



Mercedes-Benz W212



THERE WERE VERY FEW PREREQUISITES FOR STRETCHING THIS BEAUTIFUL \$85,000 SILVER MERCEDES-BENZ W212, known locally as an E-Class BlueTEC. Theo Dimokranitis, owner of Exoticar Hire in Oakleigh, Australia, contacted Qual-

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But Vitelli first had to overcome the challenges of cutting the luxury vehicle, which had a curved body edge that made it impossible to stretch as is because the rounded edges just wouldn't line up. Vitelli hired an engineer to help him and the staff with the 130-inch addition, a



suspension had to be upgraded to accommodate the larger tires, which were necessary to support the new weight of the stretch.

But the real challenge came when deciding on the look of the interior. "He wanted a 'rockstar' look, but he didn't want all the flashing lights," says Vitelli. "He wanted it to be swanky and sexy like a Las Vegas lounge." Quality (www.qualitycoachwork.com) then worked with Shannon Romnes, an interior designer who had helped to design the interiors of buses for touring rock-

stars. For weeks the designer worked with different fabrics and styles until the client decided on the black and silver leather with crocodile inserts. The ceiling was stitched with crocodile and smoked mirrors as well as solid white lights. The bar was built with granite and Lexan for a

classy, upscale finish. The windows were all customized and had to be darkened significantly for the hot Australian climate. The lighting was all done with LED lights, which are low energy and don't require a second alternator. The floor lighting, which is a solid purple, was a



Specs

Base model:

2010 Mercedes Benz W212

(also known as an E-Class)

Stretch:

130 inches

Year Completed:

2010

Manufacturer:

Quality Coachworks of Ontario, California



specific request of the client, "He thought that purple was sexy," Vitelli says.

The vehicle was finished in late summer and was registered to the client in October. Vitelli reports that Dimokranitis couldn't be happier. "It's been booked solid since the day he got it," Vitelli says. "It's a one-of-a-kind car, definitely in Australia, but I think even here in America." **LD**

Does one of your vehicles *Stretch the Limits* of imagination?

Operators and coachbuilders are encouraged to submit your most unique vehicles, including custom conversions, classics, and one-of-a-kind limousines and SUV stretches (high-quality interior and exterior photos required) to info@limodigest.com.