

# SIDE GALLERY

YOSHIRO TANIGUCHI



## Armchair from the lobby of "Okura Hotel"

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko  
Japan, 1962  
Steel, Wood, Upholstered fabric

### Measurements

75 × 71 × 71h cm  
29,5 × 28 × 28h in

### Provenance

Private Collection, Japan

### Details

Stamped with manufacturer's label  
Three examples available

## Biography

Yoshiro Taniguchi (1904–1979) was one of the most influential Japanese architects of the twentieth century and a central figure in the formation of Japan's postwar modern architectural identity. Educated at Waseda University and later in Germany, Taniguchi developed an architectural language that fused European modernism with traditional Japanese spatial principles, emphasizing restraint, proportion, and a deep sensitivity to human scale.

Taniguchi is best known for the Hotel Okura in Tokyo (1962), an internationally celebrated landmark of Japanese modernism. Rather than adopting a purely International Style, he sought to articulate a modern architecture rooted in Japanese aesthetics, integrating modular systems, natural materials, and carefully composed interior sequences. The project became emblematic of a uniquely Japanese approach to modernity, balancing innovation with cultural continuity.

Beyond his architectural practice, Taniguchi placed great importance on interior design and furniture as integral components of the built environment. He viewed furnishings not as decorative elements but as spatial tools that mediated the relationship between architecture and the body. His designs for the Hotel Okura—including seating, lighting, and custom furnishings—demonstrate a holistic approach in which architectural form and human experience are inseparably linked.

Taniguchi's influence extends through both his buildings and his pedagogical legacy, shaping subsequent generations of Japanese architects and designers. His work is widely recognized for its clarity, refinement, and human-centered modernism, and remains a touchstone in the development of a distinctly Japanese architectural language in the postwar era.