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CURRENTS | SHOWS

A Brazilian Designer Finally Gets Her Due in New York



By RIMA SUQI

Brazilian designers have reached higher levels of recognition (and sales) lately, but for every Oscar Niemeyer and Sergio Rodrigues there are flocks of Brazilian designers flying under the radar. Claudia Moreira Salles could be considered a real find by many, despite more than 30 years' creating furniture and interiors for architects including Ricardo Legorreta and projects like the rooftop bar of the HotelAmericano in Chelsea.

The first solo exhibition, outside Brazil, of the designer's work will open next week at Espasso in TriBeCa. Ms. Salles, who is 58, will show 18 pieces, most made of Brazilian woods, and almost all created in the last five years. Her favorites include the limestone-and-wood Texturas coffee table and the concrete-and-wood Can Can table. "I think both have a beautiful balance," she said. "It is something I seek in my work. The stone elements stress the beauty of the wood. Even if they are not physically light, they have a sense of lightness." Prices range from \$5,000 for a Cantante table lamp or sconce to \$30,000 for the Tangent bench. The exhibition, which coincides with the release of Ms. Salles's second monograph, "Claudia Moreira Salles" (BEI Editora, \$120), runs from May 17 to June 2 at Espasso, 38 North Moore Street (Hudson Street), (212) 219-0017, espasso.com.