

SIDE GALLERY

OSCAR NIEMEYER



Desk

From the series "ON"
Manufactured for SESC Hotel in Rio de Janeiro
Brazil, 1990
Imbuia wood

Measurements

190 cm x 60 cm x 83h cm
74,8 in x 23,6 in x 32,7h in

Literature

Móvel Brasileiro Moderno, Vasconcellos and Brage
Brazil Modern, the rediscovery of 20th century
Brazilian furniture – Aric Chen, 2016

Concept

Oscar Niemeyer, (Rio de Janeiro RJ 1907 - Rio de Janeiro RJ 2012) architect and urbanist, was one of the greatest of both professions ever seen in Brazil, his memorable life and work is renowned in Brazil and across the World. He has undoubtedly been praised for his acclaimed architecture but less known are his personal attributes, his relentless desire to design and his magic resistance to conform to the times.

Niemeyer graduated in architecture from the National School of Fine Arts (Enba), in Rio de Janeiro, in 1934. That same year, he began working at the office of architect and urban planner Lucio Costa (1902-1998). In 1936, the office was commissioned to create the plans for the headquarters of the Ministry of Education and Health (MES), in Rio de Janeiro, under the supervision of the French-Swiss architect Le Corbusier (1887-1965), whom Niemeyer assisted, as a draftsman. Based on the architect's design, Niemeyer suggests changes that were consequently implemented into the construction of the building. Between 1940 and 1944, he designed, at the request of the then mayor of Belo Horizonte, Juscelino Kubitschek (1902-1976), the Pampulha Architectural Ensemble, which is configured as a landmark of his work, as it breaks with the strict concepts of functionalism and uses a language of new forms, of curved surfaces, exploring the plastic possibilities of reinforced concrete. In 1947, he was invited by the United Nations (UN) to participate in the commission of architects in charge of outlining the plans for the future headquarters in New York. His plans, conceptualized Le Corbusier, were chosen as the basis for the definitive project.