

# karimoku



CASE STUDY 06

## THE RESTAURANG ÄNG PROJECT

NORM ARCHITECTS AND KEIJI ASHIZAWA DESIGN

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*KARIMOKU INTRODUCES CASE STUDY 06,  
THE MICHELIN-STARRED, SWEDISH RESTAURANT  
ÄNG WITH BESPOKE FURNITURE AND INTERIOR BY  
NORM ARCHITECTS AND KEIJI ASHIZAWA*

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The Japanese lifestyle brand Karimoku presents its sixth case study, the Michelin-starred Swedish restaurant ÄNG that officially reopened its doors on July 1 after a reconstruction phase. Located in a newly built, modern glass house and neighboring the local vineyard Ästad, Norm Architects, creative directors of Karimoku and lead architects for this case study, have implemented a custom-designed interior concept to strikingly simple yet beautiful effect. Focusing on Scandinavian design principles and serene materials, the bespoke interior explores similarities between Japanese and Scandinavian expression.

For case study 06, both co-founders of the brand, architecture and design studios Norm Architects and Keiji Ashizawa Design have designed new bespoke furniture items and accessories that will officially be added to the collection in autumn this year.

This new project presents the sixth case of Karimoku, following the completion of bespoke retail as well as private housing projects. All case studies by Karimoku are based on real life cases that respond to a native setting and ensure a holistic approach to the interior, bespoke furniture items and surrounding environment.

CASE STUDY 06  
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THE RESTAURANG ÄNG PROJECT

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Emerging from the tranquil meadow in the Swedish county Halland lies Restaurang ÄNG, neighboring and integrated into the local vineyard Ästad. For case study 06, Norm Architects realized a custom-designed interior design concept characterized by a selection of natural and refined materials. Inviting the Swedish local scenery surrounding Restaurang ÄNG inside the modern greenhouse, Norm Architects created a calm and tranquil retreat that merges the existing rural architectural principles with the more contemporary experience of ÄNG.

The new restaurant ÄNG is located in a newly built, solitary, lush greenhouse in the middle of a meadow, where dinner will be served in different stages. Comprising a bar and lounge area on the ground floor as well as

a wine cellar, dining area and wine lounge on the basement level, the goal was to create an elevated experience around food and wine, adding to the sensory experience of Swedish haute cuisine. Thanks to the window facades of the greenhouse that allow for natural sunlight to enter and a panoramic view of the Swedish landscape and lakes surrounding the premises, the rural scenery is mirrored in Norm Architects' choice of materials. Selecting natural materials, such as pure oak for the bespoke furniture items, canvas wall panels or stone flooring, all materials have been slightly refined or processed to make them more delicate. Dinesen, Denmark's leading manufacturer of exclusive flooring, provided its high-quality wooden planks for the floors and part of the wall cladding at ÄNG. In finding a balance between the rural and





local on the one side, and the refined and elevated on the other, this new, extensive Karimoku case study dwells on the interplay of nature and culture, capturing the spirit of the unique locus and allowing for an extraordinary hospitality experience.

The philosophy of material richness also lies at the core of Karimoku's brand identity. The new furniture items specifically designed by Norm Architects and Keiji Ashizawa Design for this case study as well as a vast number of existing pieces from the Karimoku collections that were chosen for Restaurang ÄNG illustrate the craftsmanship of the artisans of Karimoku Furniture as well as the deep understanding for the material properties of wood. Based on Japanese and Scandinavian design principles of soft minimalism and timeless aesthetics, the new delicate bespoke furniture items and accessories are all made of Japanese oak and are being used throughout the various areas of ÄNG.

Since its opening in 2019, ÄNG has refined its concept of only using produce from local farms, forests, waters, and meadows around the Halland landscape and was awarded its first Michelin star in 2021 as well as the guide's green star for extraordinary

practices regarding sustainability. Together with local Swedish vineyard at Ästad, Norm Architects developed a refined interior with a familiar yet captivating atmosphere that provides a spatial framework for the impressive dinner experience around modern Scandinavian cuisine and local Swedish wine offered at ÄNG.

