

Study of 4 Iconic Seats by Sergio Rodrigues

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Abstract

Sergio Rodrigues, important Brazilian architect, has marked his career in the decades of the 50's and the 60's with non-standard, innovative furniture designs for the time. The artifacts idealized and produced by him, partially handcrafted, reached international recognition, at first, and then national. Respect by proportions constantly bounded his work; critics remarked his furniture as simultaneous synonym of comfort and style. The seats "Kilin", "Oscar", "Diz" and "Sheriff", signed by Sergio Rodrigues, remark the Braziliity and the proportions that the designer has searched for in his projects and show qualities stated in his discourse. The present research aims to analyze those seats as well as the understanding of Sergio Rodrigues discourse onto materiality and ergonomics in its pieces of furniture.

Key-Words: *Sergio Rodrigues, seats, ergonomics.*

Introduction

Prize winner of the Furniture Biennial, at Cantu, Italy, in 1961, with his seat "Sheriff" for Best Seat Award, Sergio Rodrigues has received the corresponding recognition abroad and only after that milestone, he has reached national visibility, coming inside Brazilian residences, especially the ones of the "cariocas" – people born in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

In an attempt to offer a gift of the Brazilian design, Rodrigues produced a wide range of pieces of furniture and artifacts that constantly recall the "Braziliity" and, present a kind of comfort that, apparently, only the furnishings by Rodrigues can provide.

During all the research process, comparative analyses of ergometric tables have been made aiming at a legibility of factors that offer to its pieces of furniture renowned characteristics of comfort and proportion, which, together with graphic material production seek for presenting an unprecedented analysis of those database and possibly a new base for furniture projects.

Results and Discussion

At first, by analyzing the selected seats "Kilin", "Oscar", "Diz" and "Sheriff", as to their dimensions, proportions and materiality and, subsequently, by comparing the obtained parameters with furniture project references, it is noticed that the research aimed for an explanation for the "comfort" element on ergonomics documented bases.

As the research was ongoing, new database about the designer's project processes' pointed out an empirical element so as to achieve the proportion of the pieces of furniture without any regard to existing those ergometric bases.

Among Sergio Rodrigues' projects' data and the database considered for the research, a comparative analysis of the dimensions, proportions and co-related factors for the user's comfort has been performed, from which evidences of empirical notice are resulted.



Image 1. Drawing of the seats

Conclusions

Sergio Rodrigues designs set a constant empiricism probably based on elements of tacit recognition but that point to meaningful innovation of project techniques for the field. From those comparative tables and analyses of the achieved results along the process, an evaluation on the elements of proportion have also been reached among the seats' dimensions adopted by the designer leading to the conclusion that the developed artifacts suggest an evaluation of the new major indexes of Brazilian ergometric and sensitive patterns.

Acknowledgement

To my research advisor that has guided me along the whole process. To my mother, my grandmother and my partner for the encouragement.

¹ HALL, Edward T. *A dimensão oculta*. São Paulo: Martins Fontes 2005.

² PANERO, J; ZELNIK, M. *Dimensionamento humano para espaços interiores*. Gustavo Gilli. 2008.