



CURRENTS

Donna Paul

INTERIORS

Brazilian Furniture Makes Its Way to That Design Mecca, Long Island City



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Thanks to the transplanted Museum of Modern Art, and to the P.S. 1 Center for Contemporary Art, Long Island City, Queens, has become a true design destination. A newcomer to the neighborhood is Espasso, which sells Brazilian furniture from the 1930's to the present. The owner is Carlos Junqueira, above, a native of São Paulo. "Brazil had, and still has, an important modernist movement," he said. "Many people are not aware of this."

The shop sells authorized versions of vintage pieces, all numbered and signed. New pieces include a chest of drawers in a yellow-blond wood (above right, \$5,900) by Claudia Moreira Salles, and wooden vessels (top, \$1,500 each) by Etel Carmona. The vessels are made from legally harvested rare woods and are two to three feet tall.

Mr. Junqueira is seated in a chair made of Lycra stretched over a metal frame (\$1,750). Designed by Lu-



ciana Martins and Gerson de Oliveira, it is available in black, red, navy, purple or beige and comes with written information about its designers. "I want people to think of this not only as a chair, but as a piece of art," he said.

Espasso is at 3401 38th Avenue (36th Street), fourth floor, (718) 472-0022. Take the R or V trains to 36th Street; think of Long Island City as being two stops past Bloomingdale's.