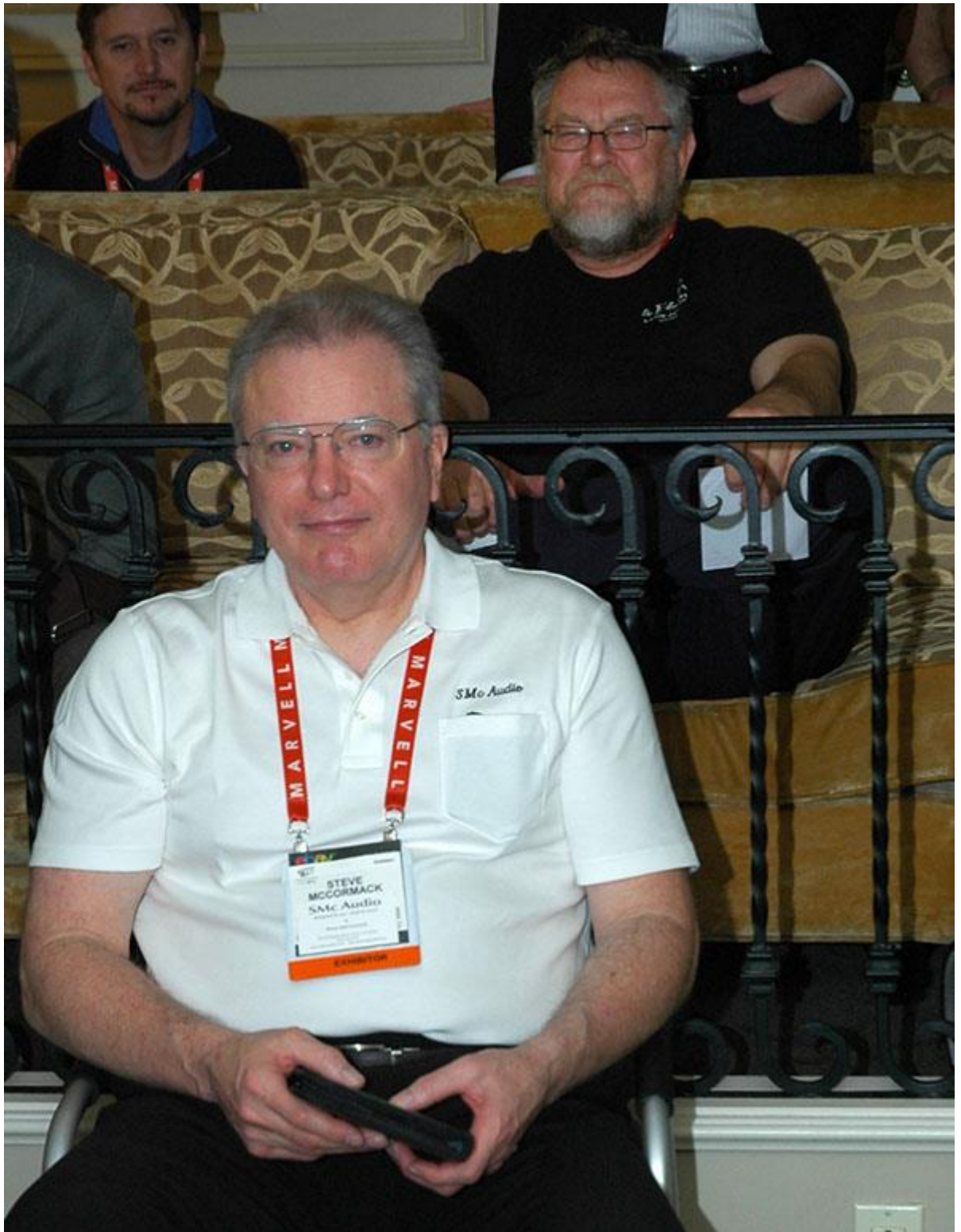


## CES 2013 Report by Positive Feedback High End Audio Magazine

However, good as the Magico Suite sounded, without question the best sounding system I had the pleasure of listening to at this year's combined CES/T.H.E. Show was found in the Perfect 8/BALabo room, in 29-222. Loudspeakers were the Perfect8 Point MKII Evolution (\$115,000/pr), which have their own on-board 400 watt active subwoofer amplification. Digital sources were the Zanden 2000P transport (\$33,500), the BlueSmoke Entertainment Music Server (\$7500), and the BALabo DB-1 DAC (\$37,500).



Audio pals Steve McCormack (front) and Jim Merod (back) listening to the Perfect8/BALabo room

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Electronics included the BALabo BC1 MK II Linestage Control Amp (\$67,500) and the BALabo BP1 MK II stereo power amp (\$88,500). Signal and speaker cables were the BALabo Absolute Zero series (\$8000/8 meter and \$1875/1 meter), power cables were the Argento Audio Flow Master Reference (\$6800), power distribution was managed by the Argento Audio Flow (\$8900) and all components rested on a Grand Prix Audio Monaco with 4 Formula Shelves (\$13,250).



**The transparent cabinetry of the Perfect 8 Point Mk II Evolutions is eerie yet unmistakable**

This system really delivered; bone crushing dynamics, superb coherence, ruthlessly *musical* resolution, captivating presence, and an unquestionably truthful timbre. Tonal color and texture were convincingly rich and vibrant, and musical involvement was eerily honest, bordering on downright revelatory.



**A shot of the rear of the Perfect8**

This system had the ability to recreate the scale of the music in a remarkably accurate manner, yet it was able to serve up the nuances and subtleties with uncanny, unnerving realism. This system very nearly breathed life *into* the music it reproduced. Jim was so taken that he has opened the dialog for a review, so be watching for that! It will be a treat if it comes to be. This was one of a very small handful of rooms I made more than two trips into!





The impressive looking and sounding BALabo BP-1 Mk II stereo amplifier