

KARIMOKU
CASE STUDY



CASE STUDY 03
THE ARCHIPELAGO HOUSE PROJECT
NORM ARCHITECTS

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KARIMOKU CASE STUDY INTRODUCES ITS THIRD CASE WITH BESPOKE FURNI- TURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN BY NORM ARCHITECTS

The Japanese lifestyle brand Karimoku Case Study presents its third case. Creative directors and co-founders of Karimoku Case Study, Norm Architects, complete a private summer house in Sweden, the Archipelago House, with a bespoke interior and custom-made furniture. The project presents the third case of Karimoku Case Study, following the completion of the Kinuta Terrace Apartment Project in Tokyo in 2019 as the inaugural case as well as the interior design of the Blue Bottle Coffee Minatomirai Cafe in Yokohama in September 2020, both by Keiji Ashizawa Design and Norm Architects. Each of the Karimoku Case Study cases are bespoke projects and consist of custom-made furniture that then make up the Karimoku Case Study collection.

For Case Study 03, Norm Architects re-

alised an interior that draws inspiration from the local architecture and landscape of the Swedish coastline, thus blurring the line between what is inside and what is outside. Bespoke furniture complement the interior kept in natural tones, using wood as the main material. With the new Club Chair N-CC01 and the elegant book boxes N-BB01 especially designed of this project, Karimoku Case Study extends its collection. Additionally, a bespoke lighting collection made of Washi paper has been designed by Norm Architects and manufactured by traditional Kyoto-based lantern maker Kojimi Shouten. Characterised by the use of high-quality materials and traditional craftsmanship, the Archipelago House is yet another perfect showcase for the brand's philosophy.

CASE STUDY 03

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THE ARCHIPELAGO HOUSE

Located on the unspoiled and rocky coast of Sweden, the Archipelago summer house is a modernized holiday home embracing all aspects of family life. The wooden structure is harmoniously merged with the surrounding nature and draws inspiration from the local building traditions found in boat-houses on the rocky shores. Set into the cliff, the house consists of four wooden volumes interlocked and connected by a terraced wooden deck that follows the sloping plot.

The interior of the Archipelago house simultaneously follows the sloping terrain and the different spaces in the house are connected by internal steps and stairs, linking the five different levels of the house. The large wooden terraced deck is forming a protected outdoor space for dining, playing and enjoying the magnificent view of the water and small rocky islands in the horizon. The main living space of the house is a double-high room divided in the middle by a large industrial kitchen island. On

one side, a lounge area with a stunning framed view of the rocky hill with all its cracks and colorful organic mosses is located. On the other side a dining area faces the outdoor terrace and can be completely connected through folding doors that slide to one side. All storage and functional elements of the kitchen are built into the wall, facing the rock and creating a wooden internal façade that stretches in the full length of the space to maximize storage and reduce clutter.

The color and material-scheme of the interior is kept in natural, muted high-end materials that reflect the nature outside. Not only is there a direct connection and transparency between inside and outside in this house, but also a deep symbolic connection in terms of material and color use.

The bathrooms are designed in grey stone and become almost cave-like. They reflect the rocky surroundings and give the family a feel of luxury spa in a tiny format.





The design of the house is aimed at combining the functionality for the perfect family life with an architecture of clean lines, light rooms and bright colors as a perfect refuge from the hectic life of the city. The house is a plethora of natural materials, muted colors, clean lines, and minimal, yet well-curated, furnishings. The interior is made from beautiful craftsmanship with a focus on quality and handmade pieces. Especially for this project, Norm Architects designed a number of bespoke furniture and accessoires. With the new Club Chair N - CC01 a warm and inviting seating has been created. Round and soft shapes meet high-quality materials.

The elegant storage book box collection N - BB01 made from wood and leather was collaboratively produced by Danish company August Sandgren and designed to accommodate the everyday-life chaos. The bespoke lighting collection, manufactured by Kyoto based lantern maker Kojima Shouten almost becomes a hybrid between a piece of furniture and a lamp.

With inspiration found in both Nordic building traditions and a Japanese sensibility in aesthetics and craftsmanship, the Archipelago House project has aimed to achieve the best of both worlds. A combination of Scandinavian coziness with warm textures and

soft furniture, while maintaining the elegance of Japanese decor. While both styles have a focus on the utilitarian, it has been important to maintain a zen-like sense of calm in this house where the emphasis is on the life being led and the nature surrounding it.

