

# SIDE GALLERY

MARIO BOTTA



## Armchair "Oblique"

Manufactured by Alias Italie.  
Italy, 1987  
Black Leather.

## Measurements

88 x 88 x 70h cm  
34,7 x 34,7 x 27,6h in

## Biography

**Mario Botta** (b. 1943 in Mendrisio, Switzerland) has built an international reputation for striking postmodern public and private spaces that blend Classical forms with a contemporary sensibility.

Exhibiting a strong interest in design, Botta left school at the age of 15 to become a draftsman and later apprenticed for the architectural studio *Carloni & Camenisch* in Lugano. After three years, the studio appointed him head designer of the parish house of Genestrerio. Botta eventually left to further his education, attending the *Liceo Artistico in Milan* and finally the *Istituto Universitario di Architettura IUAV* in Venice. Around 1970, Botta opened his own practice in Lugano and focused on designing houses and churches. His first solo project—a single-family dwelling in Cadenazzo, Switzerland (1970-1)—features a strong, rectilinear silhouette penetrated by well-composed geometric voids. Botta used pre-industrial materials like brick, stone, and wood, rather than “traditionally” modernist materials like steel and glass.

Other standout projects from Botta’s architectural career include a private house in Viganello, Switzerland (1981); the *Cathedral of the Resurrection* in Évry, France (1988-1990); the *San Francisco Museum of Modern Art* (1990-1995); the *Church of San Giovanni Battista* in Mogno, Switzerland (1992-1996); the Tinguely Museum in Basel (1995-96); the *National Bank of Greece* in Athens (1998-2001); the *Tschuggen Bergoase Spa* in Arosa, Switzerland (2007); and the *Bechtler Museum of Modern Art* in Charlotte, North Carolina (2009-2010).

Botta’s product designs tend to echo the simple, serene geometry found in his buildings. Standouts include the Quinta 605 Chair for Alias (1985), Shogun Parete and Shogun Lamp for Artemide (both 1986), Italian Seconda Chairs for Alias (1982) and Tesi 609 Table for Alias (1985).