

# SIDE GALLERY

MICHAEL VAN BEUREN (1911-2004)



## Lounge chair

Manufactured by Luteca Furniture  
Mexico, 1940s  
Lacquer

## Measurements

93,9 cm x 64,7 cm x 80,6h cm (27,9 cm seat height)  
37 in x 25,5 in x 31,7h in (11 in seat height)

## Bibliography

Kaplan, Wendy, ed. Found in Translation: Design in California and Mexico, 1915-1985. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Munich: DelMonico Books-Prestel, 2017, for similar examples

## Biography

Michael van Beuren (1911-2004) was an architect and designer from New York who studied at the Bauhaus in Germany in 1932. After his studies, he moved to Mexico city, ventured into the furniture industry and offered Mexican society a new model of design, contemporary in nature and adapting to the modern architecture that was starting to dominate the design society of Latin America. Following the formation of his first company (Grabe & Van Beuren), Michael van Beuren created Domus, a second furniture firm and probably his best known, which served as an umbrella for various brands that flooded the Mexican market with interesting designs and a much more international and modern approach. In 1950 the company became Van Beuren S.A. of C.V. and within five years it was already able to produce in series, which allowed them to make several lines at the same time and also preserve the quality.

In addition to Domus, Van Beuren produced other lines, alike in success, that were developed at a time when Mexico was looking for a more international aesthetic. The Calpini brand is an example. It was reported by Espacios magazine in 1951, and Decapóls (1961), that with a strong Bauhaus influence, it was one of the most popular lines of the period and had great sales success in stores such as The Port of Liverpool. Michael van Beuren continued designing and retired to live in the city of Cuernavaca where he died in 2004. Today his work represents one of the most fruitful periods of furniture production in Mexico, and he has become an important part of the history of Mexican twentieth century design.