

MARIA .B AEZ

designer,
maker of things

WORKS

ABOUT ME

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BOLUME RD Design Week 2023

14 - 19





ABOUT ME



I am a dedicated designer, business owner, and artist with a deep passion for creativity and craftsmanship. Design has always been my way of understanding the world.

With a background in Interior Design from Savannah College of Arts & Design and a master's in Furniture and Product Design from the Istituto Marangoni in Milan, and as the co-founder of DochySantos, I explore the intersection of tradition and innovation, creating pieces that balance craftsmanship with design.

I believe that design is more than just aesthetics, it's about storytelling, connection, and creating experiences that resonate on a deeper level. I am constantly seeking new learning opportunities and ways to push creative boundaries, always designing with authenticity, purpose, and a commitment to timeless beauty and true design.

O

SILA

sofa

**BALERI
ITALIA**



O Sila x BALERI ITALIA

This project explores how emerging technologies, like AI, can be integrated into furniture design to create objects that feel emotionally engaging and humanlike. Inspired by the idea of “digital animism,” The project was developed for Baleri Italia, a brand known for blending rationalism with expressive design. The result is an object that invites intuitive interaction while offering a rich sensory experience.

PROJECT BRIEF



The research behind O-Sila explores how furniture can support emotional well-being by facilitating the natural shifts between solitude and togetherness in everyday life. Drawing from behavioral patterns in domestic spaces, the project investigates how design can respond to users' changing social and personal needs. It considers the role of smart technology—particularly AI and environmental sensing—in creating adaptive, emotionally responsive furniture. Inspired by the concept of oscillation and the need for balance in our routines, O-Sila was developed as a piece that learns from its users, blending digital intelligence with physical transformation to offer a more intuitive and human-centered experience of space.



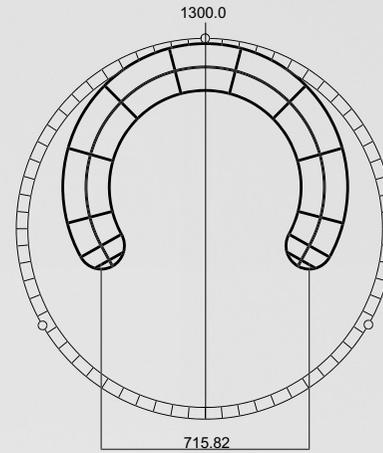
RESEARCH & CONCEPT

O Sila x BALERI ITALIA

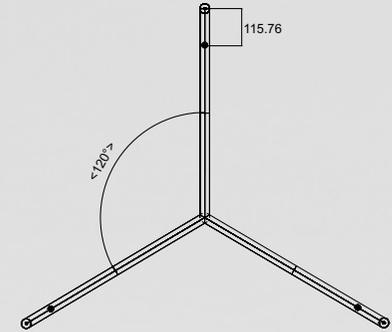


“An AI-driven sofa
shifting between
solitude and social interaction
through dynamic movement”

