

Press release

Karimoku Furniture opens Karimoku Commons Toyko



Karimoku Furniture Inc. opens Karimoku Commons Tokyo, a new 387m² hybrid space for its high-end brands in the centre of Tokyo and introduces a number of new furniture items for its brands Karimoku New Standard and Karimoku Case Study. A collaboration and showcase of new items with the initiative Basketclub marks a special highlight in the opening months.

Japan's leading wooden furniture manufacturer Karimoku Furniture Inc. is pleased to announce the opening of Karimoku Commons Tokyo on February 12 – a new space over three floors to showcase its different high-end furniture brands, including the internationally renowned brands Karimoku New Standard and Karimoku Case Study. The new hybrid space in central Tokyo is the second to follow after Karimoku Commons Osaka and will act as a showroom, gallery and office space, allowing visitors to experience the versatile crafting skills and wooden furniture made by Karimoku Furniture. Additionally, the opening marks the official launch of a number of new furniture items for Karimoku New Standard and Karimoku Case Study by acclaimed international designers Norm Architects, Moritz Schlatter, BIG-GAME and GECKELER MICHELS. For the Japanese market the new furniture brand MAS will be launched and showcased for the first time. A collaboration and showcase of new items with the initiative Basketclub by Canadian designer Jamie Wolfond and Dutch designer Adrianus Kundert marks a special highlight in the opening months.

THE HYBRID SPACE: KARIMOKU COMMONS TOKYO

Located in Tokyo's vibrant district Nishi-Azabu, known for its high-density of museums, sophisticated cafes and galleries, the new hybrid space Karimoku Commons Tokyo will celebrate its opening on February 12, 2021. The new 387m² showroom and office space stretches over three floors and a striking rooftop terrace, staging Karimoku's different furniture brands and highlighting the high-quality craftsmanship of Karimoku as Japan's leading wooden furniture manufacturer. With an interior design concept by Tokyo-based architecture office Keiji Ashizawa Design, each floor of the 37-year-old, renovated building beautifully showcases the different furniture collections in an individual setting.

While the first-floor functions as a gallery and event space, the concept is kept simple. The open-plan room features bespoke wall storage and a large open kitchen with a wooden base made by Karimoku. On the second floor, with Karimoku Case Study and Ishinomaki Laboratory by Karimoku, two furniture brands are staged in a setting that highlights the unique features of the material wood. By using wood for the flooring and walls, visitors can experience the richness and warmth of this high-end material.

The third floor showcases the international renowned design brand Karimoku New Standard and the newly launched brand MAS in a striking grey-toned factory setting with plastered ceilings and walls. Wooden interior details, such as the raised floor beside the window front and the material library accentuate the space. The rooftop terrace is an experimental space for the development of furniture that can be used outdoors. The wooden decking and benches, made from Japanese pine, are being painted for the first time for outdoor use and will be observed to see how they change over time – this knowledge is to be utilized for future development.

With Karimoku Commons Tokyo, Karimoku Furniture offers visitors an insight into its versatile manufacturing portfolio and its high-end furniture brands, as well as its deep-rooted appreciation for the material wood.



NEW FURNITURE LAUNCHES

The opening of Karimoku Commons Tokyo also marks the official launch of a number of new furniture pieces by Karimoku New Standard and Karimoku Case Study.

KARIMOKU CASE STUDY



N - DC03



N - BS01



N - SC01

N - DC03

Design: Norm Architects

The Dining Chair N - DC03 is a further development of the N - DC01 dining chair that was born from the Kinuta Project. Modification has been made so the chair is both more lightweight and petite, which in turn makes it very flexible and versatile without losing its character. The softness and warmth of the wood creates a more residential feeling to a classic cafe setting.

N - BS01

Design: Norm Architects

The Bar Stool N - BS01 is, as the Cafe Chair, 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.

N - SC01

Design: Norm Architects

With clean lines, a crisp design language and a soft and comfortable inner, the Side Chair N - SC01 mimics the architecture of the Blue Bottle Coffee shop, it was initially designed for. With its low backrest and small footprint, the N - SC01 is not really a dining chair, neither a stool - but combines the best of the two and therefore serves the real needs of the cafe.

KARIMOKU NEW STANDARD



Polar Lounge Chair



Spectrum Workstation ST



Castor Stool Plus Pad

Spectrum Workstation ST190, ST240
Design: GECKELER MICHELS

Spectrum is designed for flexible contemporary working environments. The table's design is inspired by the minimalism of Japanese architecture with its graphical lines, combining beauty with efficiency. A simple and smart cable system with a large, easy to access cable tunnel allows quick installation of electronic devices. The table is made from sustainably sourced Japanese oak wood. The Spectrum ST meeting table is part of the Spectrum table system that will include versions from desk to dining to meeting tables and high-tables in customizable sizes.

