

SIDE GALLERY

MARTIN ESILER & CARLO HAUNER



Footrest model "Costela"

Manufactured by Forma Brasil
Brazil, 1950

Jacaranda wood, black painted enameled steel

Measurements

69,9 x 55,2 x 36,8h cm
27,3 x 21,8 x 14,5h in

Literature

Aric Chen, *Brazil Modern the rediscovery of twentieth-century brazilian furniture*. The Monacelli Press, New York 2016, reproduite page 205

About

Designed by Martin Eisler and Carlo Hauner in the 1950s, the Costela Footrest extends the structural and material language of the iconic lounge chair into a complementary form. Conceived as part of the same ensemble, its curved jacaranda elements follow the body's contours while remaining visibly supported by a slender black-painted enameled steel frame.

As in the lounge chair, construction becomes an essential part of the design. The repetition of the wooden ribs creates a sculptural rhythm, while the contrast between the warmth of Brazilian hardwood and the precision of the metal structure reflects Eisler and Hauner's exploration of craftsmanship and industrial production.

Biography

Martin Eisler (1913–1977) and **Carlo Hauner** (1927–1996) were key figures in the development of Brazilian modern design during the mid-twentieth century. Born in Vienna and Brescia respectively, both brought their European backgrounds into dialogue with Brazil's rapidly evolving architectural and cultural landscape. Their encounter in São Paulo in the early 1950s led to a defining collaboration through Forma Brasil, which became one of the country's most influential modern furniture manufacturers.

Together, Eisler and Hauner developed a distinctive design language that combined Brazilian craftsmanship and local materials with the principles of modern industrial production. Their furniture is characterized by structural clarity, sculptural and organic forms, and expressive juxtapositions of richly grained Brazilian woods with slender metal structures. Through designs such as the Costela Lounge Chair, their work reflects the broader cultural exchanges and material experimentation that shaped Brazilian modernism, contributing to its emergence as a distinctive and internationally recognized design movement.