

SIDE GALLERY

CARLO SCARPA



Dining table model "Quatour"

Manufactured by Simon Gavina
Italy, 1974
Walnut wood

Measurements

141 cm x 141 cm x 72h cm
55,9 in x 55,9 in x 28h in.

Literature

Giuliana Gramigna, Repertorio 1950/1980, Milan, 1985, p. 327; Virgilio Vercelloni, The Adventure of Design: Gavina, Milan, 1987, pp. 74-75

About

This model Riomarin table was designed by Carlo Scarpa in 1947 for the Metamobile project. It put into production by Simon/Gavina in 1974, who intended to defend themselves against accusations that they produced furniture only for the rich bourgeoisie. Metamobile was a line of simple furniture at a low price, encapsulating the idea that every person could be enabled to make furniture on their own. This piece is made from simple solid fir slats.

Biography

Carlo Scarpa (Venice, 1906 – Sendai, 1978) was an Italian architect and designer renowned for his refined material sensibility, deep respect for craftsmanship, and meticulous attention to detail. Educated at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, Scarpa developed a unique approach that bridged modernism with historical and artisanal traditions, often standing apart from the dominant rationalist movement in postwar Italy.

Strongly influenced by Venetian culture and later by Japanese aesthetics, Scarpa's work reflects a profound dialogue between tradition and modernity. His long collaboration with Venini (1932-1947), where he served as artistic director, was central to his career, redefining Murano glass through streamlined forms and contemporary color palettes. Alongside architecture, he designed furniture, glass objects, and interiors now held in major museum and private collections.

Scarpa is best known for his sensitive interventions in historic buildings, including the Castelvecchio Museum in Verona, the Olivetti Showroom in Venice, and the Querini Stampalia Foundation. His legacy lies in an architecture shaped by craft, material intelligence, and a poetic understanding of space.