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SPECIAL
ISSUE

Robb Report

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BEST OF
THE
BEST



JUNE 2010



2010 LUXURY PORTFOLIO | ASTON MARTIN

Audemars Piguet | Bugatti | Chopard | Hawker Beechcraft | Jaeger-LeCoultre
Mercedes-Benz | Patek Philippe | Perini Navi | Ritz-Carlton | Rolls-Royce

who recently discussed with an interior designer the prospect of disguising a WindowWall array by installing it flush with the wall and placing a digital sample of the wall's finish on the screens. "Then at the press of a button," says Eidelman, "the WindowWall would completely transform the feel and the look of the room."

The WindowWall system, which starts at about \$20,000 for a two-panel setup and rises to about \$300,000 for a 20-panel array, should also integrate seamlessly with most homes' existing audio/video gear. This simplicity of installation and use will ensure that the WindowWall remains unobtrusive—and that homeowners can focus on the visual entertainment it provides.

—BAILEY S. BARNARD

Runco, 503.748.1100, www.runco.com

CELEBRATED FOR ITS audio-reproduction technologies, McIntosh Laboratory, of Binghamton, N.Y., has become equally adept at video playback. The **McIntosh Laboratory MVP881 Universal Blu-ray Disc player** (607.723.3512, www.mcintoshlabs.com)—the company's first such device—excels on both fronts, offering flawless video and a range of audio outputs that benefit from McIntosh's famed fidelity.

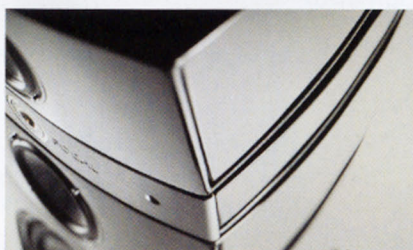
The MVP881 is capable of reading Blu-ray Disc, DVD, DVD-Audio, CD, and SACD formats. For audio, the universal player borrows technologies from McIntosh's audiophile-grade

components, such as the four 32-bit digital-to-analog converters that support the MVP881's multichannel sonic output. (A fifth DAC supports two-channel stereo.) For video reproduction, McIntosh's engineers paired a Silicon Optics Realta video processor with 14-bit DACs, a combination that helps deliver an artifact-free picture.

The \$8,000 MVP881's overall combination—as both a hi-fi audio and video player—offers owners the best of both worlds. —B.S.B.

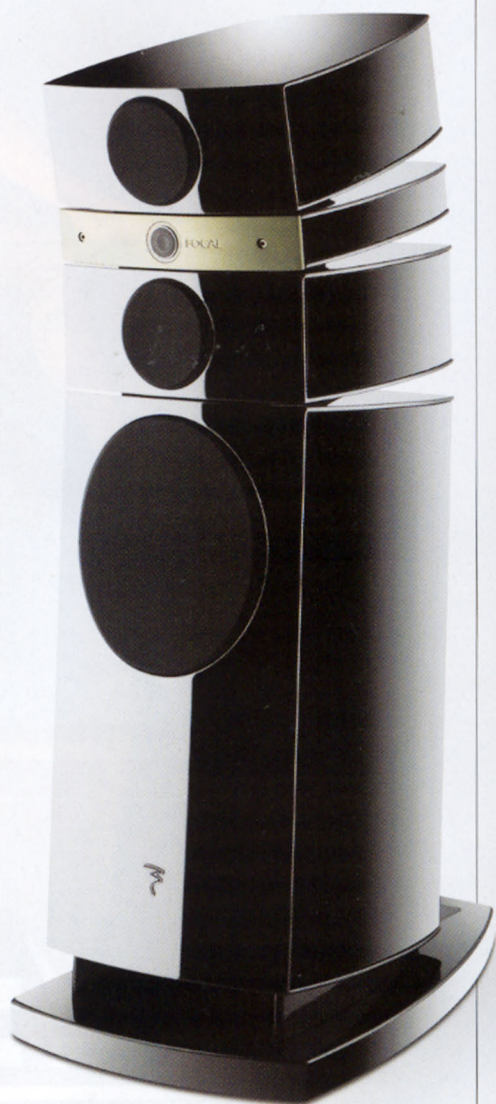
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At nearly 7 feet tall and 573 pounds apiece, Focal's \$180,000 Grande Utopia EM loudspeakers would be overbearing



in most home environments. For listeners seeking comparable audio quality from a more manageable package, the French manufacturer's relatively compact **Focal Stella Utopia EM speakers** (+33.0477.43.57.00, www.focal-fr.com) present a gratifying solution.

Even audiophiles would be hard-pressed to detect a difference in quality between the Grandes and the Stellas, the latter of which are a foot and a half shorter and more than 200 pounds lighter than their older siblings. Introduced early this year, the



Focal Stella Utopia EM speaker (above) and McIntosh Laboratory MVP881 Universal Blu-ray Disc player (below).

