

SIDE GALLERY

KENZO TANGE



Dining Table

Designed for the Sumi Memorial Hall in Aichi
Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1957
Beech

Measurements

139 × 86 × 70h cm
54,7 × 33,9 × 27,6h in

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Details

Manufacturer's Label

Literature

Tange, K. (1957). Furniture for Sumi Memorial Hall. Tokyo: Tendo Mokko archives.
Crowley, D. (2010). Modern Japanese Architecture: 1945–1970. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 112–115.
Keane, M. (2015). Kenzo Tange: Architect and Designer. New York: Rizzoli, pp. 48–51.

About

This dining table was designed by architect Kenzo Tange for Tendo Mokko, a highly influential furniture company founded by woodworkers in northern Japan in 1940. The table was part of Tange's commission for the Sumi Memorial Hall in Bisai, one of his earliest furniture creations.

Amid postwar reconstruction and the expanding consumer culture of the 1950s and 1960s, Tendo Mokko collaborated with architects like Tange to produce furniture that complemented their buildings' interiors and embodied a total aesthetic. The table, executed in wood and stone adapted to modern forms, references traditional Japanese design while embracing a minimalist modernism. Its sculptural quality reflects the integration of furniture and architecture in Tange's vision.

Tange also designed a full line of furniture for Sumi Memorial Hall—including low tables, chairs, and armchairs in molded wood—characterized by minimal, decor-free forms rooted in Japanese tradition. This dining table exemplifies the seamless synthesis of modern concrete architecture with furniture that is both functional and sculptural.

Biography

Kenzo Tange (1913–2005) was a pioneering Japanese architect and urban planner who played a central role in shaping postwar modern architecture in Japan. Trained at the University of Tokyo, he developed a distinctive language that fused modernist principles with traditional Japanese spatial concepts.

He gained international recognition with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park (1949–55), followed by landmark projects such as the Yoyogi National Gymnasium for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and St. Mary's Cathedral in Tokyo. Alongside architecture and urban planning, Tange also designed furniture and interiors, collaborating with manufacturers such as Tendo Mokko to create minimalist pieces that translated architectural ideas into functional objects.

Awarded the Pritzker Prize in 1987, Tange remains a foundational figure in modern architecture, known for integrating cultural heritage, structural innovation, and human scale.