SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Sideboard with Upper Cabinet
Manufactured by George Nakashima Woodworkers
USA, 1970s
American black walnut, solid oak

Measurements
182,9 × 57,2 × 144,2h cm
72 × 22,5 × 56,8h in

Edition
Custom-made Piece

Details
Two-piece custom sideboard handcrafted at George Nakashima's workshop in New Hope, Pennsylvania, in 1969.
Both components bear the original client's name, inscribed by George Nakashima on the reverse.
Accompanied by a copy of the original order card dated 1969.

Provenance
Original Private Collection, USA

Literature
George Nakashima, The Soul of a Tree: A Woodworker's Reflections, Kodansha, New York, 1981.
Mira Nakashima, Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima, Abrams, New York, 2003.

About
George Nakashima's work combines traditional Japanese woodworking techniques with American craftsmanship and modernist principles. This two-piece sideboard, handcrafted in 1969 at his New Hope, Pennsylvania workshop, is made of American black walnut with solid oak interiors. Its design features natural free edges, exposed dovetail joints and sliding-door compartments, arranged in two independent storage units separated by an open horizontal surface. The walnut grain and visible joinery highlight Nakashima's emphasis on material integrity, structural clarity and the individuality of handcrafted furniture.

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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