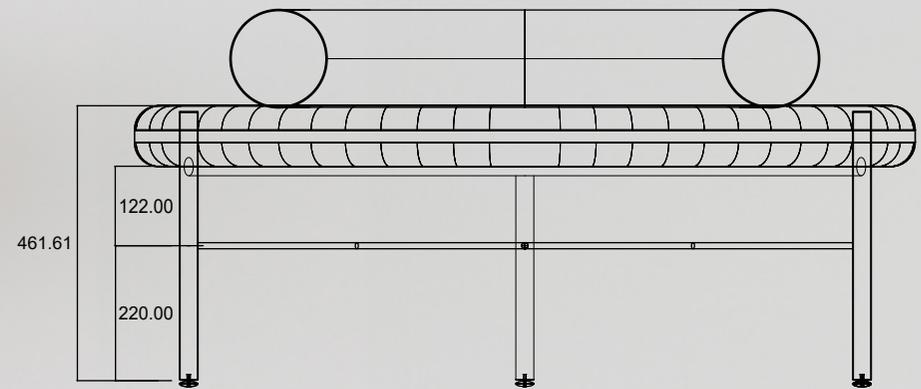
O Sila x BALERI ITALIA



TOP VIEW



LEG ARRANGEMENT



FRONT VIEW

SERA

SEEN FROM AFAR

MORE THAN
A DOORSTOPPER

Cassina



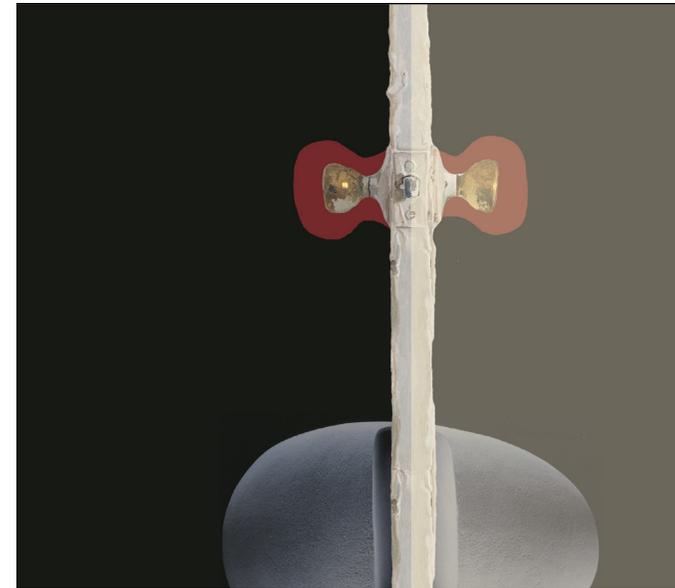
SERA x Cassina

This project focuses on creating a furniture piece for Cassina that merges the brand's legacy of Italian modernism and craftsmanship with a vivid, emotionally resonant design language. It balances sculptural expression with refined elegance, aiming to evoke a sense of presence through story and design.

PROJECT BRIEF



This project for Cassina explores the quiet poetry of distant windows—those glowing rectangles glimpsed from the street that evoke warmth, intimacy, and a sense of life unfolding beyond our reach. Inspired by this emotional tension between distance and closeness, the research investigates how objects can frame, filter, and diffuse light to capture a similar sense of curiosity and nostalgia. Drawing from architectural layering, transparency, and the rituals of domestic life, the design proposes a series of complementary pieces—such as a taboret or a sculptural doorstep—that act as subtle thresholds within the home. Crafted from tactile materials like terracotta and ceramics, these objects invite reflection, framing everyday moments like windows into lived experience.



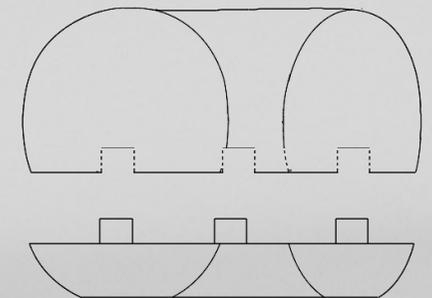
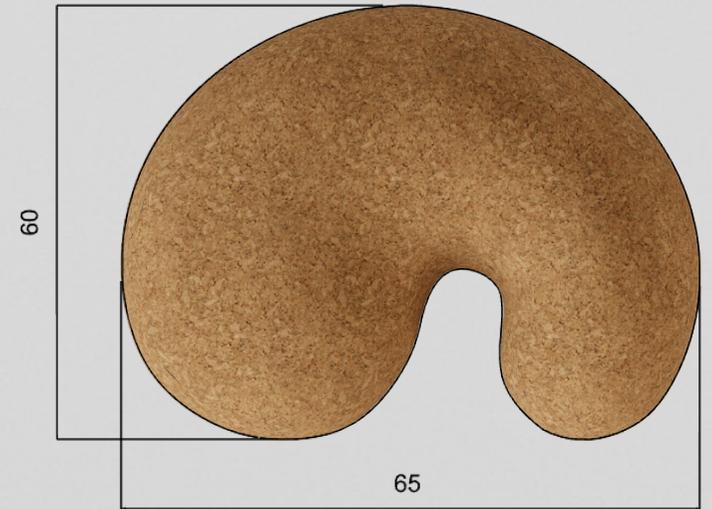
RESEARCH & CONCEPT

