

SIDE GALLERY

MARTIN ESILER & CARLO HAUNER



Curved Bench

Manufactured by Forma
Brazil, 1960s
Solid wood and chromed metal

Measurements

310 × 60 × 38h cm
122 × 23.6 × 15h in
Seat height: 38 cm (15 in)

Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

Literature

Design brasileiro de Moveis, Ed. Olhares, 2013,

About

Designed during the 1960s, this Curved Bench by Carlo Hauner and Martin Eisler exemplifies the refined combination of sculptural form, structural ingenuity, and material contrast that characterized their work for Forma in Brazil.

The bench is defined by its sweeping curved profile, constructed from a sequence of solid wood elements arranged radially to form a continuous seating surface. Each component is cut at a carefully calculated angle, allowing the individual pieces to follow the curvature while maintaining consistent spacing throughout the composition. This construction gives the bench both its distinctive sculptural presence and a strong sense of visual rhythm.

The warmth and natural grain of the wood are contrasted by slender chromed metal feet, emphasizing the relationship between organic and industrial materials that became characteristic of Hauner and Eisler's furniture. The restrained metal supports visually lighten the substantial wooden structure, creating the impression that the curved seat is suspended above the floor.

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.