

# SIDE GALLERY

JORGE ZALSZUPIN



## Buffet Model "Componível"

Manufactured by L'Atelier  
Brazil, 1960

Rosewood veneer, solid rosewood edging, chromed  
steel

## Measurements

300 × 40 × 70h cm  
118,1 × 15,7 × 27,6h in

## Provenance

Private collection, Brazil

## Literature

Jorge Zalszupin and L'Atelier, various documented  
modular storage systems from the 1960s

## About

The Buffet Componível is among Jorge Zalszupin's most architecturally ambitious storage designs, embodying the modular and rational principles that shaped Brazilian modern furniture during the 1960s. Conceived as a composition of horizontal volumes elevated on sculptural chromed supports, the piece balances functionality with an exceptionally strong visual identity.

Executed in richly figured rosewood veneer with solid rosewood edging, the sideboard transforms storage into an exercise in rhythm and proportion. The geometric patchwork effect created by the veneer composition lends movement to the surface, revealing Zalszupin's sophisticated understanding of wood as both structure and ornament. At the center, an open niche interrupts the otherwise continuous façade, introducing visual lightness and a subtle asymmetry.

The most distinctive feature remains the chromed X-shaped supports, which elevate the substantial volume and create a sense of suspension. This contrast between the warmth of Brazilian hardwood and the precision of industrial metal reflects Zalszupin's ability to merge European modernist influences with the expressive material language of Brazil.

## Biography

**Jorge Zalszupin** (b. Warsaw, Poland 1922 - d. São Paulo, Brasil 2020) graduated as an architect in Romania in 1945. His importance in Brazilian design is not yet fully documented. Besides owning the L'Atelier furniture factory, dedicated to modern furniture design, Zalszupin led a unique initiative: he coordinated a team of designers who worked for four different factories owned by the same business group, the Forsa group.

Zalszupin immigrated to Brazil in 1949 and, after a brief stay in the capital of the Republic, settled in São Paulo, a city beginning to commence a grand cycle of industrial growth and significant cultural transformations. In the early 1950s, he opened an architecture firm in partnership with José Gugliotta. After some time, he tired of design pieces exclusively for the homes of elite clients and decided to join a group of joiners and produce small series, leading to the formulation of the L'Atelier factory, which soon began to manufacture office furniture and went from being a joinery of handmade production to an industry of mass production. The first piece of the series was made in 1959; it was an armchair, nicknamed 'Danish' by the staff. Composed of rosewood and upholstery, it features toothpick legs, and the arms and front feet resemble the columns designed by Niemeyer for the Palace of Dawn.