

SIDE GALLERY

ISAMU KENMOCHI



Round Desk Unit

Manufactured by Isamu Kenmochi
Design Associates (KDA)
Japan, 1960s
Wood, chromed metal

Measurements

250 cm diameter x 74 cm height
98,4 in diameter x 29,5 in height

Provenance

Private Collection, Japan

About

Designed by **Isamu Kenmochi**, this rare circular desk unit reflects the designer's exploration of furniture conceived as an integral component of modern architectural and working environments. Its unusual ring-shaped configuration transforms the conventional desk into a continuous spatial element, creating a centralized working surface organized around an open circular core.

The design is defined by a broad wooden annular top supported by a cylindrical inner structure and a series of slender chromed-metal legs. The contrast between the warmth of the wood and the precise industrial character of the metal reflects the balance between material refinement and functional rationality that characterized Kenmochi's mature work.

The circular configuration is particularly distinctive. Rather than treating the desk as a conventional freestanding rectangular object, Kenmochi organizes the working surface around a central void, giving the piece an architectural quality and allowing it to operate almost as a small interior environment in itself. The desk belongs to the broader context of Kenmochi's work during the post-war decades, when his studio developed furniture and interiors for major corporate, governmental, hospitality, and institutional commissions in Japan. During this period, Kenmochi pursued a distinctly Japanese interpretation of international modernism, combining rational construction and contemporary materials with a sensitivity to proportion, craftsmanship, and spatial experience. His documented office furniture of the 1960s similarly demonstrates this restrained, functional approach.