

SIDE GALLERY

JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS



Sideboard

Manufactured by Móveis Artísticos Z
Brazil, 1949
Solid wood and plywood

Measurements

183 × 35 × 97h cm
72 × 13,8 × 38,2h in

Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

Literature

Móvel Brasileiro Moderno (Aeroplano/
FGV Projetos), p. 146
Móvel Moderno Brasileiro - Brazilian
Modern Design (Olhares), p. 146

About

Designed in 1949, this sideboard reflects **José Zanine Caldas's** early exploration of modern furniture through Móveis Artísticos Z, which pioneered accessible furniture using plywood and simplified construction. Its architectural composition combines open shelving, enclosed compartments and sliding doors, with inclined side panels punctuated by circular perforations. Executed in solid wood and plywood, the piece demonstrates Caldas's interest in structural clarity, material expression and functional design, anticipating the organic forms and craftsmanship that would characterize his later work.

Biography

José Zanine Caldas (1918–2001) was a Brazilian architect and designer known for his innovative use of native woods and his distinctive approach to furniture and architecture. Self-taught in architecture, he founded Móveis Artísticos Z in 1949, pioneering the industrial production of affordable plywood furniture. From the 1970s onwards, his work increasingly embraced raw timber, reclaimed materials and organic forms, reflecting a deep connection with nature and Brazilian craftsmanship. In 1983, he founded the Centre for the Development of Applications of Brazilian Woods (DAM), promoting sustainable construction, furniture design and low-cost housing. His work bridges industrial production and artisanal practice, leaving a lasting legacy in Brazilian modern design.