

SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Coffee Table

Manufactured by Sakura Seisakusho
Japan, 1989
Walnut

Measurements

143,5 × 143,5 × 54,5h cm
56,5 × 56,5 × 21,5h in

Provenance

Private Collection, Japan

Literature

Mira Nakashima, *Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima*, Harry N. Abrams, New York, 2003.

George Nakashima, *The Soul of a Tree: A Master Woodworker's Reflections*, Kodansha International, Tokyo, 1981.

FULL CIRCLE, *George Nakashima Retrospective Exhibition Catalogue*, Japan, 1989.

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.