



HP's WORKSHOP

*"Excerpts from
Harry Pearsons
article on the
High End
at CES 2008"*

The High End at CES

Toward a New Realism

Harry Pearson

" I had decided, beforehand, to concentrate on the folks chasing that ultimate audio rainbow, reality, and so concentrated my efforts largely on the "off-campus" exhibitors, but since there were also rainbow-chasers at the Venetian, I elected to spend a day there.

A very rough journal of the places I found interesting, with a few side notes.

That first day, the first thing, I was scooped up by Ray Lombardi (an importer of esoteric tubed gear, Audionics and Audiovalve) and his friends, and whisked 10 miles out of town to a miniature

palazzo in a gated subdivision, inside of which GamuT of Denmark had set up shop. Make that the "new" GamuT (preferred pronunciation now: Ga-mut).

GamuT has changed hands since the days when Ole Christiansen enchanted reviewers with his strikingly musical solid-state designs. Christiansen was, on the face of it, a better designer than a businessman. The company was rescued by Lars Goller, described by one as "Danish as a Viking." Goller was for seven years the director of engineering for ScanSpeak (world-famous for its drivers). He and a partner, Paul Rossing, purchased the feeble and nearly bankrupt GamuT two years ago, and last year Goller took complete control. This was his chance to show off for his American distributors and dealers, and he did. Inside there were, set up in three rooms, complete playback systems (speakers, electronics, and CD players).

I am not going to detail my impressions of the sound from the big system Goller and his guys had set up (it took two days and five people to furbish the stylish modern house with audio gear), except to say I saw/heard the potential and was duly impressed. One thing that struck me was the fact that, as in the Reference 3a Grand Veena, the GamuT midrange was direct coupled, which, to these ears, is the way to go in a multi-driver system. And one of the coming things in new multi-speaker designs."