JORGE ZALSZUPIN



Modular Bookcase model "Kovacs"
From the series "Componivel"
Manufactured by L'Atelier Móveis
Brazil, 1960s
Rosewood, lacquered wood and cork

Measurements
375 × 40 × 218h cm
147,6 × 15,7 × 85,8h in

Provenance
Private Collection

Literature
Aric Chen, Brazil Modern: The Rediscovery of Twentieth-Century Brazilian Furniture, The Monacelli Press, New York, 2016, p. 234, similar example illustrated

About
Designed circa 1960 by **Jorge Zalszupin** and manufactured by L'Atelier Móveis, the "Kovacs" Modular Bookcase exemplifies his exploration of furniture as a flexible architectural system. Composed of interchangeable shelves, storage cabinets and dividers, it could be arranged in different configurations to suit domestic and professional interiors. This example combines rosewood shelves and a storage cabinet with lacquered wooden elements, cork surfaces and a lacquered divider, creating a contrast of textures, colours and finishes across its nearly four-metre composition. Its modular construction reflects Zalszupin's interest in adaptable design and serial production, while retaining the careful material selection and refined detailing characteristic of his work. A similar configuration is illustrated in Aric Chen's Brazil Modern: The Rediscovery of Twentieth-Century Brazilian Furniture (p. 234).

Biography
Jorge Zalszupin (1922–2020) was a Polish-born Brazilian architect and furniture designer. Born in Warsaw, he studied architecture in Romania before moving to Brazil in 1949, where he settled in São Paulo and established his architectural practice. In 1959, he founded L'Atelier, a furniture company that became a pioneer of modern Brazilian industrial design. Combining traditional craftsmanship with serial production, he developed furniture distinguished by refined geometries, innovative construction techniques and the use of Brazilian tropical woods, particularly jacaranda. His work contributed significantly to the development of Brazilian modernism, with numerous commissions for residential, commercial and public buildings, including projects in Brasília.

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