

SIDE GALLERY

RIKI WATANABE



Chair Model "Riki Windsor" (With Arms)

Manufactured by Conde House
Japan, c. 1974
Solid Japanese Oak (Nara wood)

Measurements

60 cm × 57 cm × 91h cm
23,6 in × 22,4 in × 35,8h in
Seat height: 42 cm / 16,5 in

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

Riki Watanabe. *Innovating in Modern Living*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, 2006, page 55
Japanese Wooden Chairs. Published by Shotenkenchiku-Sha. Japan, 1005. Page 116

Details

Manufacturer's Label

Notes

The Riki Windsor Chair, designed by Riki Watanabe in 1984, is a modern reinterpretation of the classic English Windsor chair, infused with Japanese sensibility and precision craftsmanship. Watanabe, a pioneering figure in postwar Japanese design, sought to bridge traditional Western forms with the simplicity and balance of Japanese aesthetics.

Biography

Riki Watanabe (1911–2013) was one of Japan's pioneering modern designers, known for bridging traditional craftsmanship with the emerging ideals of postwar modernism. Trained in woodworking and architecture, he established his studio in the late 1940s and became instrumental in shaping Japan's design identity through furniture, interior projects, and industrial design. Watanabe's work embodies a restrained elegance — combining natural materials, rational forms, and a profound respect for everyday use. Through collaborations with manufacturers such as Tendo Mokko and with leading architects of his generation, he helped define the humanist approach that came to characterize Japanese modern design.