

# SIDE GALLERY

JEAN GILLON



## Sofa Model "Rodeio"

Manufactured by Italma Wood Art  
Brazil, 1965  
Jacaranda, Leather

## Measurements

222 × 91 × 76h cm  
87,2 × 36 × 30h in

## Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

## Details

Manufacturer's label

## About

The Rodeio Sofa, designed by Jean Gillon around 1965, is a striking example of Brazilian modernist furniture, combining robust construction with a refined sense of material expression. Produced by Italma Wood Art, the piece reflects Gillon's characteristic approach to creating furniture that is both sculptural and deeply comfortable.

Crafted in richly grained jacaranda wood, the structure provides a solid architectural framework that supports the leather upholstery. The contrast between the dense, warm-toned wood and the supple leather enhances the tactile and visual richness of the piece, while emphasizing the natural qualities of each material.

The design embodies the relaxed sophistication typical of Brazilian modernism, where functionality is balanced with an emphasis on sensorial experience. Gillon's work often explores this dialogue between structure and comfort, resulting in pieces that invite use while maintaining a strong visual identity.

The Rodeio model stands as a testament to this philosophy, offering a generous and grounded seating form that reflects both craftsmanship and modern design sensibility.

## 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.