

SIDE GALLERY

MICHAEL VAN BEUREN (1911-2004)



Armchair

Manufactured by Luteca Furniture
Mexico, 1960s
Mahogany wood

Measurements

73 cm x 73 cm x 93h cm
28,7 in x 28,7 in x 36,6h in

Literature

Finland House Lighting: harmony in lighting
for harmony in living, original designs by
Paavo Tynell p. 25 , for similar examples
Taito, manufacturer's catalog, unpaginated,
for similar examples
Idman Valaisinluettelo Lighting catalog no
135 page 45, 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.