



Perhaps the most unusual room was that of Aurum, a new company situated in Newfoundland. The system consisted of large three-way speakers (see our picture), plus a pair of triple monoblock amplifiers.

That no doubt calls for explanation. The speakers are triamplified. Each monoblock therefore contains three amplifiers: a solid state amp for the woofer, and a pair of five watt single-ended tube amplifiers for the midrange and tweeter. That makes much more sense than you might think at first sight. Even in this early form, the Aurum setup projected the dynamics and the clarity we associate with multi-amplification, or more correctly with the absence of the usual passive crossover. Development is not yet final, and there was a somewhat hard edge to the upper midrange that will require some tuning. However these people may be on to something. Expected price is expected to be between C\$20K and C\$30K, but that of course covers everything but the preamp and source.



Rejskind, G. (2004, March 30). Montreal 2003: Day Three. *UHF*. Retrieved on March 30, 2003 from: <http://www.uhfmag.com/Montreal2003/day3.html>.



At left: Festival organizer Marie-Christine Prin...and Kyriane, possibly the organizer of Montréal 2030. Below: the RogueZeus and Unison Superpavarotti amplifiers; the colorful AND CD players and amplifier.



Nova Utopia speakers danced to the silky and detailed sound of the Charlie Hayden trio (recorded by the CBC at the Montreal Jazz Festival) produced by all-YBA electronics, the CD-1 player (with two power supplies) and the Passion preamp and stereo amp.

Again, this year, I had the pleasure of listening to music produced by those modern sculptures, the Acapella Audio Arts speakers, handmade in Germany. The smooth, natural, well-balanced sound of Norway's Siri's Svale Band (*Blackbird*) on LP was produced by a stunning-looking Clearaudio turntable.

The Quad ESL 57 speakers turned

this year into the Braun LE 1 version of the legendary electrostatic, and it created the same magic in the quiet room with Audio Aero tube electronics and front end. And in another room, Quad created magic with their recent 21L dynamic speakers matched superbly to their CD and preamp (24/192) and their 909 power amplifier. *Salamander Pie* (Jay Leonhart) was simply...natural. How hard it seems to be to be simply natural. But how easy it seemed to be here.

Oracle featured the Stello CDA 200 CD player and the AI 300 integrated amp, with Stevie Ray Vaughn's *Tin Pan Alley* (ready image and great depth), while in another room Newfoundland's Aurum speakers (active, triamplified) showed their amazing speed and well-



controlled bass, playing *Destination* by Hart Rouge.

SimAudio featured hefty W-6 monoblocks, P-5 preamp and Eclipse player, communicating through Cardas cables to Dynaudio Special 25 speakers. *Where's the subwoofer?* was the standard opening line by visitors. I couldn't help wondering about that myself as I listened to *Marching On* by the Ballistic Brothers. Super fast, with fantastic power and bass.

If I had to describe it further, I'd probably say it was fast, true *and direct*, the very words Gerry used. And, no, it's *not* a matter of taste. That's how this music should be.

And that's probably a hint of how it was, live.



FEATURE

of Norah Jones through the amazing Jadis integrated DA-30 and Jadis JD3 Drive.

More turntables this year. The crowd was focusing on the Rega P9, playing *St-Germain Tourist* on Blue Note, with contributions by a Cursa 3 preamp and Maia 3 power amp. The music was light on its feet, the rhythm unstoppable.

In another room, the huge JMLab



Le Festival Son et Image de Montréal 2003



Coverage by Rick Becker



Aurum Acoustics presented a prototype "system" that seemed very close to completion. Their take on the high end is a combination of dedicated amplifier and loudspeaker. The separate amplifier includes the crossover for the speaker, and uses 300B tubes for the midrange and tweeter, and a solid-state amplifier for the bass. The total package, which may include the cables, is targeted around \$20,000 CN. Keep an eye out and an ear open for this company.

Becker, R. (2003, April ?). Le Festival Son et Image de Montreal 2003. *Enjoy the Music.com*. Retrieved on May 1, 2003 from <http://www.enjoythemusic.com/montreal2003/becker/page2.htm>.

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An integrated active speaker system featuring outboard mono tube amplifiers, the Aurum Acoustics Integris (approximately \$15,000/pair) was shown in a prototype form that looked rather finished to us.

Schneider, D. (2003, March 28). Daily Coverage- March 28th. *Soundstage! Live*. Retrieved March 28, 2003 from http://www.shows.soundstagelive.com/shows/avtour2003/mtl_dly_march28.shtml