

# FAMILY AFFAIR BY UNIQUE DESIGN X

CO-CURATED BY  
BABA STUDIO

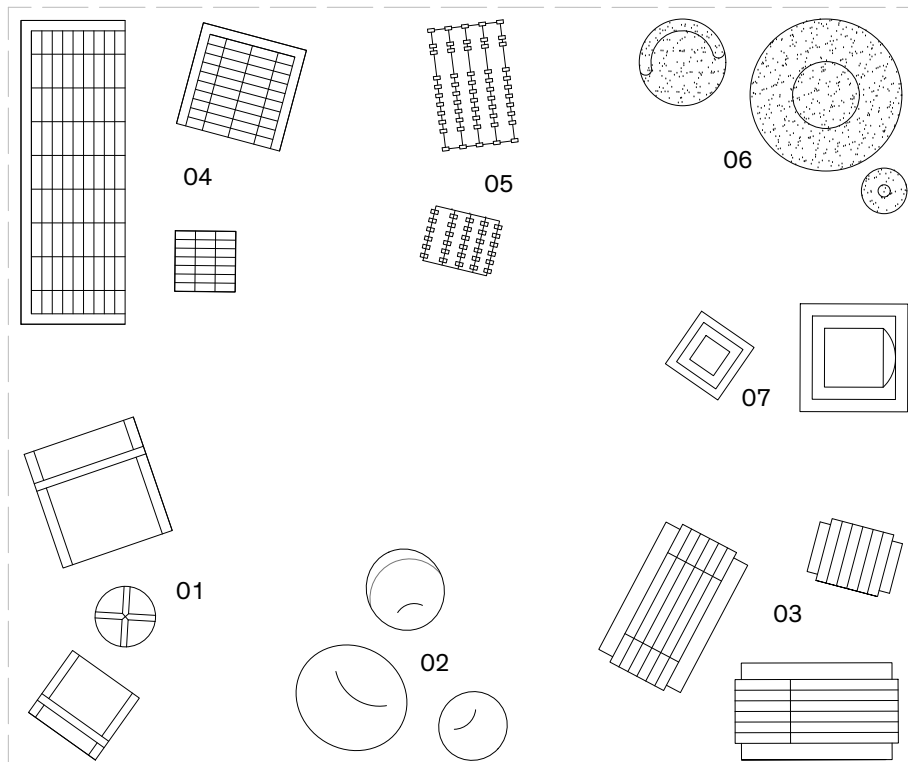
## *A dialogue between related pieces*

The space co-curated by Blanca Arcos within Unique Design x Group takes place at Expo Reforma from February 6th to 9th 2025, during Mexico City Art Week.

This exhibition brings together a selection of experimental pieces, conceived as collective and unique items that do not just obey their predetermined functionality.

The diversity of the proposed designs recreates a family reunion, where a spatial dialogue is established between related sets of seating. The objects are visually grouped by the same material identity that links them, but are distinguished by their different formal and dimensional variants.

The invited emerging designers stand out for the originality of their works, which are a reflection of the contemporary furniture design scene in Mexico.



01. Parafernalia / @parafernalia / A45 family of pieces

02. Valeria Montero / @vleriavleria / "A gusto" family of pieces

04. Taller Batán / @tallerbatan / Batán family of pieces

04. Baba Estudio / @baba\_estudio / Siembra family of pieces

05. Roberto Michelsen / @robertomichelsen / Rejilla family of pieces

06. Sebastián Ángeles / @sebastian\_\_angeles / Perpetuo family of pieces

07. India Maury / @indiamaury / Pyramme family of pieces

## 01.- PARAFERNALIA

Parafemalia is a comprehensive design studio based between Monterrey and CDMX, formed by Sebastián Zorrilla and Genki Matsumura, which has been formally operating since 2021. The formation of the project was driven by a mutual interest in exploring and analyzing cultural context through material discourses that offer critical perspectives, executed in a conscious manner.

The practice we have developed has been a process of empirical learning involving getting in touch as much as possible with the processes involved in creating an object, and the factors that make it such, as well as the process involved in the narrative development of an idea. All of this has been highly important for the way we work. Knowing not only the production limitations of a particular material but also the systems that govern it, the predetermined units and dimensions already commercially available, and even knowing the physical and chemical limitations of a specific material and how it can be used to your advantage. Our work lies in the reconsideration of scales, in order to subsequently try to articulate within the degrees of freedom that this affords us.

