

# SIDE GALLERY

LINA BO BARDI



## Girafa Chair (set of 3)

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

## Measurements

39 × 40 × 78h cm  
15,4 × 15,7 × 30,7h in  
Seat height: 48 cm (18,9 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 Chair was conceived by Lina Bo Bardi, Marcelo Ferraz and Marcelo Suzuki for the restaurant at Casa do Benin in Salvador, Bahia. The chair belongs to a significant period of collaboration between the three architects, during which furniture was developed as an integral part of the architectural and cultural environments they created.

The design is distinguished by its remarkably direct wooden construction. A circular seat is supported by slender legs, while the elongated rear supports extend upward to form a minimal backrest. These tall, delicate proportions inspired the name “Girafa”, Portuguese for “giraffe.”

Its apparent simplicity reflects the designers’ interest in economical construction, craftsmanship, and the expressive possibilities of ordinary materials. Rather than approaching furniture as an autonomous decorative object, the Girafa Chair was conceived in close dialogue with architecture, responding to the social and cultural context in which it would be used.

Originally created for Casa do Benin, the chair also relates to Bo Bardi’s sustained engagement with the cultural connections between Bahia and West Africa. Its restrained construction and distinctive silhouette embody principles central to her later work: an appreciation for popular and vernacular forms of making, structural clarity, and the integration of design into everyday collective life.

## 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.