ABOUT KARIMOKU CASE STUDY

Emerging from shared design values, Karimoku Case Study is a contemporary lifestyle brand based in Japan and born out of admiration and love for serene beauty, material richness and timeless appeal. The Case Study 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 Case Study, Karimoku introduces its third high-end, contemporary furniture brand, following Karimoku New Standard and Karimoku Kunst.

KARIMOKU

The origins of Karimoku 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.

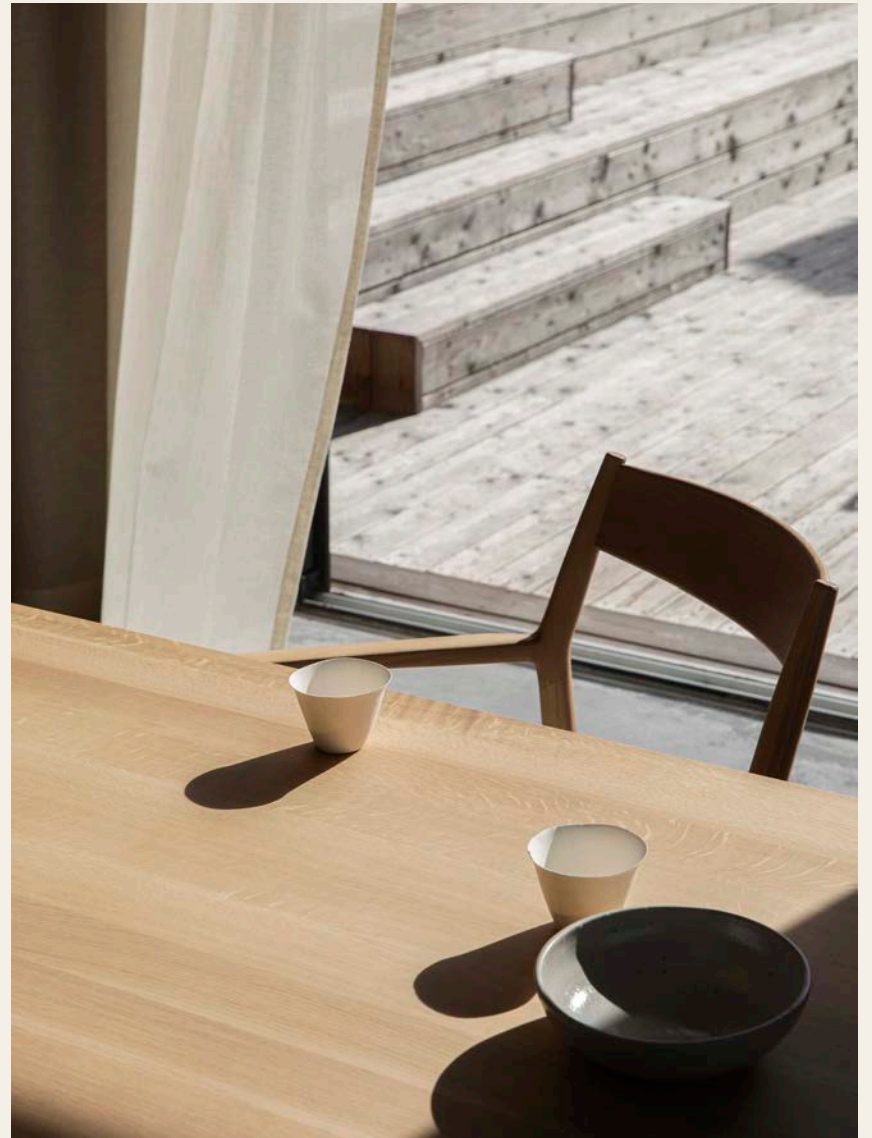
NORM ARCHITECTS

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.





“In our production, we only use natural materials - bamboo, washi and glue from wheat. We believe that a more sustainable approach to production is not only crucial for us but also our planet. We hope that our products can somehow help people to reconnect with natural materials and our nature, and we strive to meet the SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) of our precious earth. In this sense, Karimoku Case Study matches our philosophy very well.”

