

SIDE GALLERY

JEAN GILLON



Set of Three Stools
Manufactured by Cidam
Brazil, 1960s
Solid Jacaranda, Suede

Measurements (each)
77 × 51 × 36,5 cm
30,31 × 20,1 × 14,4h in

Provenance
Private Collection, Brazil

Details
Manufacturer's label

About

This set of three stools by Jean Gillon exemplifies the elegance and craftsmanship of Brazilian modernist design in the 1960s. Produced by Cidam, the stools are constructed from solid jacaranda wood, known for its density, rich grain, and deep color, complemented by supple suede seating.

The design emphasizes simplicity and functional beauty. The robust wooden frames provide structural clarity, while the suede surfaces introduce tactile comfort, balancing rigidity with subtle softness. Gillon's approach is evident in the careful proportions and harmonious interplay of materials, reflecting a philosophy where furniture is both sculptural and human-centered.

The set of stools embodies the aesthetic principles of mid-century Brazilian design: artisanal attention to detail, respect for natural materials, and a quiet sophistication that integrates seamlessly into contemporary interiors. Today, they are recognized for both their design significance and their enduring elegance.

Biography

Jean Gillon (1919–2007) was a designer and architect born in Iași, Romania, and later active in Brazil. Trained within European modernist principles, he emigrated to São Paulo in 1956, where he developed a distinctive body of work combining functional design with organic forms and artisanal techniques.

Gillon became a key figure in Brazilian modern design, known for his innovative use of materials such as wood, leather, and woven fibers, and for merging industrial production with craftsmanship through companies like Cidam and WoodArt. His most iconic piece, the Jangada armchair (1968), exemplifies his approach—light, structural, and ergonomically refined, inspired by traditional Brazilian fishing rafts.

Throughout his career, he gained international recognition for furniture that integrates architecture, landscape, and human comfort, leaving a lasting legacy in modern design.