ISAMU KENMOCHI



Coffee Table model “Mitzukaeshi”
Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1970s
Walnut Wood

Measurements
130 × 91 × 31h cm
51,2 × 35,8 × 12,2h in

Provenance
Private collection, Japan

Literature
Mori, Y. (1996). Japanese Modern Design. Tokyo: Kodansha International, p. 143.
Japan Living Design. Published by Ozone, Japan 1999. Page 134
Japanese Design from 1945. Published by Thames & Hudson. By Naomi Pollock. London, 2020. Page 52
Japanese Modern, Mori, pg. 143

Details
Manufacturer’s Label

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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