KOJIMA SHOUTEN



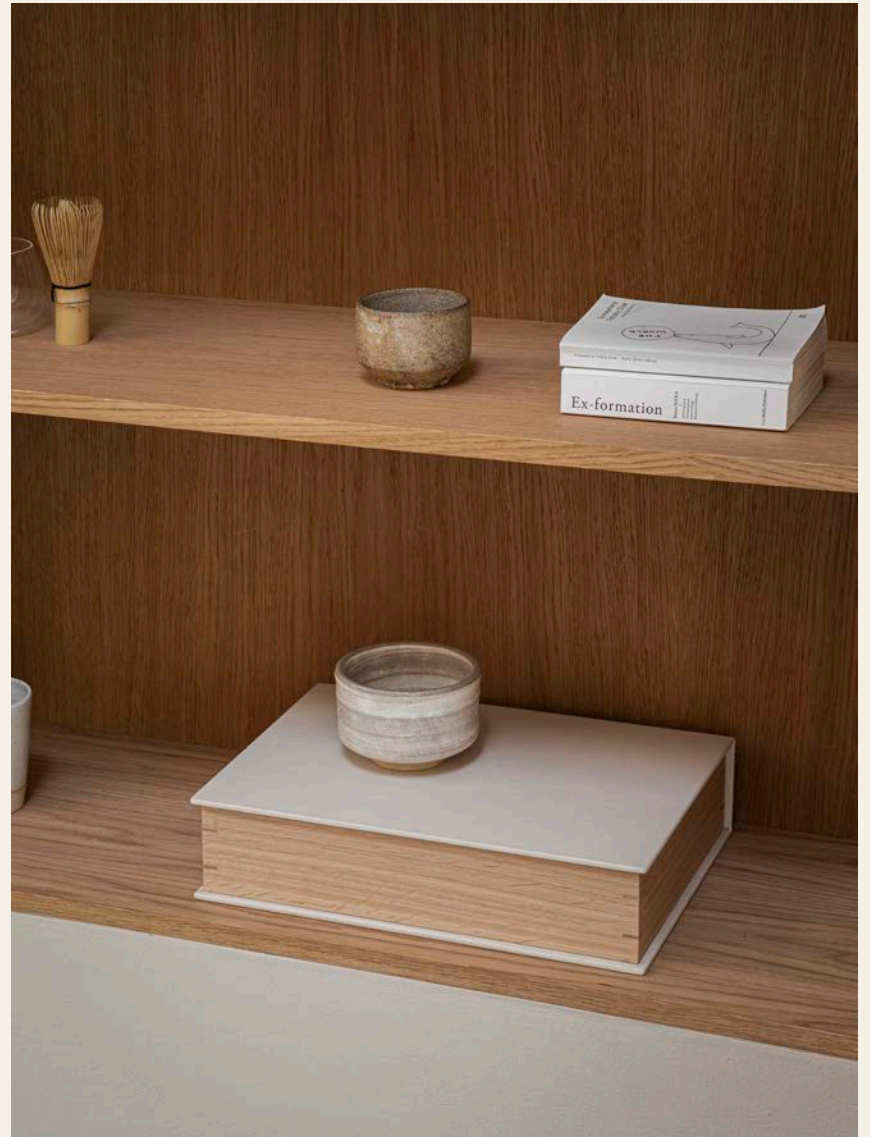




“In the design process, it was a clear goal for us, that the details in the product itself should speak directly to the surrounding architecture and interior, while also telling the story of each of the companies being involved in the production. August Sangren, with their roots in the art of bookbinding and Karimoku with proud history of being the leading wooden furniture manufacturer in Japan.”

NORM ARCHITECTS





*“To us quality lies in the old virtues of good craftsmanship.
There is no easy solution and there is not one object that is
the same. We call these irregularities of human touch, which
you’ll most likely never notice, unless you look for them,
perfectly imperfect.”*

AUGUST SANDGREN



BESPOKE FURNITURE FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO HOUSE



N - C C 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The new 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 uphol-

stered 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. Expected to be available in Spring 2021.



N - B B 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The Book Box N-BB01 by Norm Architects is a collection of storage objects, designed by Norm Architects and collaboratively produced by Danish; August Sandgren and Japanese; Karimoku Case Study.

The storage boxes are designed to accommodate the everyday-life chaos, providing a home to the small essential belongings and raise the question

of why storage often resides out of sight.

