

SIDE GALLERY

OSCAR NIEMEYER



Armchair and ottoman model "Alta"

Manufactured by Tendo Brasileira
Brazil/Japan, 1978
Lacquered plywood, leather, steel

Measurements

Chair
71 x 102 x 67,4h cm
28 x 40,2 x 26,5h in

Ottoman
69,2 x 68,6 x 38,1h cm
27,2 x 27 x 15h in

Literature

Maria Cecília Loschiavo dos Santos, Móvel moderno no Brasil, São Paulo, 1995, p. 60
Jean Petit, Niemeyer: Poète d'Architecture, Lugano, 1995, p. 362 for a drawing, pp. 363, 383
Alan Hess, Oscar Niemeyer Houses, New York, 2006, pp. 93, 132-33, 135
Roberto Civita, Pedro Ariel Santana, Design Brasil: 101 anos de história, exh. cat., Museu da Casa Brasileira, São Paulo, 2010, p. 59

Provenance

Private collection, São Paulo

Details

Certificates by Oscar Niemeyer Foundation

Details

Underside with manufacturer's label TENDO
BRASILEIRA/INDÚSTRIA E COMÉRCIO DE MÓVEIS
LTDA./TAUBATÉ · S.PAULO · IND. BRAS

Biography

Oscar Niemeyer (Rio de Janeiro, 1907–2012) was a Brazilian architect and designer, widely regarded as one of the key figures in the development of modern architecture and one of the most influential creative voices of the 20th century. Renowned for his expressive use of reinforced concrete and his preference for curvilinear, sculptural forms, Niemeyer developed a highly personal language that extended beyond architecture into furniture and design.

From the 1960s onward, Niemeyer increasingly focused on furniture design, working in close collaboration with his daughter, designer Anna Maria Niemeyer. Together, they sought to translate the formal freedom and sensual curves of his architecture into functional objects, exploring the structural and aesthetic possibilities of molded plywood, steel, and leather. Their first furniture project was the Alta Easy Chair and its accompanying footrest, which already demonstrated a strong sculptural presence and a refined balance between comfort and form.

Their most celebrated design, the Rio Chaise Longue, developed in 1977, is widely considered one of the most important pieces of furniture design of the 20th century. The chaise longue exemplifies Niemeyer's design philosophy, combining elegance, structural clarity, and a continuous flowing line that echoes the human body. Today, his furniture designs are regarded as essential expressions of modern design and are held in major museum collections worldwide.

Oscar Niemeyer passed away shortly before his 105th birthday. Anna Maria Niemeyer died in 2012, continuing until the end to preserve and promote the design legacy she shared with her father.