

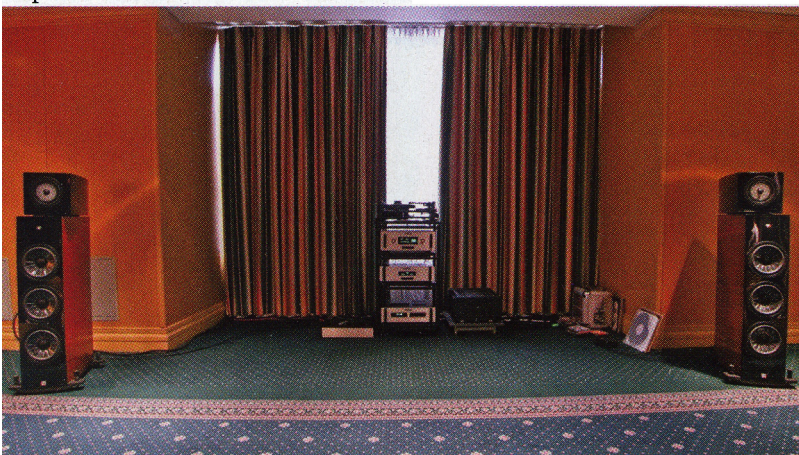
John Marks

On Level 2 of the Montréal Sheraton Centre, another standout room was **Sumiko's**, with **Audio Research Corp.** CD player and amplification driving **Vienna Acoustics'** Music loudspeak-

AT THE **"ASK THE EDITORS"** DISCUSSION, JA ASKED US TO LIST THREE FAVORITE ROOMS, AND THE ONE I HAVE YET TO **MENTION** IS MY CHOICE OF BEST **HIGH-VALUE SYSTEM...**

ers (\$25,000/pair). The sound was enveloping and relaxing, but never lacked articulation or detail. My CDR of opera tenor Brian Cheney's mike tests was entrancing (for the backstory on that, see [www.stereophile.com/headphones/607fifth/index2.html](http://www.stereophile.com/headphones/607fifth/index2.html)).

At FST's "Ask the Editors" panel discussion, JA asked the assembled scribes to name three favorite rooms: 1) best sound, cost no object; 2) best high-value system; and 3) a favorite for whatever reason. As noted, Coupe de Foudre's VTL-Wilson room got my vote in category 1. For personal favorite, my vote went to Sumiko's ARC-Vienna room—not only for the wonderful sound, but also for the confidently relaxed vibe the staff exhibited, and their knowledge of and obvious love for the kind of music I love. I commented several times to colleagues, and during that panel discussion, that even in today's brave new world of multiple entries in the over-\$100,000/pair loudspeaker derby, it felt a bit disorienting to call a \$25,000/pair speaker a "best buy." So I didn't. But it was sure a personal favorite.



Sumiko's ARC/Vienna Acoustics room, a personal favorite.