



Meridian Audio Limited
Latham Road, Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire PE29 6YE
United Kingdom

T +44(0)1480 445678
F +44(0)1480 445686
E info@meridian.co.uk
www.meridian-audio.com

Press release

Meridian Audio Founders' Iconic Lecson Audio System to be Displayed at the V&A Museum



To coincide with the 2012 London Olympics, the V&A Museum's major Spring exhibition will showcase the best of British design and creative talent. 'British Design 1948-2012: Innovation in the Modern Age', will highlight significant moments in the history of British Design. Drawing on the V&A's unrivalled collections, the exhibition will document the best in British design and innovation from last 60 years. Included in this prestigious event is the Lecson Audio system created by the co-founders of Meridian Audio, Britain's leading manufacturer of high-end audio and visual entertainment systems.

The Lecson Audio system was created in 1974, three years before Allen Boothroyd and Bob Stuart founded Meridian Audio. Still led by the two founders, the company has always been at the cutting edge of audio technology and design and continues to retain the philosophy that design should not only incorporate aesthetics but functionality too. To this end, beyond creating extraordinary sound, Meridian products have set new standards for elegant and iconic design.

One of the most innovative products of the 1970s in any field, the Lecson reinvented the relationship between design and function. Before its release, hi-fi equipment was housed functionally. Regular grey boxes with knobs represented the height of artistic endeavour and the aesthetic of hi-fi products remained unchanged for many years, that is, until the Lecson. The Lecson did away with the monochrome, boxes and knobs. The power amp was housed not in a dull cube of metal, but in a ribbed cylinder which was not only striking to look at but designed to dissipate the necessary heat. The control unit was not simply a block of buttons but used a spectrum of coloured keyboard-like sliders making it both fantastically bold and incredibly intuitive. The Lecson had made the leap from something that was not merely acceptable as a piece of equipment, but also desirable as an objet d'art.

Selected in 1976 for the New York Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) permanent collection, it is this iconic piece for which Bob Stuart and Allen Boothroyd won the first of three British Design Council Awards in 1974, 1982 and 1988. Now sought after by collectors, it is thought that approximately 50 Lecson systems are still in existence and at auction they fetch over £1,000.00

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For further press information, please contact:

Andy Giles at AGA andy@andygilesassociates.co.uk

About Meridian Audio

Meridian is based near Cambridge, UK, and was founded in 1977 by Bob Stuart and Allen Boothroyd. With over 30 years' history of innovation and development of uncompromised consumer home entertainment systems offering exceptional performance, this award-winning company is widely recognized as a world leader in high-quality audio and video reproduction. Meridian developed the first audiophile CD player, the world's first consumer digital surround controller, and the MLP lossless packing system included in Blu-ray Disc. The company's optical disc players, DSP-based loudspeakers, video projectors, and scalars are unique in the industry, maintaining a super-quality digital signal throughout the path from the studio to the home, using advanced digital signal processing to deliver both a sweet, natural sound and smooth, crystal-sharp images with true cinematic realism. In late 2008, Meridian acquired leading networked media server developer Sooloos, and today the Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System offers a unique combination of superb digital audio quality with the world's most innovative, flexible and intuitive touchscreen-based home entertainment system.

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