

SIDE GALLERY

FRANCO ALBINI



Dining Table model "Badano / Brivec"

Manufactured by Poggi
Pavia, Italy, 1950s
Rosewood wood

Measurements

125 × 125 × 75h cm
49,2 × 49,2 × 29,5h in

Provenance

Fondazione Franco Albini, Milan

Literature

I. de Guttry and M.P. Maino, Il mobile italiano degli anni '40 e '50, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 1992, p. 63 (hexagonal-top example).

R. Dulio, F. Marino and S.A. Poli, Il mondo di Poggi. L'officina del design e delle arti, Electa, Milan, 2019, p. 103.

Biography

Franco Albini (b. 1905, Robbiate – d. 1977, Milan) was one of the most significant and intellectually rigorous figures of 20th-century Italian architecture and design. A master of Rationalist principles, Albini's work is renowned for its structural clarity, formal restraint, and the seamless integration of modernist ideals with traditional Italian craftsmanship. His approach to both furniture and architecture was driven by a relentless pursuit of essentiality, stripping away superfluous ornamentation to reveal the inherent beauty of materials and construction.

Albini graduated from the Politecnico di Milano in 1929 and began his career in the studio of architect Gio Ponti. He quickly became a central figure in the Italian Rationalist movement of the 1930s, contributing to major exhibitions and architectural competitions that promoted a new, modernist language in Italy. His architectural works, such as the Museo del Tesoro della Cattedrale di San Lorenzo in Genoa (1952–56) and the design of Milan's Line 1 subway stations in the 1960s, are considered masterclasses in spatial purity and functional rigor. In the field of furniture design, Albini created some of the most iconic and timeless pieces of the 20th century. His collaboration with Poggi, one of the leading Italian manufacturers of the period, was particularly fruitful. Among his most celebrated furniture designs is the "Margherita" chair (1951), crafted from curved cane and rattan, which blends radical modernity with artisanal weaving techniques. This chair, along with the "Gala" chair, was exhibited at the IX Triennale di Milano and is now part of the permanent collection at MoMA, New York.