With the new interior design concept for the Swedish restaurant ÄNG, Karimoku has successfully completed its sixth case study, continuing the collaboration with Norm Architects and Keiji Ashizawa Design. With inspiration found in both the unspoiled Nordic nature surrounding the premises of ÄNG and Japanese sensibilities in design aesthetics and craftsmanship, the new interior of ÄNG provides a holistic, sensory experience that refines the culinary offering and reflects the identity of the restaurant.



## ABOUT KARIMOKU

Emerging from shared design values, Karimoku is a contemporary lifestyle brand based in Japan and born out of admiration and love for serene beauty, material richness and timeless appeal. The different collections are brought to life by the world's leading architects through individual cases, and the story of each collection is told through its native setting. With Karimoku, Karimoku Furniture Inc. introduces its fourth high-end, contemporary furniture brand, following Karimoku New Standard, Karimoku Kunst and Ishinomaki Laboratory by Karimoku.

## KARIMOKU FURNITURE

The origins of Karimoku Furniture date back to 1940, when Shohei Kato took over a longstanding timber company and established a small woodworking shop in the town of Kariya, Aichi. The company produced various wooden parts in the ensuing decades, developing a range of techniques before launching its own line of wooden furniture in the 1960s. Building upon the concept of manufacturing high-tech and high-touch products, the company established bases in timber production areas and soon developed into one of Japan's leading manufacturers of wooden furniture.

## NORM ARCHITECTS

Norm Architects was founded in 2008. The multidisciplinary design studio works within the fields of industrial design, residential architecture, commercial interiors, photography and art direction. Much like human well-being, the essence of Norm Architects' work is found in balance—between richness and restraint, between order and complexity.

## KEIJI ASHIZAWA DESIGN

Keiji Ashizawa Design is an architectural and product design studio based in Tokyo, Japan. Formed in 2005 by Keiji Ashizawa, following 10 years' working experience in both architecture and steel fabrication, the studio is comprised of both architects and designers, each bringing unique skills to the team. Through logical thinking and open-mindedness, the studio presents works of "honest" design: simple yet refined, thoughtful and of a light manner—and derived naturally through the process of maximising the potential of each material and its functions.

## ÄSTAD VINGÅRD

Aiming to produce high-quality Scandinavian sparkling wines for an

international market, the family business Åstad Vingård (vineyard) planted its first vines in 2011. Today, Åstad produces about 30,000 bottles of sparkling wine annually and continuously expands its cultivations along the coast of southwestern Sweden. The wine is currently served to guests at the vineyard, who also can enjoy Restaurang ÄNG, the Sinnenas Spa – inspired by the local nature reserves, and stay overnight in hotel rooms with private saunas.

#### DINESEN

For more than 120 years, Dinesen designs bespoke solid and engineered wooden flooring of extraordinary dimensions. Dinesen respects nature and has provided wooden flooring since 1898, driven by a passion to create bespoke solutions that go beyond the traditional. With an eye for the value of diversity in every tree and every project, Dinesen makes solid and engineered planks for wooden flooring, panelling, ceiling and other design elements. Their perspective allows wood to be at the heart of your interior – from intimate personal spaces to expansive public and cultural settings.





*“We believe that all sensory experiences are connected. In many ways, it always comes down to atmosphere. It’s not enough to cook great food – the staging of the food, whether it’s the architecture, the nature that surrounds you or the plate you eat from. Whether it’s the smell of the room or the acoustics – they are all just as important for your experience of the food as the dish itself.”*

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NORM ARCHITECTS









*“It feels like we are leaving the training grounds and finally  
can step out on the arena. The elegant atmosphere which  
Norm and Karimoku have created fits the new ÄNG  
experience perfectly.”*

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FILIP GEMZELL, EXECUTIVE CHEF, ÄSTAD VINGÅRD,  
RESTAURANG ÄNG

*“The overall vision has been to create a modern interpretation of the spirit of the place. You’re out in the middle of the Swedish nature on a former farm. Still, we wanted to create an elevated and refined experience around the food. We strived to strike a balance between the rural and local on the one hand, and the refined and elevated on the other. Therefore, we worked with natural materials that have been slightly refined or processed to make them more delicate. It’s turned out as a blend of Haute Cuisine and country idyll – just like the food.”*

