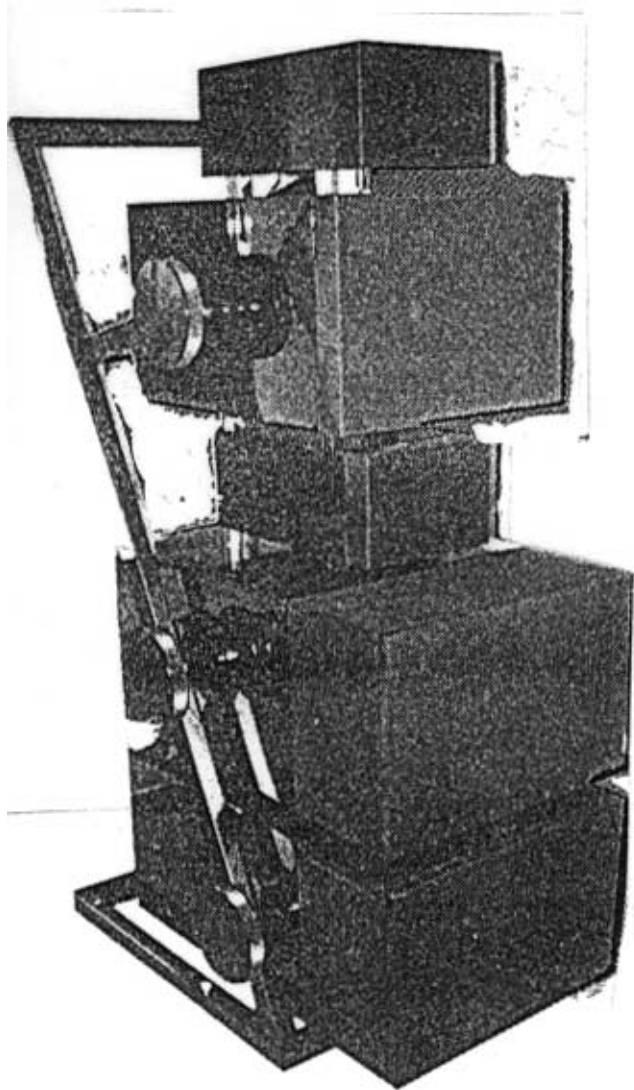


stereophile



Goldmund Apologue loudspeaker.

While on the subject of turntables, I must mention **Goldmund**. Not that they didn't heavily feature LP players in their Hotel Nikko suite—they did launch the ST4 integrated player, which combines a simplified Studio chassis with the new T4 tonearm—but the combination of their stunningly beautiful Mimesis electronics with the launch of their "ultimate" loudspeaker, the \$39,500 Apologue, I found to be irresistible. Now the Apologue is an exit-level component. Buy a pair of these—you need a \$5000 deposit and be prepared for at least a 12-month wait—and it is hard to see that you will ever buy another pair of loudspeakers, especially considering that you would probably have to design a room around their looks. Idiosyncratically styled—see my photograph—by Italian artist Claudio Rotta-Loria, the Apologue uses drive-units from Focal and Dynaudio mounted in five enclosures hung from an adjustable frame in the manner of the Wilson WAMM. The two bass cabinets effectively use a moving-coil woofer as a dipole, but with the backwave absorbed in the enclosure, while much use is made of Goldmund's "mechanical grounding" principle to ensure maximum rigidity. An unusual aspect is that the sensitivity is of Klipschorn caliber, at more than 100dB/W/m. A trivia item: Goldmund has bought the Swiss Stellavox company, the manufacturers of perhaps the world's finest analog tape recorder. (Stellavox already assembles some of the Goldmund electronic components.) Could we one day see a Goldmund-designed, Stellavox-manufactured R-DAT recorder?