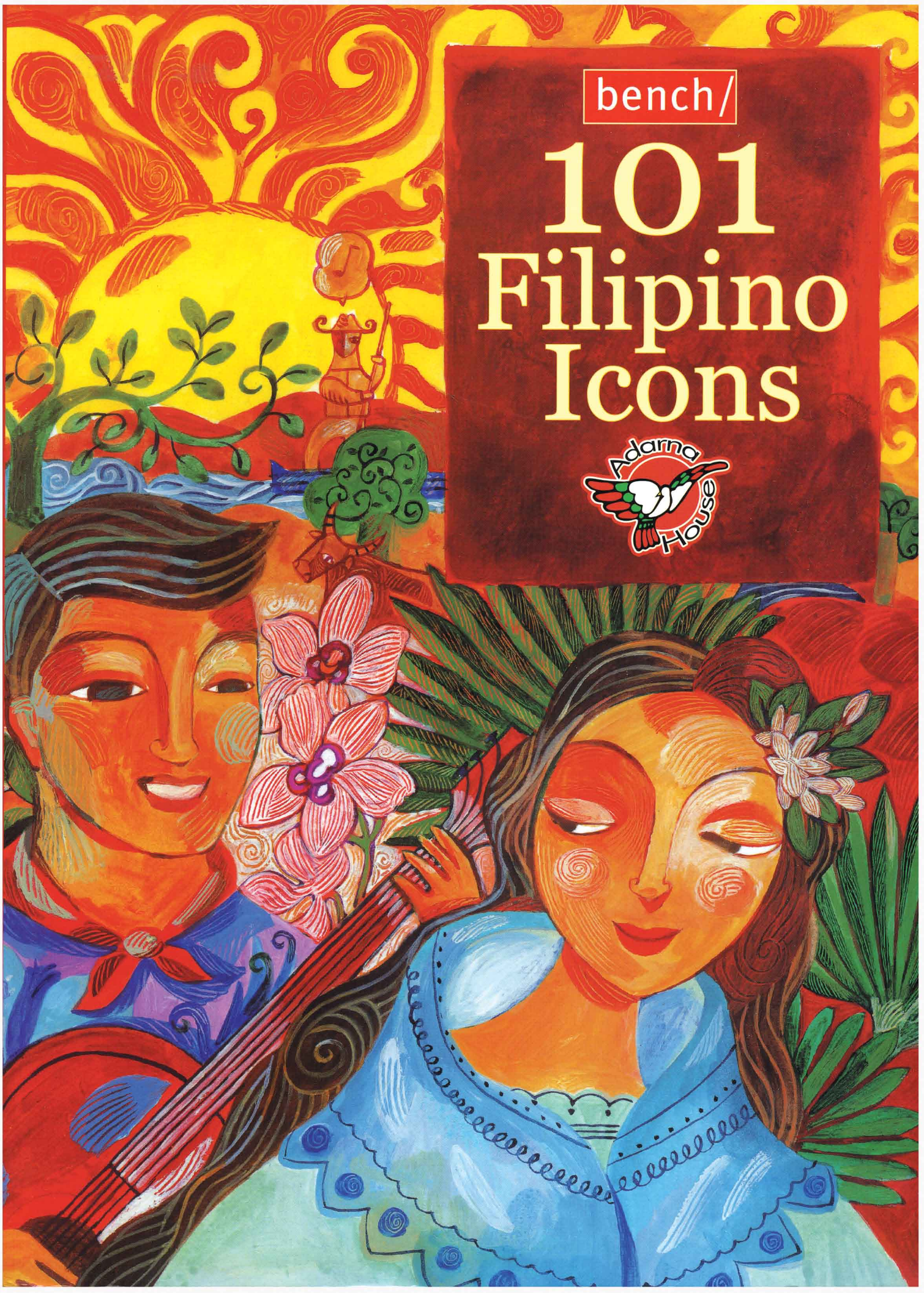


bench/

101 Filipino Icons



Bangkô

The lowly bangkô represents the Filipino sense of community.



Bangko, or bench in English, commonly refers to a long seat, without back or arm rest, which can accommodate three or more persons. It is usually found in places where people convene. A bangkô can be found in basketball courts, where people cheer for their loved ones participating in a sports event. It can be found in many a barangay hall where local officials designate responsibilities or listen to their constituents. It can also be found in almost all sari-sari stores (*see Sari-sari Store*) where people stop for a quick snack and a casual chat with other people. It can be found in homes, at *carinderias*, at restaurants, offering seats to those who dine.

A bangkô represents a place where common Filipino people come together, to share stories and relate with other people, to discuss issues and come to a unified decision, or simply to relax. In more ways than one, Filipinos see the bangkô as a symbol of camaraderie and community.

The stylish bangkô

The Filipino has also produced places to sit on that are far more stylish and elaborate than the bangkô. In recent years, the Philippines has produced world-class furniture designers whose works have won prestigious international awards for design. Kenneth Cobonpue, a designer from Cebu, has become a well-known figure in furniture design. He has succeeded in drawing from the rich resources of nature to create unique and stylish works. *AR*



▲ Croissant sofa by Kenneth Cobonpue



◀ Chiquita set by Kenneth Cobonpue

