

SIDE GALLERY

SHIGERU UCHIDA



September Chair

Manufactured by Uchida Design Studio
Japan, 1977
Brass

Measurements

90 x 47,5 x 67,5h cm
35,4 x 18,7 x 26,6h in

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

Design giapponese dal 1945, Naomi Pollock,
Thames & Hudson, p. 162.

Shigeru Uchida con Ikuyo Mitshuhashi, Interiors,
Furniture and Architecture, p.34, Ed. Riyuko-sha,
2003.

Interior Design Uchida, Mitsuhashi, Nishioka &
Studio 80 Vol. II, Taschen, p.104, 1996.

Shigeru Uchida, et. al., Interior Design: Uchida,
Mitsuhashi, Nishioka & Studio 80 Vol. II, Cologne,
1996.

Exhibitions

MOMA Metropolitan Museum of Art, Kobe
Fashion Museum, Denver Art Museum, Museum
of Modern Art (Saitama), Gana Art Center,
M + Museum.

About

The September chair, designed by Shigeru Uchida in 1977, is a poetic exploration of presence and absence through form. Known for his refined approach to minimalism and spatial philosophy, Uchida sought to distill the concept of a chair into its lightest, most essential expression. With its wide, fabric-upholstered seat and slender powder-coated steel frame, September balances grounded comfort with a feeling of levitation. The generous seat offers physical rest, while its near-floating silhouette reflects Uchida's pursuit of visual and material lightness—an idea deeply rooted in Japanese aesthetics.

A prominent figure in postwar Japanese design, Uchida believed that furniture should not dominate a space but rather resonate within it, enhancing the sense of openness and harmony. September exemplifies this ethos, offering quiet strength, subtle elegance, and an enduring relevance that bridges tradition and modernity.

Biography

Shigeru Uchida (1943–2016) was a pivotal figure in post-war Japanese design, known for his thoughtful fusion of tradition and modernity. Educated at Kuwasawa Design School—later becoming its director—he founded Studio 80 in 1981 and built a multidisciplinary career spanning interiors, furniture, industrial design, and urban planning.

Uchida's work explored the tension between physical form and spatial lightness, seeking designs that allow space to "breathe." His September Chair (1977), with its minimal steel frame and open mesh, captures his vision of presence through absence. Collaborating with figures like Shiro Kuramata and Yohji Yamamoto, and resonating with global contemporaries such as Ettore Sottsass and Aldo Rossi, Uchida became a subtle but influential voice in postmodern design.

His interiors for Yohji Yamamoto boutiques and spaces like the Kobe Fashion Museum reflect a meditative, philosophical approach to design. A prolific writer and theorist, Uchida's legacy lies not only in his quietly poetic objects but also in his enduring ideas on aesthetics, space, and the everyday.