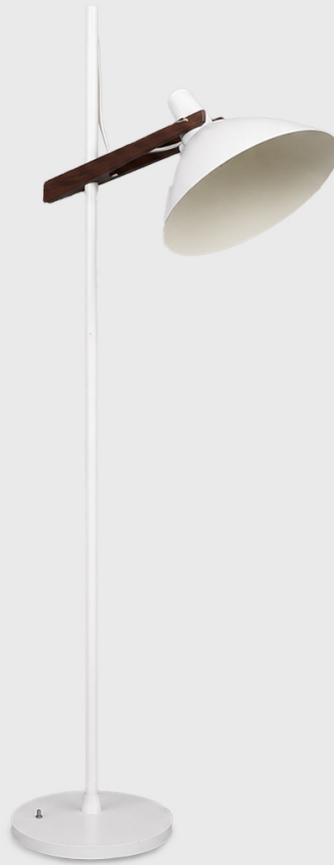


# SIDE GALLERY

## KENJIRO IKEDA



### Floor Lamp

Manufactured by Nichiden Electric Co., Ltd.  
Japan, 1962  
Steel, aluminum and teak

### Measurements

60 × 31 × 173h cm  
23,6 × 12,2 × 68,1h in

### Details

Original white version. Adjustable aluminum shade with height-adjustable mechanism. E26 socket (100W max.).

### Provenance

Private Collection, Japan

### Literature

Japanese Modern Lighting Design, Nichiden Electric Co., Ltd., 1962.

Design: Isamu Noguchi and Isamu Kenmochi, Bonnie Rychlak, Dakin Hart, Mutsuko Mori, Masayo Murayama and Kengo Matsumoto, The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, New York, 2022.

### About

Designed by Kenjiro Ikeda in 1962 for Nichiden Electric, this floor lamp is one of the most sophisticated examples of Japanese modern lighting from the postwar period. The design was admired and used by architect Kunio Maekawa, who kept one in the study of his residence, now preserved at the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum.

Its most distinctive feature is the ingenious height-adjustment mechanism. The teak support is joined to the aluminum shade through a suspended hook system that allows the shade to be repositioned effortlessly along the central shaft. By means of a subtle upward angle and the weight of the shade itself, the hook locks securely into place while remaining easily adjustable.

This mechanism was inspired by the traditional jizaikagi, the adjustable suspended hook historically used above the hearth (irori) in Japanese vernacular houses. By adapting this centuries-old device into a modern lighting fixture, Ikeda created a design that balances technical ingenuity with cultural continuity. Combining aluminum, steel, and warm teak, the lamp exemplifies the refined material palette and functional clarity that characterized Japanese modern design during the country's period of rapid postwar industrial growth. Both sculptural and highly practical, it remains a remarkable example of the dialogue between traditional craftsmanship and modern engineering.

### Biography

Kenjiro Ikeda was a Japanese industrial designer active during the postwar decades, when Japan emerged as one of the world's leading centers of modern industrial design. Closely associated with Nissho Electric Co., Ltd., Ikeda specialized in lighting design, developing products that combined mechanical ingenuity with the restrained aesthetic of Japanese modernism.

Among his best-known works is the adjustable Floor Lamp designed in 1962, distinguished by its innovative height-adjustment mechanism inspired by the traditional Japanese jizaikagi, the suspended hook historically used above the irori hearth. This design became one of Nissho Electric's most sophisticated lighting products and was notably used by architect Kunio Maekawa in the study of his private residence.

Ikeda's work reflects the broader ambitions of Japanese design during the period of rapid economic growth, when designers sought to reconcile traditional craftsmanship with modern industrial production. His lighting designs employed carefully balanced combinations of aluminum, steel, and natural wood, emphasizing precision engineering, functional clarity, and timeless simplicity.