



SHOWLOG Sights and sounds from around the globe

Audioshow, Portugal

Words & pictures: Jorge Gonçalves



First held in 1990, the Audioshow is an annual event organised by Portuguese magazine *Audio & Cinema em Casa*. The 2012 show took place at The Pestana Palace in Lisbon, one of the most luxurious and prestigious five star hotels in Portugal. The show was packed with visitors over its three day duration as numerous high-end brands showed their flagship components. From the US came Rockport Technologies with its

remarkable Alta II loudspeakers. Constellation Audio showed its Contour and Virgo amplifiers driving Magica 35 floorstanders, while Wilson Audio exhibited its new Aloha II loudspeakers. Also in attendance was UK company OCS with its fabulous Vhaudi digital player. Indeed, it was good to see a number of UK brands showing directly at the show, strongly supporting their local dealers. Such was the case with Uten, Audio Note and ATC.

Avolon's hi-fi loudspeakers were combined alternately with electronics from Soulution (its new 500 series, including the 540 CD player in its first public showing) and a combination of McIntosh amps in the form of the MC1.2 power amp and C500 preamp. Digital source was the Vivaldi from dCS [see HFN Feb '13], but vinyl fans weren't forgotten with the hi-fi being fed LPs via a Woodpecker turntable from Dr Feickert [see p11] equipped with a Helco arm and Lyra Delos cart/Idgs. www.avolonacoustic.com



Here we were given a glimpse of the Reference 10 preamp from Audio Research [see HFN Mar '13], it was combined with the Reference 750 monoblocks with fabulous results. The new flagship preamp incorporates many of the developments found in the company's Anniversary preamp and also features touch-screen control, but is offered at a more affordable price. www.audioresearch.com



Jorge Gonçalves, editor-in-chief of *Audio & Cinema em Casa* and ESCA's president, has been the organiser of the Audioshow since it first began.

It's hard to do justice to the full range of Unico in a few words. Custom made, this high-end turntable is just one of an impressive range of decks from Portuguese designer Rui. The sound coming out of it really was as impressive as its looks, though you'll need deep pockets. It costs 10,000 Euros. www.unicogestturntables.com



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One of the many highlights of the show was provided by Constellation Audio with its Contour amplifier and Virgo preamp, the brainchildren of a group of world famous designers such as John Curl, Barcom King and Peter Madnick, to name but a few. The source was a PS Audio combination formed of a Perfective transport and DAC II digital converted streamer (either side of the Virgo pre) while the loudspeakers were Magica 35s. www.constellationaudio.com



Andrew Jones of Technical Audio Devices is an extremely experienced demonstrator and certainly managed to get the best from the company's Reference One loudspeakers. They were joined by TAD's D600 SACD/DAC [see HFN May '12], C600 preamp and M600 monoblocks [see p30]. Cabling was courtesy of Kubala-Sosna. Most of the tracks used were master originals, served up by a Wileb's Aemeter 5-10 streamer. Perhaps what impressed most were the pressure levels the loudspeakers were able to deliver without ever sounding congested. www.zaf-labs.com

Peachtree showed its Grand integrated amplifier. It features ESS Sabre D/A converters, a USB asynchronous input with 24-bit/192kHz capability and, according to the company, kicks out 440W per channel into 8ohm. www.peachtreeaudio.com



Audio Note delighted visitors with one of the purely analogue systems at the show, though the company also demonstrated its CD1 Zero digital transport plus DAC 2.1X converter. The turntable used was the TT2 with an MM2-V2 arm, the preamplifier was the M2, and the Empress power amplifier supplied juice to a pair of ANE loudspeakers, mounted on stands placed in the corners of the room as is typical for the brand. The liquid sound saw many a listener transfixed. www.audiophile.co.uk



Well noted distributed by the BSW group it was no surprise to find the two brands demonstrating their products together and there were many opportunities to hear BSW's BA-11 amplifier driving BSW's 600 loudspeakers. Music files were accessed from a USB thumb drive inserted into the BSW. www.bsw.com/uk/



It's hard to do justice to the Rui Borges Unico in a few words. Custom made, this high-mass turntable is just one of an impressive range of decks from Portugese designer Rui. The sound coming out of it really was as impressive as its looks, though you'll need deep pockets. It costs 50,000 Euros. www.ruiborgesturntables.com



The Gryphon - Rockport - Rui Borges UNICO - ASR





Xavien- Golden Note - Rui Borges ULTIMO - Reed Tonearm

