



## Listening to Trees: The Architectural Forms of George Nakashima

Exhibition Period: Friday, July 3 – Thursday, October 15, 2026



Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation for Peace, New Hope, PA, [Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)

### ■ Overview

George Nakashima (1905–1990), one of the leading furniture designers of the 20th century, referred to himself as a “woodworker.”

He selected wood with a deep understanding of its plant origins, and poured his heart and soul into crafting pieces that would grant the wood a “second life” as furniture. At the core of Nakashima’s craftsmanship lay “architecture”—a discipline he studied in college and honed at places such as the Raymond Architectural Design Office in Tokyo during his youth—which remained at the core of his forms throughout his life. This exhibition highlights Nakashima’s architectural work, beginning with “George Nakashima Woodworkers,” the workplace and living space he built with his family over the course of approximately 30 years.

Having been placed in a Japanese American internment camp during the war, Nakashima was also a man who sought world peace. In his later years, he created the first “Altar for Peace” in a spirit of prayer, and this work has been carried on by his daughter, Mira Nakashima-Yarnall.

Craftsmanship that truly “listens” to the voice of trees and approaches living things with humility: we explore what his spiritual legacy conveys to us today.

We sincerely hope that you will consider featuring this exhibition in your publication.



May 8, 2026

GALLERY A<sup>4</sup> PRESS RELEASE

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## ■ General Information

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title            | : Listening to Trees: The Architectural Forms of George Nakashima                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Venue            | : GALLERY A <sup>4</sup> (A-quad), 1-1-1 Shinsuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136-0075                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Period           | : Friday, July 3 – Thursday, October 15, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Opening Hours    | : 10 : 00 – 18 : 00 (17:00 on Saturdays and the final day)<br>※ July 3rd (Fri) will have extended evening hours until 7:00 PM                                                                                                                                                            |
| Closed           | : Sundays, national holidays, and August 8 (Sat.) to August 16 (Sun.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Admission        | : Free                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Organizer        | : Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Gallery A4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Cooperation      | : George Nakashima Woodworkers, Nakashima Foundation for Peace,<br>Sakura Seisakusho, Katsura Catholic Church,<br>St Paul's Catholic Karuizawa Church, COSMO PR,<br>Raymond Architectural Design Office, The Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust,<br>Raymond Farm Center for Living Arts & Design |
| Co-planning      | : Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum, Atsuko Tanaka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Support          | : Koto Ward                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Contact          | : Gallery A4 Office Tel.: 03-3660-6011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| E - mail         | : gallery_PR@a-quad.jp                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Official Website | : <a href="https://www.a-quad.jp">https://www.a-quad.jp</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## ■ Related Exhibition

\* Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum: "Where Trees Live Again: George Nakashima and Woodworkers"  
October 3 (Sat.) – December 13 (Sun.), 2026

\* Sakura Seisakusho Ginza Store "Mira Nakashima and Sakura Seisakusho 2026"

First Session : July 4 (Sat.) – July 26 (Sun.), 2026

Second Session: October 7 (Wed.) – October 22 (Thu.), 2026

## ■ Highlights

\* "George Nakashima Woodworkers," the workplace and living space Nakashima built in New Hope, introduced through rare photographic materials to highlight the distinctive forms of each building scattered across the almost 9-acre property

\* Detailed explanations of Nakashima's lesser-known architectural works, including "Golconde" (1939), for which he served as site supervisor in India before the war, and "Katsura Catholic Church" (1965) in Kyoto, designed after the war

\* Video interviews with Mira Nakashima Yarnall, Nakashima's daughter who continues the work of "George Nakashima Woodworkers," and ceramic artist Kinpei Nakamura, a devoted user of Nakashima's furniture

\* Exhibition of 13 pieces of furniture designed by Nakashima, including chairs and benches

\* A hands-on experience area where visitors can actually sit on Nakashima's chairs



## ■ Profile

George Nakashima

Born and raised in Washington as a second-generation Japanese American, he studied architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1934 to 1939, he worked at the Raymond Architectural Design Office, where he was responsible for site supervision of projects such as the Golconde dormitory in India. After returning to the United States and marrying, the family was placed in a Japanese American internment camp in 1942. Following the war, he established a furniture workshop in New Hope, Pennsylvania. In Japan, he designed the Catholic Katsura Church (1965). His efforts to place "Altars for Peace" around the world are carried on today by the Nakashima Foundation for Peace and the George Nakashima Woodworkers.



