



NOVEMBER 2004

# ELEMENTS OF LIVING

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## queens

If you're willing to venture a bit out of the mainstream, Long Island City—a quick subway ride across the East River—is the latest hot spot for design and furniture showrooms. On 38th Avenue at 34th Street, **Espasso**, run by São Paulo native Carlos Junqueira, sells Brazilian modernist furniture from the 1930s to the present. Included are reissues of classics from renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer, as well as new pieces such as the Anel chair (seen at right) by Ricardo Fasanello, and Etel Carmona's wooden tabletop objects, which are crafted from rare, government-approved wood. "Brazil had, and still has, an important modernist movement that many people are not aware of," says Junqueira.

**The Noguchi Museum**, founded and designed by Isamu Noguchi to house his art and archives, deserves an unhurried visit. This prolific artist, who was equally comfortable designing gardens, sculpture, lighting, furniture, paintings and ceramics, left an impressive body of work when he died in 1988. Much of it can be seen in this warehouse space, which he bought and converted in 1985. The museum has always been a hidden gem, with its tranquil Japanese gardens and bright, naturally lit open-air galleries. Now, thanks to a major renovation, it welcomes visitors year-round. Among other items, the gift shop sells

Noguchi's ingenious Akari light sculptures, lamps that stand as stylishly original and functional as they were when he designed them in the 1950s.

**ABOVE IMAGES: The Noguchi Museum.**  
**RIGHT: Espasso.**

