

SIDE GALLERY

JOE COLOMBO (1930-1971)



Pair of armchairs

From the series "Additional System"
Manufactured by Sormani
Italy, 1968
Aluminium, Polyurethane, upholstery

Measurements

78,7 cm x 80 cm x 68,6h cm
30 in x 31,5 in x 27h in

Literature

Domus 483 (febbraio 1970), p. 44; Domus 487 (giugno 1970), pubblicità; Giuliana Gramigna, Repertorio 1950-2000, Allemandi, Torino, 2003, p. 142; Vitra Design Museum/La Triennale di Milano, Joe Colombo inventing the future, Skira, Milano, 2005, p. 204; Andrea Branzi, Il design italiano 1964-2000, Electa, Milano, 2008, p. 69.

Biography

Joe Colombo saw himself as a "creator of the environment of the future." During the forward-looking 1960s—against the backdrop of the space race and Pop Art—the Italian industrial designer sought to create design solutions through the use of new materials and curvaceous, functional forms. He used his family's factory to conduct experiments in cutting-edge plastics such as fiberglass, ABS, PVC, and polyethylene, with the goal of creating furniture for mass production. In addition to new materials, he also explored ideas of self-assembly, in pieces such as modular tube furniture that could be arranged according to the users' wishes.