George Nakashima and his eldest daughter, Mira, in the 1940s  
Courtesy:  
Nakashima Foundation for Peace,  
New Hope, PA  
[Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)

## ■ Related Events

### □ Talk Show : "Continuing the Legacy of George Nakashima"

Date : Friday, July 3, 16:00 - 18:00

Instructors : Mira Nakashima Yarnall

(President and Creative Director, George Nakashima Woodworkers)

Kosuke Nagami (President and CEO, Sakura Seisakusho)

Hiroshi Matsukuma (Architectural Historian, Professor at Kanagawa University, Professor Emeritus at Kyoto Institute of Technology)

Venue : Toyochi green+ 2F Hall (2-5-14 Minamisuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

Admission : Free

Capacity : 100 people Application required (first-come, first-served)

Application : From 10:00 on Monday, June 8 on the official website

Other events will be announced as they are scheduled.

Please visit our official website for details and registration.

### ▼ Official Website





## ■ Images for PR



a. Conoid Studio  
Photo by Mitsuya Okumura



b. Arts Building  
Photo by Christian Giannelli  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation for Peace  
New Hope, PA, [Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)



c. Reception House  
Photo by Mitsuya Okumura



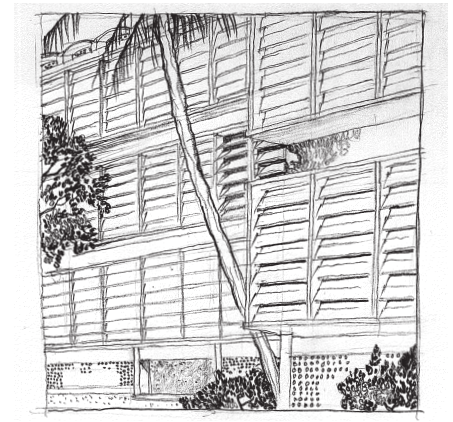
d. Lounge Armchair  
Sakura Seisakusho  
Photo by Takeshi Dodo



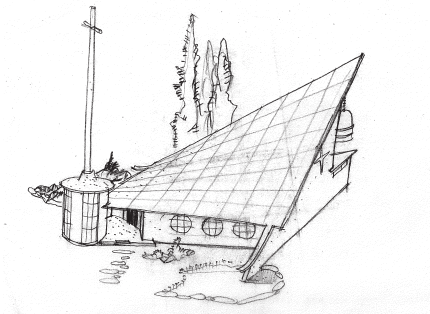
e. Mirra Chair  
From left: Medium, Low, High  
Sakura Seisakusho  
Photo by Takeshi Dodo



f. Golconde  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation  
for Peace, New Hope, PA  
[Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)



g. Sketch of Golconde  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation  
for Peace, New Hope, PA  
[Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)



h. Sketch of Katsura Catholic Church  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation  
for Peace, New Hope, PA  
[Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)



i. Katsura Catholic Church  
Photo by Mitsuya Okumura



j. Nakashima with black walnut for the  
"Altar for Peace"  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation  
for Peace, New Hope, PA  
[Nakashimafoundation.org](http://Nakashimafoundation.org)



k. George Nakashima and his eldest  
daughter, Mira, in the 1940s  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation  
for Peace, New Hope, PA  
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l. George Nakashima  
Courtesy: Nakashima Foundation  
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