

## 2 DAIHATSU FC SHO CASE

*//A fuel-cell iPad on wheels?*

Daihatsu might not be a brand you immediately associate with innovation or green technology, so its FC Sho Case concept is an eye-opener. Aficionados of Tokyo show car history may remember a similarly boxy and spacious van-like concept



Can't figure out which is the back and which is the front? That's because they look identical

from Daihatsu at the 2009 show called the Deca Deca, so it will come as no surprise to learn the designer behind the FC Sho Case is the same.

Although unashamedly futuristic and product-design influenced in execution – Takuya Uchida cites the Macbook Air and Dyson Air Multiplier as inspirations – the compact

fuel-cell powertrain that underpins the FC Sho Case is already undergoing trials in a HiJet van. Daihatsu says the stack uses a new kind of liquid fuel – called hydrazine hydrate – which has a high energy density for longer range, has the same filling method as petrol so can use existing facilities and is potentially lower-cost than normal systems using hydrogen by avoiding the use of rare precious

metals. Hydrazine hydrate can also be synthesised from nitrogen and hydrogen as raw materials, so Daihatsu says CO2 emissions while driving are virtually eliminated.

The fuel cell sits under the flat floor, which makes for a flexible interior and, with no bulkhead behind the driver and a retractable steering wheel, an even bigger cabin space.