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### A45 family of pieces (2024-2025)



The A45 pieces are developed as a part of a constructive exploration on prefabricated materials, in this case PTR (Square section steel tubing). The idea came from the simple act of rotating a PTR in a 45° angle, and trying to articulate a rational approach to a chair through the degrees of freedom granted by the angled disposition of the tubing.

The angles created between tubes, and the rigidity of the welding on the unions of the structure provided a language that facilitated the creation of a simple and scalable design language. The typology chosen for the pieces is meant to visually contrast the weight of the steel with the particular lightness of the cantilever approach, which provides a certain bounce and comfort no matter the material in use. These objects are meant to be in harmony with their own production processes.

## A45 family of pieces

A-45 Chair \_\_\_\_\_ 18,000 \$ mxn



A-45 Table \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000 \$ mxn



A-45 Lounge chair \_\_\_\_\_ 30,500 \$ mxn



## 02.- VALERIA MONTERO

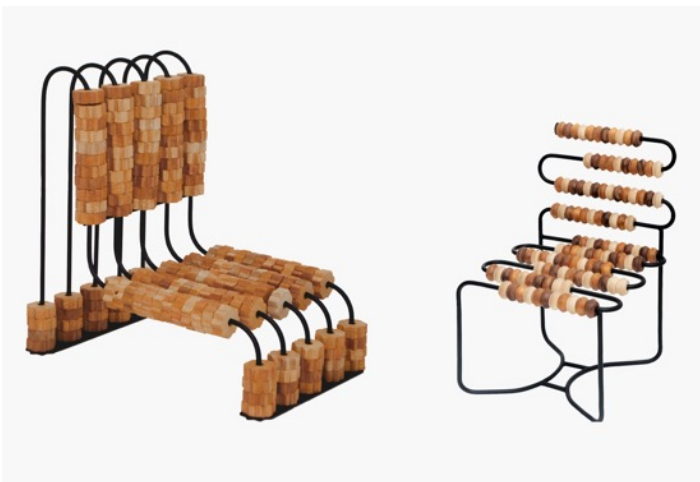
Valeria Montero Torres (1996) is an industrial designer and a graduate of Universidad Iberoamericana. Her work explores a variety of materials such as polymers, wood, and agave membrane, transforming them into sculptural and functional objects.

She was been a member of the design collective Común, and in 2019, she exhibited at Inédito and the Abierto Mexicano de Diseño. From 2020 to 2024, she worked as studio manager for Fernando Laposse. She currently lives and works in Mexico City.

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### “A gusto” family of pieces (2024-2025)



If the chair has been thought of as a comfort object, why is my back in such pain after sitting on it for hours?

Maybe what we need is a chair to take a break from the other chair. Inspired by traditional wooden massage tools, this collection is the materialization of the dynamic and the analog-kinetic. The chair is designed to massage your upper back, while the stool provides lower back relief.

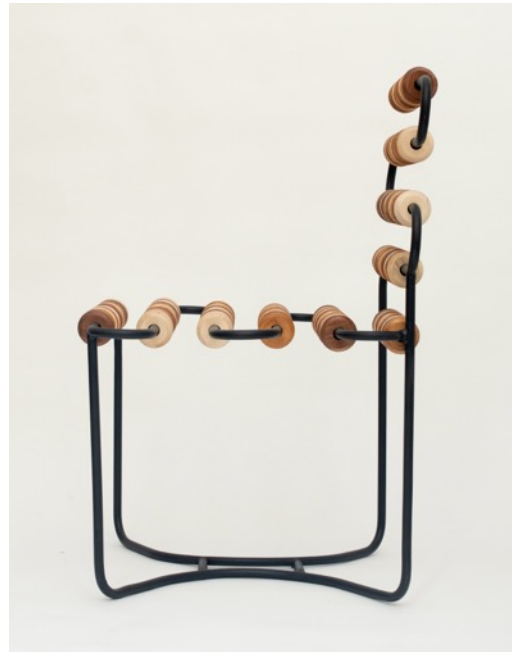
In both pieces, the wooden elements can also be used as de-stressing tools as you move them along the curves.

