SIDE GALLERY

ISAMU KENMOCHI



Pair of armchairs Model "Haco"
Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1967
Rosewood-veneered plywood, Leather

Measurements (each)
75 cm x 77 cm x 67h cm
29 in x 31 in x 26h in

Provenance
International Conference Center, Kyoto
Private collection, Tokyo

Literature
Japanese Modern: Isamu Kenmochi Retrospective, Ed. Kokusho Kanko Kai, 2004, model illustrated p. 102
Japanese Modern: Retrospective Kenmochi Isamu, p. 194
Japanizu modan: Kenmochi Isamu to sono sekai, exh. cat., Akita Senshu Museum of Art, 2005, p. 197
Tendo. Eight decades of masterful designs from leading Japanese furniture maker Tendo Mokko. Published by Tendo Mokko. Japan, 2020. Pages 138, 139, 140.

Details
Stamped with manufacturer's label

About
This easy chair is based on a chair designed for the lobby of the Kyoto International Conference Center in 1961 by Isamu Kenmochi, an interior designer who laid the foundation for Japanese modern design.
Nicknamed "Hako" (box) for its shape, it features a unique design featuring a soft cushion that conforms to the body, encased in a one-piece wood frame. Due to its structure perfectly suited to the Japanese physique and its excellent seating comfort, production began in 1964 as a standard product, going beyond the realm of "custom-made."

About Tendo Mokko
Founded in Yamagata in 1942, **Tendo Mokko** became a leading Japanese furniture manufacturer through its pioneering use of molded plywood. From the 1950s onwards, the company collaborated with influential architects and designers, including Kenzo Tange, Sori Yanagi, Isamu Kenmochi and Riki Watanabe, exploring new possibilities in modern furniture design. Awarded the Mainichi Industrial Design Award in 1964, Tendo Mokko helped shape Japanese modernism by combining technological innovation with traditional woodworking craftsmanship.

Biography
Isamu Kenmochi (1912–1971) was a pioneering Japanese designer who helped shape postwar Japanese modernism. He combined traditional craftsmanship with modern materials and industrial production, drawing inspiration from both Japanese artisanal techniques and international design. In 1955, he founded Kenmochi Design Associates, developing furniture that balanced organic forms, functionality and modern manufacturing. His work on the Japanese Pavilion at Expo 58 in Brussels established his international recognition, while his later teaching at Tama Art University influenced a new generation of designers.

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