

SIDE GALLERY

OSVALDO BORSANI (1911 - 1985)



Daybed model "L77"

Manufactured by Tecno
Italy, 1950s
Upholstery, enamelled steel, brass

Measurements

65 cm × 196 cm × 84 cm
25,43 h × 77 × 33 in

Literature

Osvaldo Borsani, Gramigna and Irace,
ppg. 270-271 Il Design Italiano Degli
Anni '50, Branzi and de Lucchi, pg. 68
Repertorio 1950-1980, Gramigna, pg.
114

Biography

Osvaldo Borsani (born 1911, Varedo, Italy–died 1985, Milano, Italy) was an Italian designer and architect. Osvaldo Borsani was born into a family of artisan furniture makers. His father, Gaetano Borsani, owned a furniture shop, the Atelier di Varedo, where the 16-year-old Osvaldo first started to train. At the time, a designer working at the atelier was the architect Gino Maggioni, who brought with him influences of the early 20th century Jugendstil movement from Vienna and who instilled in the young Borsani an appreciation for the arts and crafts and furniture making.

Osvaldo Borsani studied Fine Arts at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, graduating in 1931, he then studied Architecture at Politecnico di Milano, where he graduated in 1936. In 1933, two years before graduating as an architect, Borsani designed the Casa Minima project for the V Triennale di Milano (Milan Triennial), in collaboration with the architects Cairoli and Varisco. This project earned him a silver medal for its Rationalist code and geometries, and he received positive reviews from the critic Edoardo Persico of Casabella magazine.

In 1937, Osvaldo Borsani designed Villa Presenti in Forte dei Marmi, seaside home in Tuscany where the Italian aristocracy and industrial elite often built their houses. It was a project that displayed the same rationalistic rigor as Casa Minima, but was softened by the use of mediterranean colours and materials.