SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Coffee Table Model “260-L”
Manufactured by Widdicomb
USA, 1950s
Walnut wood

Measurements
91,5 × 91,5 × 34h cm
36 × 36 × 13,4h in

Provenance
Private Collection, Japan

Literature
Widdicomb, Origins Collection, manufacturer’s catalog, Grand Rapids, 1958, pp. 11, 13 (related model 260-W).

About
George Nakashima’s collaboration with Widdicomb during the 1950s marked an important period in his career, bringing his distinctive approach to woodworking into the context of American furniture manufacturing.
His designs for Widdicomb combined the principles of modernist furniture with a sensitivity to natural materials, emphasizing the expressive qualities of wood through restrained forms and carefully considered proportions.
Coffee Table Model “260-L” reflects this approach through its walnut construction and understated geometric design, demonstrating Nakashima’s ability to reconcile functional furniture with an appreciation for craftsmanship and material integrity.

Biography
George Nakashima (1905–1990) was an influential woodworker and furniture designer known for his philosophical approach to craftsmanship and natural materials. Born in Washington to Japanese immigrant parents, he studied architecture before travelling through Europe and Asia. During the 1930s, he worked in Japan with architect Antonin Raymond, where he developed a deep understanding of Japanese architecture and traditional woodworking techniques.
After returning to the United States, Nakashima established his workshop in New Hope, Pennsylvania, developing a distinctive style characterized by solid wood construction, exposed joinery and the preservation of natural grain and edges. His work combined modernist principles with traditional craftsmanship, emphasizing the inherent beauty of wood. Through international collaborations, including projects in India, he extended his design philosophy across cultural contexts. Today, his work is celebrated for its synthesis of modern design, artisanal skill and respect for nature.

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