SERA x Cassina

Sera is a sculptural doorstopper that transforms into a multifunctional object, inviting openness while offering a quiet presence that frames moments of light, rest, and reflection



SERA x Cassina



FRONT VIEW

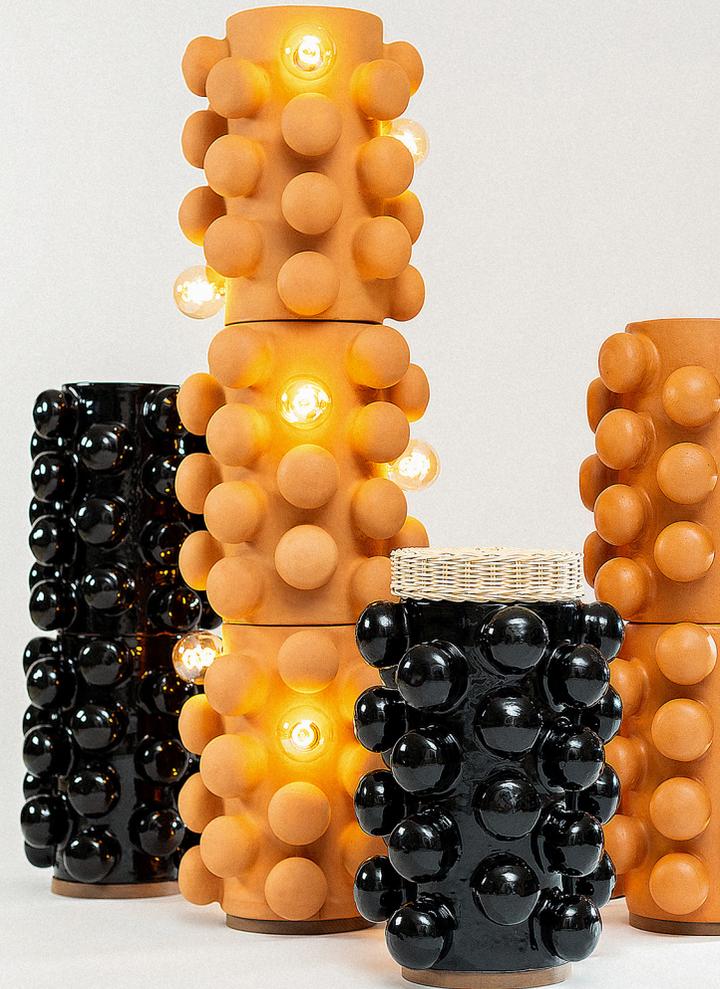
bolūme



WJ
CR

To develop a curated collection of furniture and product designs that celebrate the richness of Dominican Design, highlighting the country's craftsmanship, materials, and cultural narratives within a contemporary design language. This showcase was featured at LAFS (Latin American Fashion Summit) during Design Week 2023, positioning Dominican design on an international stage.

PROJECT BRIEF



Collectable Sculptural pieces designed as artwork to be used. These modular sculptures explore the vast expressions of ceramic art parallel to design.

Born from the transformation of an original design by Maria Baez, these pieces have been scaled up creating three unique interchangeable modules. These limited made-to-order sculptures can be acquired in two color ways, as a 3-piece, 2-piece, or a single piece with the addition of a lighting feature or cushion.

Made from sustainably sourced clay from the Dominican Republic and completely handcrafted by Dominican hands.



RESEARCH & CONCEPT

"BOLUME" is an ongoing exploration of growing form, mass, and volume, interlaced with functionality. These unconventionally shaped and visually provocative pieces demand awareness to its presence and its relationship with space. This collection was created with the intention to continuously change and serve as a study for new ideas.

