

SIDE GALLERY

LUIGI CACCIA DOMINIONI



Armchair model "Catalina"

Manufactured by Azucena
Italy, 1957
Lacquered metal structure, Leather

Measurements

73 x 60 x 90h cm
28,7 x 23,6 x 35,4h in

Provenance

Private collection

Literature

Domus, no. 723, January 1991, p. 160.
Giuliana Gramigna, Repertorio del Design Italiano
1950–2000, Allemandi, 2003, p. 120.

Biography

Luigi Caccia Dominioni (1913–2016) was an architect and designer whose work embodies the elegance and intellectual rigor of Italian modernism. Born in Milan into a noble family from Novara, he studied architecture at the Politecnico di Milano, where he formed early connections with figures like the Castiglioni brothers and the founders of Studio BBPR. These relationships would shape the beginning of a long and influential career.

In the late 1930s, Caccia Dominioni collaborated with Livio and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni on experimental designs, including pioneering radio models for Phonola, exhibited at the 1940 Triennale di Milano. After World War II, he returned to Milan and co-founded the furniture and lighting brand Azucena in 1947 with Ignazio Gardella and Corrado Corradi Dell'Acqua. The company became a key player in defining the postwar "Milan style"—a synthesis of technical precision, formal restraint, and exceptional craftsmanship.

Throughout his career, Caccia Dominioni developed a series of iconic objects that remain benchmarks of Italian design. These include the Sasso lamps (1948), the Catalina armchair (1950), the T9 carts (1955), the LTE 10 floor lamp (1960), and the Toro seating collection (1973). His refined aesthetic and attention to material detail earned him multiple Compasso d'Oro awards, including for the C.d.o. chair and the Super door handle in 1984.

His architectural work—largely concentrated in Milan—demonstrates a deep understanding of context and history. Projects such as Casa Caccia Dominioni, the Loro-Parisini residence, and the San Babila fountain (1996) reflect a unique ability to blend tradition with contemporary sensibilities, integrating new forms and technologies into the existing urban fabric.