

SIDE GALLERY

UBUNJI KIDOKORO



Side Table

Manufactured by Ujunji Kidokoro
Japan, 1968
Bamboo, Plywood

Measurements

63 x 40 x 52h cm
24,9 x 15,8 x 20,5h in

Provenance

Private collection, Tokyo

Literature

Japan Living Design, Exploring 20th-Century Modernism, Japan
Interior Designers Association, Tokyo, 2004, pp. 76–77.
Domus, n°269, April 1952, exhibition curated by Kenzo Tange,
Takashimaya, Tokyo

Details

Ujunji Kidokoro collaborated with Mitsukoshi and Takashimaya department stores, blending traditional Japanese craftsmanship with modern furniture design. His work was recognized for innovative materials and contemporary aesthetics.

About

The Ujunji Kidokoro side table, crafted between 1935 and 1940, is a distinguished example of Japanese modernist design that harmoniously integrates traditional materials with contemporary form. Designed by Ujunji Kidokoro this piece reflects a profound understanding of both aesthetic and functional principles.

The table features a combination of bamboo and plywood, materials that were both locally sourced and culturally significant in Japan. The use of bamboo, a material deeply rooted in Japanese craftsmanship, alongside plywood, demonstrates Kidokoro's innovative approach to modern design. This fusion of materials not only showcases the versatility of bamboo but also aligns with the era's exploration of new forms and structures in furniture design.

The Ujunji Kidokoro side table stands as a testament to the designer's ability to merge traditional Japanese materials with modern design principles. Its enduring appeal lies in its simplicity, functionality, and the cultural resonance of its materials. Today, pieces like this are celebrated for their historical significance.

Biography

Ujunji Kidokoro (1902-1990) was a Japanese designer and architect recognized for his refined contribution to the emergence of modern design in Japan during the mid-20th century. Trained in both traditional carpentry and architectural design, he developed a practice rooted in precision, balance, and respect for material integrity.

Kidokoro's work reflects a deep dialogue between tradition and modernity, combining the structural clarity of modernist principles with the tactile warmth and subtle irregularity of Japanese craftsmanship. His furniture and interiors—often composed of wood and metal—embody a restrained elegance and a sense of quiet functionality that anticipated the enduring aesthetics of postwar Japanese design.

Through his designs, Kidokoro contributed to shaping a new visual language for modern living in Japan, one that honored heritage while embracing the possibilities of industrial production and contemporary form.