

SIDE GALLERY

SHIGERU UCHIDA



Armchair Model "Feb"

Manufactured by Uchida Design Institute
Japan, 1985
Lacquered steel, Upholstered fabric

Measurements

55 × 57 × 80h cm
21,7 × 22,4 × 31,5h in

Seat height: 45.5 cm (17.9 in)
Arm height: 65.5 cm (25.8 in)

Literature

Shigeru Uchida, Furniture and Interior Design, Rikuyo-sha,
Tokyo, 1990.

Naomi Pollock, Japanese Design Since 1945: A Complete
Sourcebook, Thames & Hudson, London, 2020.

Shigeru Uchida: Interior / Furniture / Architecture, Musee des
Arts Decoratifs, Paris, exhibition catalogue.

Penny Sparke and Fiona Fisher (eds.), The Routledge
Companion to Design Studies, Routledge, London, 2016.

Biography

Shigeru Uchida (1943–2016) was a defining figure of post-war Japanese design, whose prolific output shaped a distinctly modern yet deeply reflective aesthetic. Born in Yokohama and educated at the Kuwasawa Design School, Uchida went on to direct the institution and establish Studio 80 in 1981, marking the beginning of a multifaceted career spanning interior architecture, furniture, industrial design, and urban planning.

A key concern in Uchida's work was the dialogue between Japanese spatial philosophy and contemporary global design. His furniture, in particular, embodies a search for "transparency and lightness that transcends physicality," reflecting his belief that form should almost disappear in order to let space breathe. His iconic September chair (1977) exemplifies this vision through its delicate geometry, steel structure, and open mesh seat—an exploration of presence through absence.

Uchida stood at the intersection of design and cultural discourse. In Japan, he was closely aligned with creatives like Shiro Kuramata and Yohji Yamamoto, while internationally, he shared affinities with figures such as Ettore Sottsass, Aldo Rossi, and Gaetano Pesce. Through these relationships, he became an influential voice in the postmodern movement, shaping an approach that valued restraint, ambiguity, and material poetry.

Beyond his acclaimed interiors for Yohji Yamamoto boutiques and institutions like the Kobe Fashion Museum, Uchida also delved into philosophical investigations through the design of contemporary tea houses and experimental architecture. His work is represented in major collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and SFMOMA.

A noted design theorist as well as practitioner, Uchida wrote extensively on Japanese aesthetics, the body's relationship to space, and the poetics of the everyday. His legacy endures in both his objects and his thought—quiet, rigorous, and deeply attuned to the subtleties of form and life.