SIDE GALLERY

ISAMU KENMOCHI



Desk
Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, circa 1970s
Wood, Metal

Measurements
200 × 80 × 74h cm
78,7 × 31,5 × 29,1h in

Provenance
Private collection, Japan

About
The Tendo Mokko Executive Desk, attributed to **Isamu Kenmochi**, reflects the principles of Japanese modernism through its restrained geometry, functional organization and refined materials. Its elongated work surface is supported by two suspended wooden drawer units, each containing three drawers, while metal supports introduce a contrasting industrial element. The combination of warm wood, dark edging and metallic details balances natural materials with structural precision. Manufactured by Tendo Mokko, the desk exemplifies the integration of practical functionality and architectural clarity in modern Japanese furniture design..

Biography
Isamu Kenmochi (1912–1971) was a pioneering Japanese industrial and interior designer whose work played a central role in shaping postwar Japanese modernism. He joined the Industrial Arts Research Institute in 1932, where he explored the relationship between traditional craftsmanship, modern materials, and industrial manufacturing.
In 1955, he established Kenmochi Design Associates, developing furniture and interiors for residential, commercial, and institutional projects. His collaborations with manufacturers such as Tendo Mokko resulted in designs that combined ergonomic comfort, structural precision, and an understated modern aesthetic.
Throughout his career, Kenmochi sought to establish a distinctive Japanese design identity, integrating international modernist principles with the country's material traditions and craftsmanship. His work remains an important contribution to the development of modern furniture and interior design in twentieth-century Japan.

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