SIDE GALLERY

UBUNJI KIDOKORO



Side Table
Manufactured by Ubunji Kidokoro
Japan, 1968
Bamboo, Plywood

Measurements
63 x 40 x 52h cm
24,9 x 15,8 x 20,5h in

Provenance
Private collection, Tokyo

Literature
Japan Living Design, Exploring 20th-Century Modernism, Japan Interior Designers Association, Tokyo, 2004, pp. 76–77.
Domus, n°269, April 1952, exhibition curated by Kenzo Tange, Takashimaya, Tokyo

Details
Ubunji Kidokoro collaborated with Mitsukoshi and Takashimaya department stores, blending traditional Japanese craftsmanship with modern furniture design. His work was recognized for innovative materials and contemporary aesthetics.

About
The **Ubunji Kidokoro** Side Table, crafted between 1935 and 1940, is a notable example of early Japanese modernist design, reflecting the transition between traditional craftsmanship and modern furniture production. Combining bamboo and plywood, it brings together materials deeply rooted in Japanese craft with innovative construction techniques that were gaining prominence during this period. The use of bamboo highlights its natural texture and versatility, while plywood introduces new structural possibilities and a more contemporary approach to form. Through its restrained geometry and functional simplicity, the table demonstrates Kidokoro's sensitivity to materials, craftsmanship and proportion, embodying the dialogue between Japanese tradition and modern design principles.

Biography
Ubunji Kidokoro (c. 1910–1945) was a Japanese furniture designer and cabinetmaker associated with Mitsukoshi department store. He is best known for his innovative use of bamboo in modern furniture, particularly his cantilevered Bamboo Chair (c. 1937), which combined traditional Japanese craftsmanship with modernist structural principles. His work gained international recognition and was presented by Charlotte Perriand in her 1941 exhibition Tradition, Selection, Creation.

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