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2005 Ford Mustang Picture

Larry Erickson, the man behind the '05 Ford Mustang's design, is joining the College for Creative Studies to head up the transportation design department. | September 15, 2009 | Ford Motor Company

News

2005 Ford Mustang Chief Designer Gallops Into Academia

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DETROIT — Larry Erickson, 51, the chief designer of the [2005 Ford Mustang](#) who got to know the personalities of Detroit's muscle cars by prowling around his dad's used-car lot in Northern California, has made the shift to academia. Erickson will lead Detroit's College for Creative Studies transportation design department, it was [announced](#) on Monday.

Most recently, Erickson was chief designer in Ford's Strategic Design Group, working on advanced vehicle development. He also is known in the industry for his collaboration with the late [Boyd Coddington](#). Erickson designed Billy Gibbons' Cadzzilla, Hogzillas and Aluma Coupe.

But Erickson may be best known for his work on the redesigned Mustang.

"My dad had a used-car lot in Northern California, and I got to know the personalities of the muscle cars," he said in a 2004 interview. "The old [Pontiac] Firebird had more bits of chrome while the Mustang was more down-to-earth and fundamental. In the redesign, it was important to study the original Mustang and get the proportions right."

Erickson, a graduate of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, also worked for a time at General Motors. He was an exterior designer on the 1992 Cadillac Seville/STS/Eldorado program.

What this means to you: More top Detroit design talent heads to the ivory towers — where, presumably, job security is assured. — *Anita Lienert, Correspondent*

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