

# SIDE GALLERY

RAPHAEL RAFFEL



## Sofa model "Croissant"

Manufactured by Atelier Raffel  
France, 1970s  
Leather

## Measurements

260 × 100 × 78h cm  
102,4 × 39,4 × 30,7h in  
Seat height: 43 cm | 16,9 in

## Provenance

Private collection, Italy

## About

The "Croissant" sofa, designed by Raphael Raffel in the early 1970s, is an icon of postmodern French design. Its voluminous, pillow-like form is inspired by the curvature and comfort of a croissant, resulting in a bold sculptural shape that prioritizes softness, support, and flexibility. Handcrafted in France and upholstered in dark brown full grain leather, the sofa features a detailed patchwork construction with invisible seams and a concealed zipper system, allowing easy access to the internal foam structure. Intended to accommodate up to three people, the sofa can be rotated to allow for various lounging postures, further reinforcing its emphasis on comfort and versatility. The model stands as a testament to Raffel's experimental design ethos and his desire to blur the line between function and form.

## Biography

**Raphael Raffel** (1912–2000) was a French interior designer and decorator whose work represents a distinctive and experimental strand of postwar European design. Based in Paris, he developed sculptural furniture characterized by organic forms, asymmetry, and generous, enveloping volumes that challenged conventional notions of comfort and function. During the 1960s and 1970s, Raffel produced handcrafted, often made-to-order pieces in limited numbers, emphasizing material quality and artisanal detail. Best known for the Croissant sofa, his work reflects a body-centric and tactile approach that has gained renewed attention among collectors and scholars for its originality and emotional resonance.