CARLO HAUNER

Pair of lounge Chairs
Manufactured by Forma
Brazil, 1950s
Caviuna wood, Fabric upholstery

Measurements (each)
82 × 72 × 67h cm
32,3 × 28,3 × 26,4h in

Provenance
Private Collection

Literature
Aric Chen, Brazil Modern: The Rediscovery of Twentieth-Century Brazilian Furniture, The Monacelli Press, New York, 2016.
Marcelo Vasconcellos et al., Móvel Brasileiro Moderno, Aeroplano / FGV Projetos, Rio de Janeiro, 2012.
Ruy Teixeira and Jayme Vargas, Desenho da Utopia: Mobiliário Moderno Brasileiro, Olhares, São Paulo, 2016.

About
Designed in 1953–1954, this pair of lounge chairs exemplifies Carlo Hauner's distinctive contribution to Brazilian modern furniture during the formative years of Forma. The design combines an exposed caviuna wood structure with separately upholstered seat and backrest elements, creating a striking dialogue between the warmth of Brazilian hardwood and the softness of the textile surfaces.
The chairs are distinguished by their sculptural, gently curved upholstery. Both the seat and the broad backrest rise subtly at their outer edges, producing an enveloping profile while maintaining an overall sense of visual lightness. Four slender, tapered caviuna legs support the composition, their pronounced angles introducing a dynamic counterpoint to the upholstered volumes.
The design belongs to a pivotal period in the development of postwar Brazilian furniture, when Hauner's work helped establish a synthesis between European modernist principles, Brazilian materials, and local manufacturing traditions.

Biography
Carlo Hauner (1927–1977) was an Italian-born designer and entrepreneur who played an important role in the development of Brazilian modern furniture during the postwar period. Born in Brescia, Italy, he studied at the Accademia di Brera in Milan before emigrating to Brazil in the late 1940s.
After settling in São Paulo, Hauner established Móveis Artesanal, producing furniture that combined European modernist ideas with Brazilian materials and craftsmanship. In the early 1950s, his collaboration with Martin Eisler contributed to the development of Forma, which became one of the most influential manufacturers of modern furniture in Brazil.
Hauner's designs are characterized by elegant structural solutions, expressive combinations of wood and metal, and an emphasis on comfort and material quality. His work, together with that of Eisler, helped establish a distinctive language for Brazilian postwar furniture and remains an important part of the history of twentieth-century Latin American design.

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