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What auto show attendees can expect to see at Cobo Center — and what they won't see

By [Daniel Duggan](#)



A Detroit-themed retail shop will open in **Cobo Center** for the 2012 **North American International Auto Show** in January — one of several new elements coming together for this year's event.

The store, to be called the **Detroit Shoppe**, will be modeled after the store with the same name at the **Somerset Collection** in Troy and will be run by Somerset.

"It will be a mini-version of the Detroit Shoppe that was at the mall," said Ed Nakfoor, a Birmingham-based public relations consultant who represents Somerset.

Like the Somerset version, proceeds from the Cobo retail space will be given to charities.

The small retail space will be just off the Cobo showroom floor and will be operated for the auto show and other major events, Cobo's general manager, Thom Connors, said today during a media walk-through of the building.

It's one of several changes to Cobo that the general public will notice during the upcoming auto show, Connors said.

In addition, an additional 25,000 square feet of showroom space has been built next to Cobo for the show. A concourse also has been added to connect **Joe Louis Arena** to Cobo, and the escalators have been renovated.

But the public won't notice much of the work done to Cobo.

Four loading docks have been added, bringing the total to 30. A corridor also has been added to keep the cold air of the docks from flowing into the showroom area.

"We've done a lot of work in a short amount of time, and it's all coming together nicely," Connors said. "People are really working together, and things are getting done."

Something that also won't be seen during the show is the work happening in **Cobo Arena**.

The former event space has been torn down to the rafters, and the seating area is being torn out. The space, which will be ready for the 2013 auto show, will be split into first and second floors and will offer additional event space.

Also under construction, starting after the 2012 show, will be the Detroit River entrance as part of the more than \$200 million renovation. The space will be turned into a large open area, similar to the Wintergarden along the Detroit River side of the **Renaissance Center**.



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