

SIDE GALLERY

JOAQUIM TENREIRO (1906-1992)



Coffee table model "Octogonal"

Manufactured by Tenreiro Moveis e Decorações
Brazil, 1955
Marble, jacaranda wood

Measurements

105 cm × 105 cm x 31h cm
41,3 in x 41,3 in x 12,2h in

Literature

Joaquim Tenreiro, by Soraia Cals and Maria Cecilia Loschiavo dos Santos, edições Bolsa de Arte, Rio de Janeiro 1998, page 84.
Brazil Modern, by Aric Chen: The re-discovery of the twentieth-century brazilian furniture. The monacelli Press, page 90.

Provenance

Private collection, Europe

Biography

Joaquim Tenreiro (1906-1992) was among leading furniture designers and visual artists in modernist Brazilian furniture making in the mid-20th century. A forerunner in the use of rediscovered raw materials as well as the creator of a new formal language in 20th century Brazilian furniture design, he drew on the lessons of past furniture making as a vital source, not only in the mastery of technical and constructive solutions, but also in the aesthetic experience, craftsmanship, and the cultural meaning of his production. His exquisitely crafted pieces evoke a refined coexistence of traditional values and modern aesthetics, strongly bound to the Brazilian cultural milieu. Born in Portugal to a family with a great tradition in furniture making, he moved to Brazil at the age of 22 and embraced a career as a designer by working at various furniture manufacturers such as Leandro Martins, Francisco Gomes and Laubisch & Hirth. Tenreiro proposed a contemporary language and advocated the idea that Brazilian furniture should be "formally light... A lightness which has nothing to do with weight itself, but with graciousness, and the functionality of spaces.