## "A gusto" family of pieces

"A gusto" Chair \_\_\_\_\_ 50,800 \$ mxn



"A gusto" Stool \_\_\_\_\_ 38,000 \$ mxn



### 03.- TALLER BATAN

Based in Mexico, Taller Batán creates a diverse range of multidisciplinary objects, each defined by a distinctive and expressive aesthetic. Our journey begins with the responsible reclamation of wood, reflecting our commitment to ethical and sustainable sourcing.

We oversee every step of the process—from tree to timber, from design to the finished piece—ensuring that each stage is infused with care, precision, and respect for the material. Every creation tells a personal story, seamlessly blending artistry and functionality.

Specializing in all aspects of woodworking, we are dedicated to celebrating the versatile and timeless beauty of this extraordinary material.

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#### **Batan family of pieces (2023-2024)**



The Batan pieces are the epitome of what we believe in – sculptural, monolithic, and ergonomic. Crafted from a single block of reclaimed wood, each piece is as unique as the tree that preceded it. It is designed through the deconstruction of the perfect form– the sphere. And it pays homage to both pre-Columbian and Japanese culture through its shapes, such as the three-leg bases used in molcajetes and petates, and techniques, like yakisugi, an ancient wood-burning technique. Sculpture made design.

Batán, the birthplace and residence of most of our team, as well as the primary source of our wood, is comprised of two sister localities. Crafted for enhanced comfort and versatility and suitable for both dining rooms and living spaces, this chair embodies sculptural elegance while prioritizing ergonomic design. The pieces are sourced from the same pine-oak forest, crafted by the same hands, and designed by the same team.



## **Batan family of pieces**

**Batan** Lounge chair \_\_\_\_\_ 75,000 \$ mxn



**Batan** Seat \_\_\_\_\_ 20,000 \$ mxn



**Batan** Armchair \_\_\_\_\_ 35,000 \$ mxn



## 04.- BABA ESTUDIO

Blanca Arcos is a Spanish architect who graduated in Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Madrid in 2019. She began her career as a furniture designer in 2022 when she founded baba studio in Mexico City, thanks to her experience in carpentry, interior design, and architecture workshops where she also employs. The studio arises as the result of formal experimentations that use wood or steel to propose furniture and art objects. The practice focuses on developing self-contradictory pieces with an ephemeral character, which have a not defined, versatile, and lasting use.

The furniture is handcrafted in Mexico City, where the studio is involved in every production stage. Having participated in many exhibitions and galleries from 2022 to 2024, such as Inédito Mexico Design Week, Captales Gallery, Mexico Design Fair Puerto Escondido, and Unique Design x Group, baba studio continues proposing new designs and prototypes.

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### ***Siembra* family of pieces (2025)**



*Siembra set* is composed of a series of pieces: an armchair, a lounge chair, and a stool/coffee table. The organic shapes that define the design play with the viewer's senses; a feeling of softness and padding simulates a change in texture and the object loses its realism. As a result, the pieces visually transport us to a new and more fluid materiality, the opposite of their original one.

The orthogonal structure of the furniture is defined by rounded steel profiles on which the plywood body rests, and the slats are arranged continuously to recreate cushioned seats. Production techniques are aimed at energy and material efficiency, cutting many pieces from a single board of any wood.



## **Siembra family of pieces**

**Siembra** Chair \_\_\_\_\_ 39,000 \$ mxn



**Siembra** Armchair \_\_\_\_\_ 39,000\$ mxn



**Siembra** Stool \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000\$ mxn



## 05.- ROBERTO MICHELSEN

Roberto Michelsen Engell (Bobi). Mexican architect and designer. Born in México City the 20th of May 1987. Studied architecture at UNAM with a short exchange at ENSAP Belleville in Paris. His work intersects the limits between art, architecture, design, landscape and music. He engages in a collaborative approach within his design process.

Bobi has been awarded at national and international levels for his work. Bobi's personal approach towards design aims to revalue and reset the rules that tie the relationship between artisanal and industrial processes to achieve fresh objects that insert in the contemporary panorama. The result is a wide variety of pieces created through different methodologies that reveal the richness and contrasts of the Mexican reality. Each one is a chapter linked in the fun narrative of an ongoing design story.