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NORM ARCHITECTS





*“Fine dining is always a very intense experience for me. Now we have created serene and peaceful environments that will provide nice contrasts throughout the dinner.”*

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DANIEL CARLSSON, CEO & PARTNER, ÅSTAD  
VINGÅRD, RESTAURANG ÅNG

FURNITURE FROM THE  
KARIMOKU COLLECTION



A - B 0 1

DESIGN: KEIJI ASHIZAWA

The bench A-B01 by Keiji Ashizawa is a light and harmonious piece of furniture. In search for a piece to place in the Azabu Residence entrance space, Karimoku's fourth case study, that had the functionality of a bench and a form that could also be used as a display stand, Keiji Ashizawa designed the A-B01. The lightness created by the thin edges of the seat and legs, and the strength of the crosspiece material — almost as though squared timber was used — are connected by a delicate

stool rod to create a sense of overall harmony.



N - B S 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The bar stool N-BS01 by Norm Architects is, as the dining chair N-DC03, a line extension to the dining chair from an earlier project. The size of the backrest makes the chair more comfortable, while the natural lines in the design underline the craftsmanship and production skills that have gone into a piece like this.

## FURNITURE FROM THE KARIMOKU COLLECTION



A - DT 0 2

DESIGN: KEIJI ASHIZAWA

With A-DT02 Karimoku introduces a new table by Keiji Ashizawa. Designed specifically for the case study 04, the Azabu Project, the new table was designed to contrast the stone kitchen. The new table, perched on four lightweight legs has a simple design, with a leg attached to each corner. The angle at which the cross-section of each leg is attached however gives the table its structural elegance with the tabletop supported without aprons. The legs and edge of the tabletop follow

the flow of the dining chairs N-DC01 designed by Norm Architects, creating a soft and light feeling. When placed in the space, the wooden table seems to float. Despite its size, its presence does not overwhelm the space. Rather, it allows the organic form of the chairs placed around it to stand out.



N - CC 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The club chair N-CC01 was designed to have a small footprint, but with great comfort. The rounded back not only adds a warm and welcoming look and feel to the chair, it also allows the user to freely move in it, while the small overhang of the back and armrest, makes the chair itself easy to move around. The inside of the backrest is fully upholstered and folds up on top of the chair to become the armrest, while the backside is kept all in wood for a more crisp, architectural and crafted

expression. All elements have been intentionally distanced from each other to create a very honest and lightweight chair - a chair that doesn't take up too much space, but remains functional and beautiful.

FURNITURE FROM THE  
KARIMOKU COLLECTION



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A - S01 (1- AND 2-SEATER)  
DESIGN: KEIJI ASHIZAWA

With the sofa A - S01, Keiji Ashizawa played with the same structure used for the coffee table A-CT01, arriving at a sofa that embodies sculptural, yet laid-back elements. The low height enhances the size of the space. Simple, yet multi-functional, the armrest can be used as a pillow, making it a daybed.

Both the 1-seater and the 2-seater have been resized to match the interior at case study 06, the Restaurang Äng Project.



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N - DC01  
DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The dining chair N - DC01 was born out of the exploration around Karimoku Furniture's many factories, workshopping on sight with the craftsmen, using existing parts and updating others, until a hybrid between the Japanese and Scandinavian design aesthetic emerged. The result is a classic chair, simple in its design and composition, but with a warm and welcoming feel to it.

PHOTOGRAPHY

NORM ARCHITECTS

PRESS CONTACT

FOR ADDITIONAL PRESS  
INFORMATION, HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES  
OR INTERVIEW REQUESTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

BRAND. KIOSK  
SUSANNE GÜNTHER NEVES / ISABELLE HAMMER  
E [KARIMOKU@BRAND-KIOSK.COM](mailto:KARIMOKU@BRAND-KIOSK.COM)  
T +49 (0)69 2649 1122  
[WWW.BRAND-KIOSK.COM](http://WWW.BRAND-KIOSK.COM)

TRADE INQUIRIES AND ORDERS

PLEASE CONTACT:  
[FURNITURE@KARIMOKU.CO.JP](mailto:FURNITURE@KARIMOKU.CO.JP)



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