BESPOKE FURNITURE FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO HOUSE



FLOOR AND TABLE LIGHT
DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The two lamps have been designed to tell the story of the manufacturing collaboration between Karimoku and Kojima Shouten. Karimoku being the leading wooden furniture manufacturer in Japan and Kojima Shouten being a 220 year old Kyoto based lantern maker. The lamps, with its wooden base and Washi paper lampshade, almost becomes a hybrid between a piece of furniture and a lamp. A sculptural yet

very functional lamp, shining a natural warm light yet very functional, non-directional light to the surrounding space. The washi paper lampshade, naturally flatpacks due to its construction, something that we wished to translate into the wooden base as well. The four-legged base is therefore foldable, so it can be divided into two sections and takes up minimal space in transportation.



PENDANT LIGHT
DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The shape of the pendant mimics the architecture of the summerhouse, that with its high and triangular shaped roof construction, needs light being spread not only down, but also up and to the sides. The bottom of the lamp has been covered with a single piece of Washi paper, which is cleverly held in place by a few magnets, making it easy to disassemble it, should you need to change

the bulb. The bottom furthermore acts as a screen, hiding the lightsource and creating a warm and indirect light. Small details like the paper cord creates subtle reference to the furniture in the Karimoku Case Study collection, but is also inspired by the ropes and lines found on the nearby small fishing harbour, somehow adding a maritime feeling to the product.

FURNITURE FROM THE
KARIMOKU CASE STUDY COLLECTION



N - S C 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

With clean lines, a crisp design language and a soft and comfortable inner, the Side Chair mimics the architecture of the Blue Bottle Coffee shop. With its low backrest and small footprint, it's not really a dining chair, neither a stool – but combines the best of the two and therefore serves the real needs of the cafe.



A - S 0 1

DESIGN: KEIJI ASHIZAWA

With the sofa A - S01, Keiji Ashizawa played with the same structure used for the table, 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.

FURNITURE FROM THE
KARIMOKU CASE STUDY COLLECTION



N - S T 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

Much like the dining table and desk, there is a play between the light and heavy. The solid wooden base of the side table N - ST01 changes in thickness according to where it needs to be strong - being sturdiest in the middle of the construction where the elements meet,

and thinnest at the ends. This creates a visually lighter expression, without losing its strength. The rounded marble top highlights the underlying wood base through a subtle cut-out, emphasizing the relationship between the materials and indicating direction.



N - S S 0 1

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

Inspired by the umbrella- and shoe racks by the entrance of Japanese temples and Shrines, similar construction techniques were used to create the shelving system N - SS01 with inherent functionalities, such as removable shelves and bookends that aren't visible at first sight. The shelving system

is a customizable piece of furniture in solid wood that serves the needs of its owner in an understated way.

FURNITURE FROM THE
KARIMOKU CASE STUDY COLLECTION



N - DC 01

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

The dining chair N - DC01 was born out of the exploration around Karimoku's many factories, workshoping 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.



N - DT 01

DESIGN: NORM ARCHITECTS

Playing with the balance between light and heavy elements, the dining table N-DT01 is dimensioned like the branches of a tree — thus making it appear paper-thin from some angles and more robust where it needs to be. Like with the architectural works of the studio, Norm have explored the negative space

within the furniture pieces, emphasizing the materials and details by highlighting the places where the light can shine through.

FURNITURE FROM THE KARIMOKU CASE STUDY COLLECTION



N - C T 0 1

D E S I G N : N O R M A R C H I T E C T S

With its construction being based on the many facades and doors that you find in shrines, temples and traditional architecture all over Japan, the various wooden parts of the coffee table N- CT01 are intentionally spaced and levelled with high precision, making the

furniture piece light in its appearance. The spacing between each element lets the light travel through to make for an organic, living piece of furniture. The stone top carries references to the minimalist designs by famous, Danish designer Poul Kjaerholm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

JONAS BJERRE-POULSEN &
KARL KNUDSEN, NORM ARCHITECTS

PRESS CONTACT

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

BRAND. KIOSK
SUSANNE GÜNTHER / DANAI COLLA
E CASESTUDY@BRAND-KIOSK.COM
T +49 (0)69 2649 1122
WWW.BRAND-KIOSK.COM

TRADE INQUIRIES AND ORDERS

PLEASE CONTACT:
INFO-CASESTUDY@KARIMOKU.CO.JP

KARIMOKU-CASESTUDY.COM

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