

SIDE GALLERY

LINA BO BARDI



Girafa Bar Stool

Designed by Lina Bo Bardi, Marcelo Ferraz & Marcelo Suzuki
Brazil, 1986
Grumichama wood

Measurements

38 × 40 × 95h cm
15 × 15,7 × 37,4h in
Seat height: 72 cm (28.3 in)

Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

Literature

Marcelo Carvalho Ferraz, ed., Lina Bo Bardi, São Paulo, 1996, p. 286

Aric Chen, Brazil Modern: The Rediscovery of Twentieth-Century Brazilian Furniture, 2016, New York, pp. 124-25

Mina W. Hugerth, et al., Marcenaria Baraúna: móvel como arquitetura, São Paulo, 2017, pp. 38-43, 64
Alberto Vicente and Marcelo Vasconcellos, Móvel Moderno Brasileiro, São Paulo, 2017, p. 126

About

Designed during the 1980s, the Girafa Bar Stool was conceived by Lina Bo Bardi, Marcelo Ferraz and Marcelo Suzuki in connection with the restaurant at Casa do Benin in Salvador, Bahia. The design belongs to the collaborative furniture developed around Bo Bardi's architectural and cultural projects in Brazil during the final phase of her career.

The stool is characterized by an exceptionally direct construction in wood, with a circular seat supported by elongated legs and a minimal structural framework. Its tall, slender proportions inspired the name "Girafa". Portuguese for "giraffe", while its simplicity reflects the designers' interest in economical construction, traditional craftsmanship, and furniture conceived in close relationship with a specific architectural setting.

Casa do Benin formed part of Bo Bardi's broader engagement with the cultural history of Salvador and Bahia, particularly the profound connections between Brazil and West Africa. Within this context, the Girafa was conceived not as an isolated design object but as an integral element of an inhabited social and cultural space.

The design embodies principles central to Bo Bardi's later work: a rejection of unnecessary formal complexity, an appreciation for vernacular and popular forms of making, and an understanding of furniture as an extension of architecture and everyday life. Despite the economy of its construction, the distinctive proportions of the Girafa Bar Stool give it a strong sculptural identity.

Biography

Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992) was an Italian-born Brazilian architect and designer whose work became central to modern architecture and design in Brazil. After moving to São Paulo in 1946, she developed a practice that brought together architecture, furniture, exhibition design and cultural research.

Her work combined the principles of modernism with a deep interest in Brazilian popular culture, vernacular craftsmanship and collective life. Through projects such as Casa de Vidro, MASP and SESC Pompéia, Bo Bardi developed an architecture characterized by structural clarity, material honesty and a strong social dimension. Her furniture followed the same approach, favouring direct construction, functional simplicity and an expressive use of materials.