

# SIDE GALLERY

JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS



## **Stool**

Brazil, 1970s  
Designed by Zanine Caldas  
Pequi Wood

## **Measurements**

31,2 x 27 x 50,5h cm  
12,3 x 10,6 x 19,9h in

## **Provenance**

Private collection, Sao Paulo

## **Literature**

Jose Zanine Caldas, éd. Olhares & R&Company, Sao Paulo, NY, 2019, p. 165 for similar model  
Period pictures by Deidi von Schaewen

## **Certificate**

Accompanied by a certificate of authenticity by Zanine Caldas family as well as a certificate of provenance

## **Biography**

**José Zanine Caldas** (1918–2001) was a self-taught Brazilian architect, designer, and craftsman whose work is marked by a deep connection to nature, traditional materials, and Brazilian cultural identity. Known for his masterful use of native woods—especially reclaimed timber—Caldas developed a unique aesthetic that fused modernist principles with vernacular building traditions and ecological awareness.

He began his career in the 1940s as a model maker for major architects in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo and played a key role in shaping the visual identity of Brazilian modernism. In 1949, he founded Móveis Artísticos Z, a pioneering industrial furniture company using plywood to produce accessible, functional pieces. However, disillusioned with mass production, Caldas later turned toward handcrafted construction and ecological experimentation.

During the 1960s and 70s, particularly in Nova Viçosa (Bahia) and Joatinga (Rio de Janeiro), he developed a distinctive architectural language centered on raw wood, organic forms, and minimal intervention in the landscape. His projects from this period—such as the Casa dos Triângulos and several chapels and houses—exemplify his commitment to sustainability and simplicity.

Caldas was also a committed educator and social thinker. He founded the Center for the Development of Applications of Brazilian Woods (DAM) and proposed the Escola do Fazer (School of Doing), promoting low-cost housing and participatory construction techniques for underserved communities.

Despite lacking formal architectural training, his work was widely respected and exhibited internationally, and in 1991 he was awarded the title of honorary architect by the Institute of Architects of Brazil. His legacy endures as a bridge between design, nature, and social responsibility in Latin American architecture.