

THREE KARIMOKU BRANDS THAT CAPTIVATED THE U.S. MARKET TO LAUNCH IN JAPAN – “CMPT BY LICHEN”, “KARIMOKU RE:ISSUE BY LICHEN” AND “WAGETSU わ月”



Karimoku Furniture launches domestic and international sales of three brands starting Wednesday, August 13, 2025: “CMPT by Lichen” and “Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN,” both introduced at this year’s International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF), and “wagetsu わ月,” unveiled at this year’s Los Angeles Design Festival. The items will be available at Karimoku Furniture dealers nationwide. From Wednesday, August 13 to Tuesday, August 19, a pop-up event featuring products from all three brands will take place at the iconic Isetan Shinjuku Main Store, Tokyo’s premier department store. A selection of pieces from each brand will also be on permanent display at the KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER from Tuesday, August 19 onward.

“CMPT by Lichen” is a brand jointly developed with Lichen, a New York-based design studio and incubator. Inspired by the urban lifestyle of Lichen, the brand centers on functionality with concepts of mobility, storage, and modularity. Another joint development with Lichen, “Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN,” reinterprets archived Karimoku Furniture products through a contemporary lens to breathe new value into classic designs. In January 2025, the prototype of the “ZE Sofa,” based on a 1980s model, debuted at the KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER in Nishi-Azabu, Tokyo, generating significant attention.

In contrast, “wagetsu わ月,” created in collaboration with Los Angeles-based studio WAKA WAKA, proposes a new form of furniture and lifestyle where traditional Japanese styles intersect with West Coast minimalism.

These three new brands—created in collaboration with the U.S.-based design studios Lichen and WAKA WAKA—embody distinctive design philosophies and functionality that reflect a new era of furniture and lifestyle.

“CMPT by Lichen”

“CMPT by Lichen” is a furniture brand rooted in the urban lifestyle of the Lichen team in New York, emphasizing mobility, storage, and modularity. The brand’s origin lies in the concept of an “AppleBox,” a storage unit that also functions as a simple stool. These can be used individually or connected vertically and horizontally using dedicated joint parts, enabling flexible compositions and layouts tailored to each space and use case.

Each item functions independently yet becomes more expansive and versatile when combined, meeting the needs of living spaces from compact studios to large residences—products that embody both modern functional aesthetics and wide-ranging adaptability.



One Idea, Two Items

Each concept in this brand evolves into multiple items. For example, the “Glass CMPT Table” not only serves as a coffee table but also stores four AppleBoxes neatly underneath, realizing dual functionality. Designed for small New York apartments, the space-saving design is brought to life with Karimoku Furniture’s precise craftsmanship.

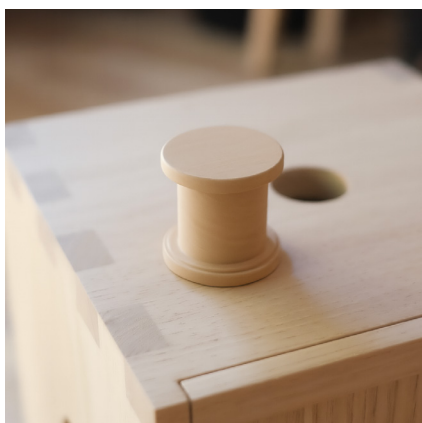


Product Highlights



AppleBox

Designer: Lichen
Finish: Pure Chestnut
Material: Chestnut
Size: W254 D254 H508 mm



AppleBox Joint

Designer: Lichen
Finish: Pure Chestnut
Material: Chestnut
Size: W50 D50 H50 mm



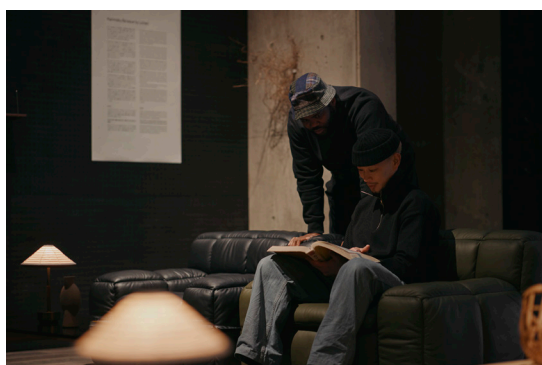
Glass CMPT Table

Designer: Lichen
Finish: Pure Chestnut
Material: Chestnut, Glass
Size: W1116 D510 H306.5 mm

* This image shows a prototype. The final version will have different specifications.

“Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN”

“Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN” revives classic Karimoku Furniture pieces by reinterpreting them through Lichen’s unique design perspective. The inaugural “ZE Sofa” collection was first introduced in the 1982 Karimoku Furniture General Catalog and manufactured until 1988. Originally designed as a luxury leather sofa for reception rooms and meeting areas, Lichen has transformed it into a contemporary lounge piece suited for private, relaxing spaces. Its timeless design—simple, comfortable, and proportionally balanced—transcends eras and use cases. Lichen’s reimagined ZE Sofa embodies quiet presence and individuality suited for today’s homes.



“When it comes to furniture design, you sometimes have to get as close to the origin as possible. We always look back at past designs to see how we can reinterpret them for contemporary ways of living. Taking a sofa from the 1980s and making it feel timeless in 2025 shows how tradition can evolve into something new and relevant.”

