



**DRIVING AIRPLANE!  
A FLYING CAR!**

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p.24

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# DRIVING AIRPLANE ~~THE FLYING CAR~~ GETS REAL

The team at Terrafugia is about to fulfill the fantasy of every ~~driver~~<sup>pilot</sup>: a consumer vehicle that can take to the highways *and* the skies. All they have to do is finish the first one

BY GREGORY MONE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN B. CARNETT

## THE TRANSITION IS NOT a flying car.

The vehicle, set to go on sale next year, will cruise smoothly on the road and through the sky. It will have four wheels, Formula One-style suspension, and a pair of 10-foot-wide wings that fold up when it switches from air to asphalt.

And when the engineers at Terrafugia in Woburn, Massachusetts, let me sit inside their just-finished proof-of-concept vehicle and grab the steering wheel, it's easy to imagine piloting this thing up and out of traffic, into the open skies.

But we're not talking about a flying car. The Transition is a "roadable aircraft." The team makes this distinction clear in conversation, on Terrafugia T-shirts, and in big, blue letters on the side of the trailer outside their shop.

The flying car has been a mainstay of our imagined transportation future for as long as there have been automobiles and airplanes: fanciful



**ROAD-READY**  
In Terrafugia's  
Transition driving  
airplane, the canard  
wing doubles as  
the front bumper.



