

# SIDE GALLERY

PAULO MENDES DA ROCHA (1928 - )



## Bed

Manufactured by Unilabor  
Brasil, 1960  
Jacaranda wood

## Measurements

190 cm x 125 cm x 72h cm  
74,8 in x 49,21 in x 28,34h in

## Literature

Unilabor, by Mauro Claro. Brasil, 2004.  
Senac SP; Arquitetura e Urbanismo  
edition (2004)

## Provenance

Private collection, Sao Paulo

## Biography

Born in Brazil in 1928, Mendes da Rocha began his career in São Paulo in the 1950s as a member of the "Paulist brutalist" avant-garde. He received a degree in architecture in 1954, opened his office in 1955 and soon thereafter created an early masterpiece, the Athletic Club of São Paulo (1957).

Mendes da Rocha has maintained a private practice, taught at the University of São Paulo and acted as President of the Brazilian Institute for Architects. He has received many awards, including the Mies van der Rohe prize for Latin American Architecture (2000).

One of the most consistently daring of twentieth century architects, Mendes da Rocha has worked notably in the public realm, creating concrete and steel forms of immense power and grace. For the Brazilian pavilion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan, he balanced a building on a single point of terrain with audacious elegance. The next year, he placed as a finalist in competition for design of the Centre George Pompidou, Paris. Among his widely known built works is the Museum of Contemporary Art (1975) at the University of São Paulo, the Forma Furniture showroom (1987) in São Paulo and the Brazilian Sculpture Museum (1987-1992). Recent projects include a master plan for Vigo University in Galicia, Spain, and the Boulevard des Sports in Paris, a complex intended to receive the 2008 Olympic Games.

## Concept

"To get to the width I needed I mounted two sheets leaving a longitudinal empty space between them in order to free the spine and to allow the body to relax. This space also allowed me to fix a small cylindrical neck cushion: The cross bars, which join the two steel sheets, were strategically distributed along the length of the seat in order to allow three different inclinations. I did not do any particular research to achieve it. This idea was born from the continuation of the Paulistano chair. An idea focused on the flexibility properties of steel." Paulo Mendes da Rocha. December 2009