

SIDE GALLERY

SERGIO RODRIGUES



Tonico Three-Seater Sofa

Manufactured by OCA
Brazil, 1960s
Brazilian rosewood, Leather

Measurements

190 × 85 × 75h cm
74,8 × 33,5 × 29,5h in

Provenance

Private collection

Details

Designed by renowned Brazilian architect and designer Sergio Rodrigues, the Tonico sofa exemplifies the synthesis of modernist functionality and the warmth of Brazilian materials. The piece features a solid Brazilian rosewood frame, notable for its sculptural curves and rich grain, paired with natural leather upholstery that acquires depth and patina over time. Balancing strength and comfort, it reflects Rodrigues' philosophy of creating furniture that embodies both humanism and national identity.

Literature

Sergio Rodrigues: Designer Brasileiro, Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi, São Paulo, 2000
Sergio Rodrigues, Rizzoli, New York, 2012

About

The Tonico series is among Sergio Rodrigues' most iconic contributions to mid-century Brazilian design. Conceived during the 1960s for OCA, the company he founded in Rio de Janeiro, the series explores generous proportions, tactile materials, and effortless ergonomics. The wooden structure and leather cushions are crafted to invite relaxation while expressing a distinctly tropical modernist sensibility. Through pieces like this, Rodrigues sought to create furniture that was both architecturally grounded and emotionally resonant—a reflection of Brazil's evolving cultural identity in the postwar era.

Biography

Sergio Rodrigues (b. 1927 Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro – d. 2014 Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro) was a furniture designer and architect. In search of the Brazilian identity, Rodrigues broke away from design constraints and tried to harmoniously integrate the three areas in which he worked: architecture, design, and drawing. He joined the National School of Architecture of the University of Brazil (FNA) in 1947. In 1949, he worked as an assistant professor for David Xavier de Azambuja. In 1951, David Xavier de Azambuja invited Rodrigues to participate in elaborating the Civic Center of Curitiba. The architects Olavo Redig de Campos (1906–1984) and Flávio Regis do Nascimento also collaborated on the project. It was through these contacts that Rodrigues met Lucio Costa (1902–1998). Rodrigues graduated with an architecture degree in 1951. He moved to Curitiba, where he founded Móveis Artesanal Paranaense, in partnership with the Hauner brothers. In 1954, the Hauner brothers hired him to lead the interior architecture section of the new company, Forma S.A., in São Paulo. During this tenure, he came into contact with other renowned designers such as Gregori Warchavchik (1896–1972) and Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992).