

The Heat is On: Latin American Design hits New York

As the world's busiest revolving door, New York is no stranger to new cultural sights and influences. This year's New York Design Week saw a raft of Latin American designers and design collectives exhibit their highly polished and conceptually impressive work to an enthusiastic audience. It's hot in the city.



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Any discussion of Latin American design, however, wouldn't be complete without the inclusion of Brazil, one the key postwar arenas for the elaboration of modernist thinking and expression in both architecture and design. While the seasoned group show **Fresh from Brazil** made its fifth annual appearance in New York (this time at Wanted Design), serving once again as a platform for contemporary Brazilian design and designers, it's perhaps design dealer **Espasso**, with its strikingly curated and permanent TriBeCa showroom (with further showrooms in Los Angeles and London, as well as an 'annex' in Brooklyn), which provides the biggest stage in the city for Latin American design, exhibiting as it does both the work of 21st-century Brazilian practitioners and the finest examples of furniture from the modernist era.

Established in 2002 by Sao Paulo-born Carlos Junqueira, Espasso has rightly been recognised for its contribution to the conservation of design from its founder's native country and to the preservation of its design heritage, succeeding not only as a commercial enterprise, but also as a valued research resource, and in doing so helping to raise the profile of Latin American design generally. No small feat in the city that never sleeps. Or takes a siesta, for that matter.