SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA

Grass-Seated Chair (HUDCO)
Manufactured by National Institute of Design (NID)
Ahmedabad, India, 1968
Teak Wood, woven grass seat

Measurements
53 × 50 × 71h cm
Seat height: 44,5 cm

20,9 × 19,7 × 28h in
Seat height: 17,5 in

Details
Manufacturer's Label

Literature
Nakashima, G. (1990). George Nakashima Woodworker: New Hope, Pennsylvania (Studio catalog, ca. 1990). New Hope, PA: George Nakashima Woodworkers.
Nakashima, G. (2003). Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima. New York, NY: Abrams.

Provenance
HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited), Ahmedabad
Private Collection, Japan

Biography
George Nakashima (1905–1990) was a master woodworker, architect, and one of the leading figures of 20th-century studio furniture design. Born in Spokane, Washington, Nakashima studied architecture at the University of Washington and later earned a master's degree from MIT. After travels in France, India, and Japan, he developed a design philosophy that united Eastern spirituality with modernist precision. During World War II, Nakashima was interned in Idaho, where he met a Japanese carpenter who taught him traditional hand-tool techniques—an experience that deeply shaped his practice. After the war, he established his studio in New Hope, Pennsylvania, where he crafted one-of-a-kind pieces from solid slabs of wood, emphasizing natural edges, visible joinery, and organic imperfection. His collaboration with Japan's Sakura Seisakusho from the late 1960s helped bring his designs to a wider international audience. Nakashima's works are held in major museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution. His legacy continues through the Nakashima Woodworkers studio, now directed by his daughter, Mira Nakashima.

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