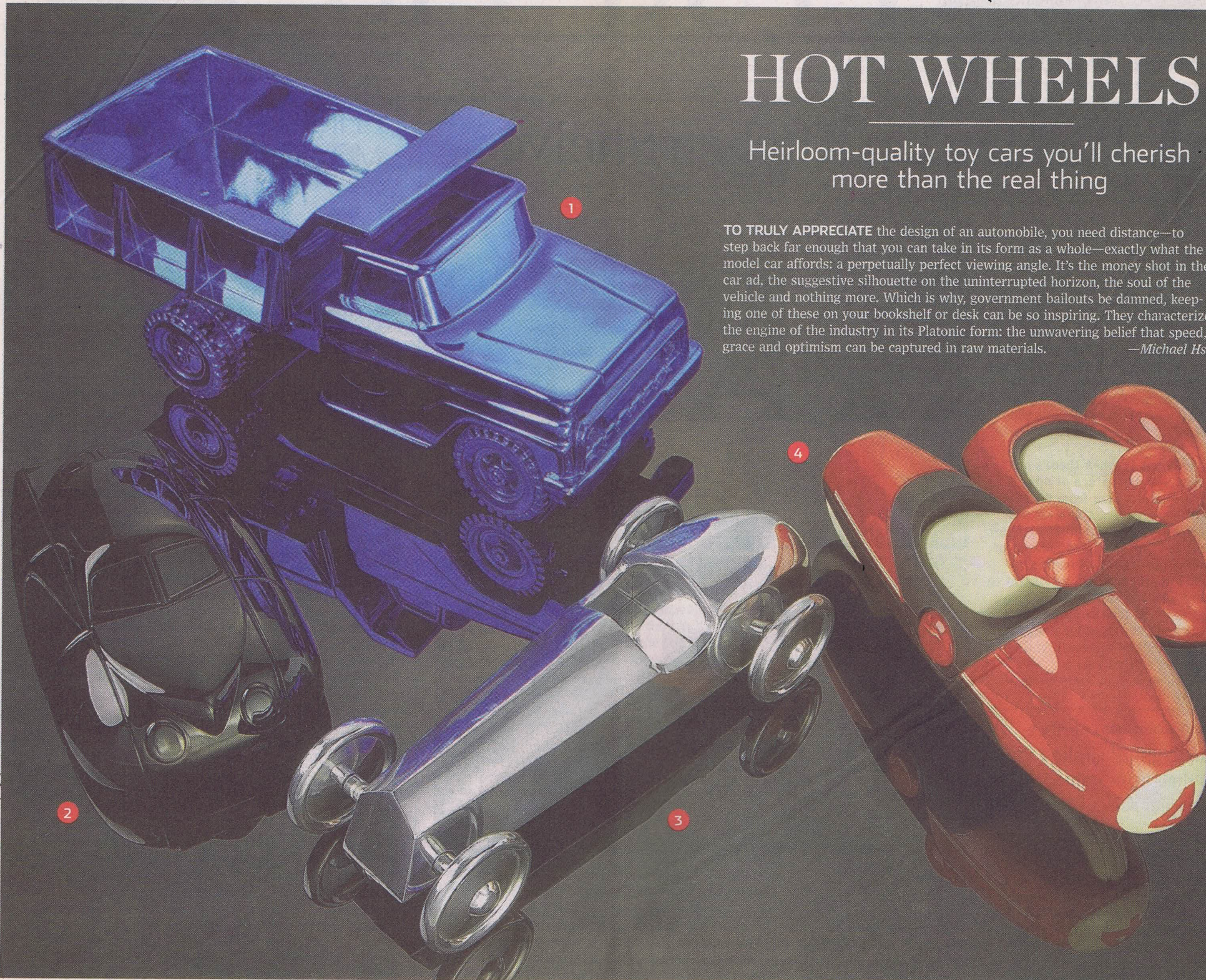
## HOT WHEELS

Heirloom-quality toy cars you'll cherish more than the real thing

TO TRULY APPRECIATE the design of an automobile, you need distance—to step back far enough that you can take in its form as a whole—exactly what the model car affords: a perpetually perfect viewing angle. It's the money shot in the car ad, the suggestive silhouette on the uninterrupted horizon, the soul of the vehicle and nothing more. Which is why, government bailouts be damned, keeping one of these on your bookshelf or desk can be so inspiring. They characterize the engine of the industry in its Platonic form: the unwavering belief that speed, grace and optimism can be captured in raw materials.

—Michael H

F. Martin Ramin for The Wall Street Journal. Styling by Anne Gardenas



### 1. AREAWARE PICKUP

This isn't your run-of-the-mill dump truck finished in blue chrome. No, it is in fact the most elegant toy truck ever made. No oversize tires, no hyper-aggressive grill. Just perfect, down-to-earth proportions. This is true, honest-to-goodness, rugged American design. \$180, [areaware.com](http://areaware.com)

### 2. PLAYSAM SAAB CAR

Despite Saab's recent near-death experience, the design spirit of the original company lives on—in a smaller scale, at least. This solid-wood model, lacquered a glossy black, is a stylized version of Saab's first prototype automobile. Designers working on the new Saabs, please take note. \$200, [playsam.com](http://playsam.com)

### 3. AUTHENTIC MODELS MASERATI RACER

This homage to the classic single-seater Grand Prix race car designed by Maserati in the 1930s is rendered in cast aluminum that's hand polished. It takes broad strokes, exaggerating the car's elongated wheelbase, for example—an ideal approach, since anything so achingly beautiful is best captured in essence rather than in detail. \$95, [conranusa.com](http://conranusa.com)

### 4. PLAYFOREVER ENZO MOTORBIKE

Even when still, the driver and sidekick of this British-made plastic motorcycle look like they're darting down a thoroughfare. What the Enzo presses is energy, not mass. It's not just a freeze-frame. \$60, [playforevertoys.com](http://playforevertoys.com)

THE FIXER