

# The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2012

## HOME

### CURRENTS

# An Armchair Goes Outdoors



By RIMA SUQI

The Pritzker Prize-winning architect Paulo Mendes da Rocha designed the Paulistano armchair 55 years ago for the Paulistano Athletic Club in São Paulo, Brazil. Last month, an outdoor version became available at Espasso in SoHo. “Because it was inspired by a type of hammock used in Brazilian indigenous cultures, it was a natural progression to adapt the Paulistano for outdoor use,” said Mr. Mendes da Rocha, 83. Carlos Junqueira, the owner of Espasso, explained that many

customers had asked for an outdoor version, which, in the end, took just six months to develop. Like its venerated indoor sibling, the chair is made of a single 17-foot-long bent piece of steel, but now its leather seat has been replaced with a draped canvas slipcover that is waterproof and stain resistant. The frame is available in white or black; the slipcover in eight colors; \$1,950 at Espasso, 38 North Moore Street (Hudson Street), (212) 219-0017, [espasso.com](http://espasso.com).