

Birthday Wishes

He's a youngster by Oscar Neimeyer's standards, but Sergio Rodrigues just turned 82. A mere 28 years old when he started manufacturing his own furniture under the name Oca, which means *shelter*, he's now considered the father of Brazilian furniture—both by his fellow countrymen and by a faction of enlightened enthusiasts worldwide. After selling vintage Rodrigues pieces for years, the New York gallery **Espasso** is producing a chair and four lamps, shown off at a birthday celebration hosted by Espasso president Carlos Junqueira.

Leather-upholstered Chifruda, with its flamboyant headrest sweeping 41 inches wide, was designed in 1962. The armchair was never produced, however, save for a lost prototype in jacaranda—a wood that has now been swapped out for a choice of two Brazilian hardwoods.

Three of the lamps likewise hail from '62. Sérgio Augusto, a tripod floor lamp 71 inches high, rolls on castors; the table lamps are Tcheco, with its linear base, and cylindrical J. Hirth, named for his first business partner. His wife's nickname, Xibô, now graces a 2004 table lamp with a round hole in the rectangular base. All four fixtures pair chromed steel with a choice of two indigenous hardwoods and are topped by hemp shades and a spherical finial.

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CHIFRUDA



SERGIO AUGUSTO



Sergio Rodrigues



J. HIRTH



XIBÔ



SERGIO RODRIGUES



TCHECO