

SIDE GALLERY

DAISAKU CHŌ



Chair model "Persimmon"

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1970s

Teak, molded plywood, original white leather upholstery

Measurements

47 × 57,5 × 82,5h cm
18,5 × 22,6 × 32,5h in

Seat height: 43 cm
Seat height: 16.9 in

Details

Manufacturer's label

Literature

Cho Daisaku: 84 Year Old Active Duty Designer.
Daisaku Choh / Gan Hosoya / Novhiko Yabuki. Published
by Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, 2006

About

Designed by Daisaku Cho for Tendo Mokko, the Small Chair—later known as the Persimmon Chair—stands as one of the most important achievements of postwar Japanese furniture design. Originally developed through a long process of experimentation beginning in the 1940s, the chair evolved continuously throughout several decades and came to be regarded as an "ever-evolving chair," a design repeatedly refined by Choh himself.

Presented at the 1960 Milan Triennale, where the exhibition architecture was designed by the Junzo Sakakura Architectural Institute, the chair helped introduce a distinctly Japanese approach to modern furniture on an international stage. At the time, Daisaku Choh was part of Sakakura's studio and responsible for furniture design.

The design is distinguished by a pioneering structural system in which the seat appears suspended above the frame. This innovative construction introduced a new visual lightness while showcasing Tendo Mokko's exceptional expertise in molded plywood techniques. Graceful curved legs, visible joinery details, and the organically shaped backrest create a composition that feels simultaneously architectural and sculptural.

Biography

Daisaku Chō, born in Manchuria and trained in architecture at the Tokyo School of Fine Arts, joined Sakakura's office in the 1940s and became one of his most trusted collaborators. Deeply influenced by Sakakura's human-centered approach, Chō focused on furniture design, creating pieces that combined technical precision with emotional warmth. His Low Seat Chair (1958), developed from Sakakura's Bamboo Chair, translated the act of sitting close to the floor — central to Japanese life — into a modern form of molded plywood. Presented at the 1960 Milan Triennale, it won the Gold Award, affirming Japan's emerging modern identity.