

DETAILS

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BRAZIL'S TOP FURNITURE DESIGNERS

A GUIDE TO THE COUNTRY'S LIVING LEGENDS—AND THEIR INCREDIBLE DESKS, TABLES, AND CHAIRS.

BY SCOTT MITCHEM, JANUARY 11, 2012

For years, Brazil's best contemporary designers went largely unknown outside of their home turf. But the spotlight is now shifting to the country's living design legends thanks to a booming economy, the upcoming World Cup in 2014, and the 2016 Olympic Games. Interestingly, they all share a common commitment to the sustainable use of one of Brazil's greatest resources—its trees and the incredible wood they produce.



Arthur Casas

The designer: Casas is best known as one of Brazil's top architects and interior designers, having designed many of São Paulo's best restaurants, bars, and boutiques in his clean, modern, yet sensual style. He designed the city's five-star Emiliano Hotel and its biggest high-luxury project, Cidade Jardim, one of the world's most beautiful shopping malls.

His latest piece: His new Asa desk is made of Brazilian walnut and aptly named for its adjustable "wings," which slide closed to cover the workspace below when not in use. \$22,850; espasso.com



Isay Weinfeld

The designer: Famous for his work as an architect and interior designer, Weinfeld created the luxurious and timeless Fasano Hotel in São Paulo—a rich, warm manifestation of his modernist elan and passion for classic elements. It's a mix that he also brings to his work in furniture.

His latest piece: Weinfeld's latest is the Farmacinha, or "little pharmacy," a medicine cabinet made of oxidized brass, stainless steel, perforated metal, and a collection of native woods intended to showcase its contents rather than hide them. Perfect for the package-design junkie. Price upon request; espasso.com



Claudia Moreira Salles

The designer: Salles is one of Brazil's most prolific creators of seating, lighting, tables, and accessories for the home, and her work is part of the permanent collection at the prestigious Museum of the Brazilian House in Sao Paulo. The juxtaposition of rough, natural materials with highly finished elements is her trademark, and like so many of her contemporaries, sustainability is a top priority.

Her latest piece: Inspired by the image of a singer holding a microphone, the Cantante lamp redirects light from its chrome fixture outward, using a beautiful hand-carved, bowl-shaped piece of fallen native Brazilian wood farmed in the northern state of Acre. \$7,100; espasso.com



Carlos Motta

The designer: Motta has made a career out of his commitment to sustainability, working with reclaimed wood from demolition sites, giving his work a slightly rough, rustic quality. He has applied his sometimes modern, sometimes contemporary eye to a wide range of pieces over the years, which were part of an elaborate retrospective on exhibit at the Oscar Niemeyer Museum in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2011.

His latest piece: The Radar Chair, made of reused peroba rosewood and oxidized iron, is named for its familiar shape and ability to rotate 360 degrees. \$11,550; espasso.com