

SIDE GALLERY

JUNZŌ SAKAKURA



Planter

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1970
Wood, Metal

Measurements

180 × 38 × 65h cm
70,9 × 15 × 25,6h in

Details

Manufacturer's Label

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

Tendo Mokko catalogues, 1970s

About

This planter, produced in Japan around 1970, reflects the clean lines and functional elegance characteristic of mid-century Japanese design. Constructed with a wooden body supported by metal struts, the piece combines natural warmth and industrial stability, creating a visually light yet structurally solid object.

Junzo Sakakura's work in the 1960s and 1970s often explored the integration of furniture and architectural elements, emphasizing simplicity, proportion, and material honesty. This planter exemplifies that philosophy, balancing utility with refined design aesthetics suitable for interiors or public spaces.

Biography

Junzō Sakakura (1901–1969) was a key Japanese modernist architect and designer, born in Gifu Prefecture. He initially studied art history at the Tokyo Imperial University before moving to Paris in 1929, where he joined the studio of Le Corbusier and became his chief assistant.

His work is defined by the synthesis of European modernism and Japanese tradition. He gained international recognition with the Japanese Pavilion at the 1937 Paris International Exposition, which won the Grand Prix. After World War II, he established a successful practice in Japan, producing notable works such as the Museum of Modern Art in Kamakura (1951) and contributing to the National Museum of Western Art (1959).

In parallel, he designed furniture in collaboration with Tendō Mokko, applying the same principles of simplicity, functionality, and human-centered design. Notable pieces include the Lounge Chair Model 5016 (1957) and the Teiza Chair (1960), which reinterpret traditional Japanese seating in a modern form.

Sakakura's legacy lies in his holistic approach, integrating architecture, interiors, and furniture design into a unified philosophy focused on improving everyday life through a balance of tradition and modernity.