

Wallpaper*

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever set features furniture designs by Jomo Tariku

Wakanda Forever features Ethiopian-American designer Jomo Tariku's



A behind-the-scenes look at the Wakanda Forever set, featuring the 'Boraatii' and 'Ashanti' stools by Jomo Tariku

(Image credit: Courtesy Marvel Studios)

BY [PEI-RU KEH](#)

The themes of loss and uncertainty might dominate the highly anticipated *Black Panther* sequel, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, but that has not dampened the triumphant, Afrocentric setting of the fictional kingdom. In fact, making a blink-and-you'll-miss-it cameo appearance are five designs from the Ethiopian-

American furniture designer Jomo Tariku, who also unveiled one of them in person at Salon Art + Design 2022 in New York.

Wakanda Forever featuring Jomo Tariku furniture



A composition featuring Tariku's stools on set
(Image credit: Courtesy Marvel Studios)

For his silver-screen appearance, Tariku worked directly with set designers Lisa Morgan, Molly Ebner, and Academy Award-winner Hannah Beachler. Respected for his ability to translate his experience of Africa's diverse culture into functional objects, Tariku has recurrently drawn from historical structures, traditional furniture, colours, artefacts, landscapes and hairstyles when creating his work.

Characterised by its modernity, Tariku's furniture designs have won him numerous accolades, including the 2022 Maker Award from the Black Artists + Designers Guild. His work has also been featured in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art, and most recently, the Baltimore Museum of Art.



'Nyala' chair
(Image credit: Courtesy Jomo Tariku)

In *Wakanda Forever*, a trio of Tariku's distinctive stools can be seen on their own and stacked as shelves. Each design was inspired by traditional African motifs; the 'Ashanti' is a modern interpretation of the classical Akan stool from Ghana, a ceremonial seat associated with leadership and known for its curved seat and bowed legs. The triangular 'Boraatii' stool echoes the shape of traditional headrests found in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, which were used to help protect and preserve hairstyles and weaves while asleep, and the 'Dogon' stool nods to small geometric stools found in Mali. Tariku's contemporary versions each boasts adjustable heights so they can be used either as stools or side tables, depending on needs.

This philosophy carries over to his newest work, the 'Nyala' chair, which Tariku unveiled exclusively with New York's Wexler Gallery. Made from ash wood, finished in black and featuring embedded white acrylic detailing, the chair evokes the shy and elusive antelopes, native to the East African Bale Mountains, in its hand-carved armrests and sturdy legs.

jomotariku.com