

## LEED COUNCIL FOCUSES ON A NEW MEMBER: COOPER TECHNICA

Cooper Technica  
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Cooper Technica, Inc. has been restoring rare and valuable vintage automobiles for the past twenty years. The company specializes in European sports cars from the 1930's and 1940's, maximizing the value of each car with the highest standards of authentic restoration, meticulous research and historical documentation. The staff at Cooper Technica devotes the time it takes to investigate, and, if possible, verify and document a car's history and provenance.



Many of the cars Cooper Technica restores have significant histories. This 1927 Bugatti Type 35B racecar was owned and raced by one of the most famous female race drivers, Helle Nice. Cooper Technica helped this client obtain original scrapbooks from France, compiled by Helle Nice herself that included original records and photographs of the car's race history.

Cooper Technica has a long list of clients and it continues to grow as the company is known for delivering a high level of customer service and meticulous work on vintage vehicles. The company started in 1989 by word of mouth. David Cooper, founder and former vintage race driver, received compliments of parts he fabricated for his Porche 356 from fellow drivers on the vintage race circuit. One fellow racer asked David to fabricate replacement parts for his own 1937 BMW 328 Roadster. Word spread and soon David was in the business of restoring vintage cars.

David directs each step of the restoration and does much of the mechanical and assembly work himself. Typically, the disassembly, evaluation, research, complete mechanical and electrical restoration, and reassembly take place at Cooper Technica's Chicago facility located on Goose Island. Some work is sub-contracted under David's direction to elite specialist artisans in the United States and Europe. David said, "We make every effort to restore vintage parts. We believe restoration is best when the hand of the restorer does not show."

In the past several years, David has expanded his business by investing in the restoration of significant vintage cars. He has formed a series limited partnerships, along with a group of his clients and associates, to find, restore and sell high-end vintage cars.

When asked if the company has experienced any obstacles while growing, David responded with "The biggest single challenge has been cash flow because the type of work we do is so expensive. We have learned to focus our efforts on cars whose value supports this level of restoration work." He continued to say, "At the high-end, cars are a marriage of art and function. Our clients can have confidence that their restored cars can be driven, as well as shown at Concours d'Elegance, in private collections or museums. "



One thing that attracted David to establish his facility on Goose Island was that the location was close to downtown, yet somewhat remote. It's not heavily traveled like other areas in the city. In addition, it is located in a Planned Manufacturing District, away from residential areas, yet still convenient to their clientele.



David interacts with the LEED Council by reading the e-newsletter that goes out on a weekly basis because it has interesting local news stories about issues that are happening in the surrounding area. He added, "I think the LEED Council's efforts for our area are very important."

What is a good lunch recommendation in the local area? David responded, "I am looking forward to when the pedestrian bridge to North Avenue is open again. It will be a nice short commute to J. Alexander's or Goose Island Brewery again."

Pease visit [www.coopertechnica.com](http://www.coopertechnica.com) for more information and photos of past projects.

Thank you Cooper Technica for your contribution and for supporting the LEED Council!