

# SIDE GALLERY

JEAN GILLON



## Amazonas Sofa

Manufactured by Italma Wood Art  
Brazil, 1965  
Jacaranda, Leather, Rope

## Measurements

182 × 84 × 71h cm  
71,5 × 33 × 28h in

## Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

## Details

Paper manufacturer's label to underside:  
"Italma Wood Art, 1460, IND. Brasileira C.G.C.  
60.870.011/1, handmade jacaranda wood design by  
Jean Gillon, Made in Brazil"

## About

The Amazonas Sofa, designed by Jean Gillon around 1965, is a refined example of Brazilian modernist seating that combines structural clarity with material richness. Produced by Italma Wood Art, the piece reflects Gillon's characteristic approach to integrating craftsmanship with innovative construction.

The jacaranda wood frame forms a solid architectural base, within which a system of rope supports the upholstered cushions. This interplay between rigid structure and flexible suspension creates a dynamic seating experience that balances comfort with visual lightness.

The use of rope as both a structural and aesthetic element is a defining feature of Gillon's work, referencing traditional craft techniques while reinterpreting them within a modernist language. The upholstered cushions add softness and contrast to the exposed framework, enhancing both comfort and tactile appeal.

As part of the Amazonas series, the sofa embodies the relaxed elegance and sensorial quality that characterize Brazilian design of the mid-20th century, making it a highly collectible and enduring piece.

## 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.