—Ed Be and Jared Blake, Lichen

Product Highlights



ZE Lounge Chair

Creative direction: Lichen

Upholstery: Maharam Mode Rust / Maharam Mode Pathway (fabric), Strada Olive Green / Tosca Black (leather)

Size: W1110 D930 H660 mm



ZE Sofa (2- and 3-seater)

Size: 2-seater W1980 D930 H660 mm /
3-seater W2270 D930 H660 mm



ZE Ottoman

Size: W730 D730 H390 mm



Lichen

Lichen, co-founded by Ed Be and Jared Blake in 2017, is a design incubator and studio centered around furniture, spatial design, and the discovery of how they interact with these elements – past and present.

Website: lichennyc.com

Instagram: [@lichennyc](https://www.instagram.com/lichennyc)

“wagetsu わ月”

“wagetsu わ月” is a furniture brand that translates the subtle aesthetic of Japanese light and shadow—articulated in Junichiro Tanizaki’s “In Praise of Shadows”—into modern living. Unlike Western culture’s pursuit of brightness, Japanese sensibility finds richness in soft, diffused light and the depth of shadows. Just as the moon illuminates the night indirectly, “wagetsu わ月” aims to resonate quietly and deeply with those who dwell alongside its furniture.



Unique WAKA WAKA Design Meets Karimoku Furniture Craftsmanship

The brand seeks to create “traditional Japanese-style furniture that feels natural to Western users.” The collection includes iconic items like floor chairs, low tables, room dividers, coffee tables, and dining chairs—all infused with WAKA WAKA’s distinctive proportions and color sensibility. The pieces showcase Karimoku Furniture’s time-honed manufacturing expertise, from advanced woodworking and sewing techniques—most notably the “Stretching Technique” used for the seat upholstery—to the “Real Coat” process, which prints delicate graphics directly onto wood, and the “Polyester Resin Polished Coating”, which creates a lustrous, mirror-like finish.

wagetsu わ月 is a reinterpretation of everyday furniture, born from the fusion of Japanese and Western cultures, WAKA WAKA’s unique design language, and Karimoku Furniture’s craftsmanship.



Product Highlights



Low Connection Chair

Designer: WAKA WAKA
Finish: Sorbet / Dove Gray
Material: Beech
Size: W584 D532 H622 mm



Bi-level Oval Table

Designer: WAKA WAKA
Finish: Silver Pink top, Clear legs
Material: MDF, Oak
Size: W1500 D700 H375 mm

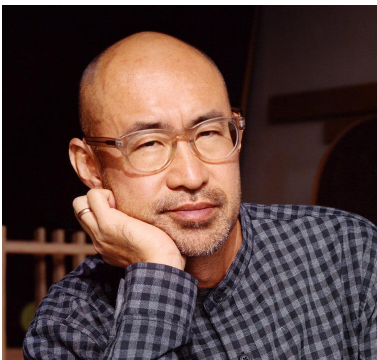


Polka Dot Dining Table

Designer: WAKA WAKA
Finish: Pure Oak
Material: Oak
Size: W1900 D900 H730 mm

Silhouette Dining Chair

Designer: WAKA WAKA
Finish: Pure Oak
Material: Oak
Size: W460 D535 H830 mm



WAKA WAKA

WAKA WAKA is a Los Angeles-based design studio founded by Shinichiro Okuda that specializes in handcrafted wooden furniture and functional objects. From conceptual seating to practical objects and spatial design, WAKA WAKA's work is known for its unique approach to simplicity, intricate detailing, and distinct proportions.

Website: wakawaka.world

Instagram: [@wakawakainc](https://www.instagram.com/wakawakainc)

Exhibition & Sales Information

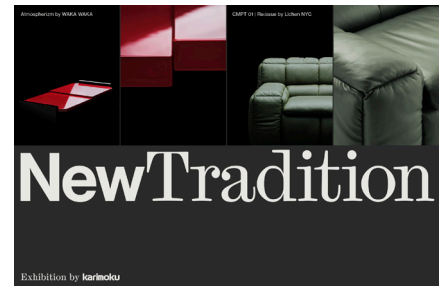
Pop-up Event “New Tradition”

Dates: Wednesday, August 13 – Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 10:00AM – 8:00PM

Location: Isetan Shinjuku Main Store 5F, Center Park / The Stage #5

Address: 3-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022



Permanent Exhibition at KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER

Starting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Hours: 12:00PM – 6:00PM (Weekdays and public holidays)

Address: 2-24-2 Nishi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0031

Tel: 03-6433-5995

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays (subject to change)

Access: 10-minute walk from Omotesando Station, Exit A5

Website: karimoku-research.com

Instagram: [@karimoku_research](https://www.instagram.com/karimoku_research)

More information on product lineups and event details will be updated on each brand's website:

- “CMPT by Lichen”: <https://cmpt.karimoku.com>
- “Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN”: <https://reissue.karimoku.com>
- “WAGETSU”: <https://wagetsu.karimoku.com>

karimoku

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.

Website: www.karimoku.com

Instagram: [@karimoku_official](https://www.instagram.com/karimoku_official)

PRESS CONTACT

For additional press information, high-resolution images or interview requests, please contact:

INTERNATIONAL

Brand. Kiosk

E karimoku@brand-kiosk.com

T +49 (0)69 2649 1122

www.brand-kiosk.com

JAPAN

PR Representative, Karimoku Furniture

E pr-commons@karimoku.co.jp