

SIDE GALLERY

BRANCO & PETRO



Armchairs

Manufactured by Mahlmeister & Cia
Brazil, 1960s
Solid jacaranda, Upholstery

Measurements

86 × 79 × 74h cm
33,9 × 31,1 × 29,1h in

Provenance

Private collection, São Paulo

Literature

Marlene Milan Acayaba, Branco & Preto, Instituto Lina
Bo e Pietro Maria Bardi

About

These armchairs by Branco & Preto embody the restrained sophistication and architectural rigor that defined Brazilian modern furniture during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Characterized by balanced proportions and structural clarity, the design reflects the collective's pursuit of a furniture language closely aligned with contemporary architecture.

Constructed in richly figured jacaranda, the frame reveals a precise and elegant use of Brazilian hardwood, emphasizing the beauty of the material through clean lines and carefully resolved joinery. The warm tones and expressive grain of the wood create a refined contrast with the softness of the cotton upholstery, introducing tactility and comfort into the composition.

Like many of Branco & Preto's seating designs, these armchairs balance visual lightness with a strong architectural presence. Their generous proportions and low profile encourage a relaxed way of sitting, while the structural frame remains clearly legible, revealing the group's belief that construction itself could become an aesthetic language.

Produced during a formative moment in Brazilian modernism, the chairs reflect the ideals of a generation of architects and designers seeking to develop a modern vocabulary rooted in local craftsmanship and noble materials. Timeless and understated, they remain exemplary expressions of mid-century Brazilian design.

About Branco & Preto

Founded in São Paulo in the early 1950s, Branco & Preto was a pioneering collective of architects and designers including Miguel Forte, Jacob Ruchti, Carlos Millan, Roberto Aflalo, Chen Hwa and Plínio Croce. Established as both a furniture company and a design studio, the group emerged from a desire to create furniture aligned with Brazil's rapidly evolving architectural culture.

Their work was distinguished by clarity of structure, refined proportions, and an emphasis on noble Brazilian materials such as jacaranda. Rejecting decorative excess, Branco & Preto created furniture defined by precision, craftsmanship, and material honesty, helping shape the language of Brazilian modern design.

Today, Branco & Preto pieces are regarded as some of the most important and collectible works of Brazilian mid-century design.