Figure 16: Column loudspeakers with open back

Despite a roughness in timbre they had an openness of sound, which reminded me of the Quad ESL-63 (Figure17), an electrostatic loudspeaker that I admired very much for its sound and design [9]. But the problem with electrostatic loudspeakers is the weak motor force, which requires to low mass, large area radiating surfaces to obtain adequate sound output from small excursions. Dynamic capability is usually lacking at bass frequencies and high frequencies are radiated in multiple beams. Room placement is notoriously difficult. Yet the sound is open and transparent, providing a natural experience.

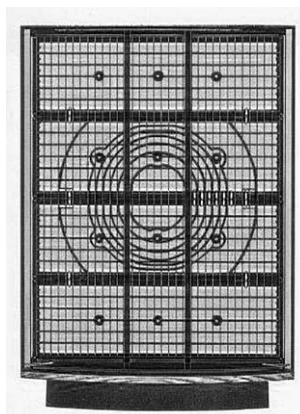

Figure 17: Electrostatic loudspeaker with concentric rings to control the radiation pattern.