



DESIGN HERO SERGIO RODRIGUES

THE BRAZILIAN ICON WITH A PASSION FOR EXOTIC WOODS AND ORGANIC SHAPES

Who is he? Probably the most brilliant Brazilian furniture designer ever. Born in 1927 in Rio de Janeiro, he came to prominence at the same time as the great Brazilian Modernist architects Oscar Niemeyer and Paulo Mendes da Rocha (whose longevity he shares – all three are still working despite a combined age of nearly 300!). Niemeyer is a fan and furnishes his buildings with Sergio's designs.

What's his furniture like? Made of native South American woods, leather and bamboo, it's characterised by chunky, organic shapes and a feeling of earthy simplicity (Oca, the brand Sergio founded in 1956, was named after Brazilian Indians' thatched communal houses). The expansively curved eucalyptus wood 'Diz' chair (2002) and 'Mocho' stool (1954, inspired by a milking stool) are prime examples (shown right).

What makes him a design hero? There are few designers of whom you can truly say their work suits any interior. But Sergio is one. Perhaps it's down to Brazil's unique form of Modernism – his pieces fuse urban and rustic influences effortlessly. Sergio's genius lay in realising that his nation's furniture heritage had no answer to the soaring, ground-breaking spaces produced by his architect contemporaries in the Fifties – and solving it with sexy yet solid designs that sum up the laid-back Latin lifestyle.

Why buy now? German company ClassiCon has just become the exclusive distributor of Sergio Rodrigues' designs; they're available in the UK at Aram Store. This is furniture you'll love for life. www.aram.co.uk



'Diz' chair, from £3,780; 'Mocho' stool, from £695, both Aram Store (020 7557 7557; www.aram.co.uk)

STOP PRESS!

DAYLESFORD ORGANIC HAS A GREAT NEW 'LIVING' RANGE OF HOMEWARES, INCLUDING EVERYTHING FROM GREY HERRINGBONE WOOL CUSHIONS TO REINDEER SKIN RUGS AND GARDEN-SCENTED CANDLES. BUY ONLINE AT WWW.DAYLESFORDORGANIC.COM

5 REASONS TO LOVE KNITS & STITCHING

When graffiti artist Banksy's murals get reinvented as cross-stitch kits, you know the homespun look is officially big. Not handy with a needle? Go for Crochetdermy's kooky knitted animal sculptures or a modern tapestry cushion



1

'Light Hare' sculpture, made to order, £350, Crochetdermy (www.crochetdermy.co.uk)



2

'Panier Percé' porcelain bowl with DIY embroidery kit, £126, Industreal (www.industreal.it)



3

'Bobby Dog' needlepoint cushion, £60, Wesley Barrell (www.wesley-barrell.co.uk)



4

'Fish and Chips' artwork by Kate Jenkins, £3,500, on show at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, June 8-27 (www.r-h-g.co.uk)



5

'Balloon Girl' cross-stitch kit with design by Banksy, from £21, www.random-monkey-design.com