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### **Rejilla family of pieces (2025)**



The Rejilla sofas are the latest pieces of a continually growing family of furniture developed with the unique and distinctive Irving metal grid. This industrial material is commonly associated with heavy-duty purposes in architectural projects for its durability and resistance but finds its way into the domestic realm when carefully assembled by an artisanal process to become minimal seating structures. The rigidity of the metal pieces is met with a counterpoint of soft fabric. Two minimal-shaped cushions address the comfort of the sofas. One is a flat pad to sit on and the other is a cylinder for the back support. There is a very fun and positive adaptability of the design in terms of the color of the metal grid and the selection of the fabric. Allowing wild and funky combinations or safe and elegant moods that respond to the personality of the clients or the particular atmosphere of a room, terrace or garden.

Rejilla side table. Produced with the same technique and materiality the grid is shaped into a walled element that is crowned with a glass cover that allows the metal work to shine while giving support for objects to rest on. The size and proportion of this design can be personalized to complement a particular use or destination. The result is a three-piece living room set.

## Rejilla family of pieces

**Rejilla** Armchair \_\_\_\_\_ 36,656 \$ mxn



**Rejilla** Sofa \_\_\_\_\_ 57,188 \$ mx



**Rejilla** Table \_\_\_\_\_ 9,860 \$ mxn



## 06.- SEBASITIAN ANGELES

Sebastián Ángeles design philosophy revolves around creating furniture pieces that go beyond mere form and function. His aim is to design objects with a lasting impact, pieces that possess a meaningful narrative and connection to the user. He believes in the importance of understanding the history and cultural context of the materials he works with, treating them with respect and showcasing their inherent beauty.

Sebastian's designs exhibit meticulous attention to detail, reflecting his commitment to quality craftsmanship. His work often features a harmonious blend of natural and contemporary elements, resulting in a style that is uniquely identifiable as his own. By combining minimalist forms with organic influences drawn from nature, he creates furniture that evokes a sense of timelessness and invites contemplation.

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### *Perpetuo family of pieces (2023)*



This collection's main piece is the perpetuo sculpture that also gives shape to fraternal and functional objects, such as a chair, a totem, and a coffee table.

These pieces invite us to reflect on small-scale production and the remarkable durability of handcrafted products. They remind us of the importance of promoting reuse and extending the useful life of objects, as opposed to the disposable culture that often prevails in our society today.

## ***Perpetuo* family of pieces**

***Perpetuo*** Chair \_\_\_\_\_ 32,300 \$ mxn



***Perpetuo*** Table \_\_\_\_\_ 42,300 \$ mxn



***Perpetuo*** Vase \_\_\_\_\_ 14,200 \$ mxn



## 07.- INDIA MAURY

India Maury is an independent designer based in France, recently schooled in ESA Saint-Luc Tournai and École supérieure d'art et de design de Saint-Étienne. Her design practice incorporates language and seeks to build connections between objects and people. Dreamy and precise narratives are combined with elements of her own personality and contemporary contexts.

Her projects often feature archetypal architectural forms, which she manipulates through changes in scale, context, and rhythm. Which areshaped with some details from travels and anecdotes, as well as with a slight sense of humor. Daydreaming, curious, and talkative objects: contropos are her strength in her contrapposto, versatile objects. She has been selected for Inedito 2024 Design Week Mexico, and Decode Group Show 2024 in Monterrey.

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### **Pyrogramme family of pieces (2024,2025)**



Pyrogramme, from its contraction pyramid and program, arouses curiosity and questions its own immediate usefulness. This silhouette and scale reinforce its mystical, mysterious character, while its geometric forms of truncated pyramid and staircase recall the aesthetics of Mayan temples. Actually, we can't really describe at first glance how the object works or what it's used for. Should we climb the stairs? Or just sit where we like? What is it anyway? Sitting becomes multiple points of view, solutions or problems, programs. Its scale becomes confusing, playing with the points of view of tourists photographing an archaeological site.

As a foreigner, this is also a proposal from a point of view of the expectation of tourism in Mexico and the reality, with a touch of humor. The idea we have of a pyramid is brought up to date again, with contemporary building materials used to build fast and cheap, unlike the traditional stone blocks of ancient pyramids. This archetypal form, this monument, contradicts its own definition, and becomes almost detachable empty inside like a fake decor. The object escapes, travels and dictates its decisions, inscribing itself in a temporality, crossing eras and settings.

## Pyramamme family of pieces

**Pyramamme** Chair \_\_\_\_\_ 50,000 \$ mxn



**Pyramamme** Stool \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000 \$ mxn