Polar Lounge Chair
Design: Moritz Schlatter

As successor of the Polar Chair, this minimalist lounge chair adopts a similar design language based on clear, round and soft shapes, balanced with straight lines and geometric elements. This contrast gives the lounge chair its characteristic, gentle appearance and strong aesthetic expression. The proportions that gently adapt to the body, paired with a firm, yet soft upholstery make the chair particularly comfortable. The Polar Lounge Chair comes in two versions: A lower, larger version with an optional wooden side table suitable for relaxed, casual seating and a higher, compact version with optional wooden armrests suitable for seating at a cafe-table. Both versions are designed for contract applications and to fit in various settings in private and public spaces, from lobbies to cafes, from work spaces to living rooms.

The chair is available in a selection of high-quality Kvadrat and Maharam fabrics and the feet, the optional table and armrests are made from solid, sustainably sourced Japanese oak.

Castor Stool Plus Pad
Design: BIG-GAME

The Castor Stool Plus is an essential and universal seat. Its size, details and colors have been designed to harmoniously align with the Castor Dining Bench and Castor Chair. A reinforced joint between the legs and seat support makes the light, slender stool a robust and durable choice for both home and contract use. The standard version is joined by the Castor Stool Plus Pad, which features a cushioned seat upholstered with a durable fabric that matches the color of the frame. Castor Stool Plus Pad is available in three standard colors.

MAS



MAS is a new furniture collection made of domestic coniferous wood such as cypress. The planted forest of coniferous trees centered on Japanese cedar and cypress occupies approx. 10 million ha within Japan's forest area that expands over 25 million ha. Conifers were once planted in large quantities for reconstruction after WWII. Even during the cutting season, they are not well utilized due to competition with imported timbers and transitions of lifestyles. Wataru Kumano, the design director of MAS, created furniture to convey the beauty of plain cypress, through the motif of „Masu“, a Japanese measuring box. Masu is based on high-quality craftsmanship and a succinct structure. MAS furniture also has a clean appearance with its plain color and grains. Coniferous trees are relatively softer and lighter than broad-leaved trees. Furniture making requires robustness, so these trees are generally considered unsuitable for furniture material. However, MAS overcame this barrier with Karimoku's technology and structure. MAS is the fruits of the blessings of Japanese forests and modern creativity.

ISHINOMAKI LABORATORY BY KARIMOKU



Products by Ishinomaki Laboratory have derived an irreplaceable charm from the curves, knots, holes, coloration, and other natural aspects of the wood used, lending to a sense of purity and strength. Karimoku's factories make every effort to use materials efficiently without waste, but inevitably offcuts and other residual wood output are still produced during the manufacturing process. Along with various hardwoods that are undervalued and underutilized and wood marked with insect-eaten holes or scratches from birds such as woodpeckers, it was thought that with Ishinomaki Laboratory's designs, such wood that otherwise would be considered unsuitable in furniture making might be utilized and treasured. Making use of these previously disregarded woods species, this material-based emphasis results in the production of long-loved, high-quality pieces. Through stimulating forestry's economic cycle and rebuilding the symbiotic relationship between people and forests, Ishinomaki Laboratory by Karimoku strives to realize a sustainable, flourishing society.

<https://ishinomaki-lab-karimoku.com>

BASKETCLUB @ KARIMOKU



For the opening of Karimoku Commons Tokyo, Karimoku Furniture invited the Basketclub to host their first physical exhibition, curated by Japanese product designer Wataru Kumano. Basketclub is an initiative founded by Canadian designer Jamie Wolfond and Dutch designer Adrianus Kundert in 2020 during the Corona pandemic. Each member of the Basketclub is asked to weave a basket every month, based on an emoji. In addition to 13 new works inspired by traditional Japanese bamboo baskets and with the theme “Japanese emoji”, the exhibition will also showcase a number of traditional bamboo tools, loaned from Musashino Art University, in which traditional Japanese techniques have found their manifestation. The exhibition thus offers visitors the opportunity to experience and compare traditional Japanese bamboo baskets with baskets designed by contemporary designers, to trace the evolution of the baskets, and to discover the possibilities of new homeware.

www.instagram.com/_basketclub_

Exhibition details

Karimoku Commons Tokyo, 1 F

Address: 2-22-5, Nishiazabu, Minato Ku, Tokyo To, 106-0031, Japan

Telephone number: +81(0)3-6805-0655

Opening date: 12 February 2021 - 31 March 2021

Opening hours: 12:00 - 18:00

Closed: Saturday and Sunday

<https://commons.karimoku.com/>

NOTES TO EDITORS

KARIMOKU FURNITURE INC.

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 and technology 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.

www.karimoku.com

KARIMOKU CASE STUDY

Emerging from shared design values, Karimoku Case Study is a contemporary lifestyle brand created in collaboration with interdisciplinary design studio Norm Architects and Keiji Ashizawa Design. 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.

www.karimoku-casestudy.com

KARIMOKU NEW STANDARD

Founded by leading Japanese furniture manufacturer Karimoku in 2009, Karimoku New Standard is defined by its fusion of progressive ideas and manufacturing excellence. Bringing together the unique perspectives of Karimoku's craftsmen and a select group of international designers, the brand presents new standards in Japanese furniture design.

www.karimoku-newstandard.jp

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