

# SIDE GALLERY

SHIGERU UCHIDA



## Chair Model C-022

Manufactured by Uchida Design Studio  
Japan, 1980  
Brass, Steel, Upholstered seat

## Measurements

52 x 50 x 67h cm  
20,5 x 19,7 x 26,4h in

## Provenance

Private collection, Japan

## Literature

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

## About

The Chair Model C-022 is a striking embodiment of Shigeru Uchida's poetic approach to postmodern Japanese design. Produced in the 1980s, this piece reflects Uchida's pursuit of harmony between structure and emptiness, combining architectural rigor with a subtle lyricism. The chair's defining features—a semi-circular brass armrest, slender black steel frame, and sculptural curled feet—evoke a quiet tension between strength and delicacy.

Uchida, known for his interiors, objects, and urban design, often designed furniture that blurred the boundaries between utility and symbolism. The C-022 chair echoes this sensibility, standing not only as a functional object but also as a distilled gesture of form. Its geometric simplicity and refined material contrasts nod to the aesthetic vocabulary of his contemporaries, such as Shiro Kuramata and Rei Kawakubo, while retaining a unique and contemplative identity.

Rare and emblematic, the C-022 is both a collectible design artifact and a meditation on balance, emptiness, and line—fundamental elements in Uchida's lifelong exploration of Japanese space and culture.

## 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.