

Press Information

THE STORY OF KARIMOKU FURNITURE



Karimoku Furniture is Japan's leading wooden furniture manufacturer and a family business run by the third-generation Kato family members. With seven manufacturing factories in Aichi and Gifu prefectures and four material factories, the company continues to keep its focus on the pursuit of the original concept since its founding in 1940: designing and producing wooden furniture made in Japan, while incorporating the latest manufacturing technology and fostering the continuous research on improving human dwelling.

Since 2009, Karimoku Furniture has introduced various premium design sub-brands to its portfolio, incorporating the ideas of international creatives such as David Glaetli, Norm Architects, Keiji Ashizawa, Norman Foster and renowned studios such as Lichen or WAKA WAKA. These include amongst others Karimoku Case, Karimoku New Standard, MAS, wagetsu わ月, CMPT by Lichen and Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN.

Opening showrooms throughout Japan and steadily expanding its business in overseas markets with exports to more than 20 countries and territories in Asia, Oceania, Europe and North-America, Karimoku Furniture is achieving a strong growth in their high-end, design driven brands, while maintaining a solid position in the market with their more traditional collections.

THE HISTORY OF KARIMOKU FURNITURE

The origins of Karimoku Furniture Inc. 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. Originally manufacturing wooden spinning machines to back up industries that supported postwar reconstruction, Karimoku Furniture gradually accumulated its technical know-how in woodworking and painting and expanded its facilities to support full-scale woodworking techniques, including manufacturing factories and timber drying rooms, before launching its own line of wooden furniture in 1962.



The dense forests of Hida, located in Gifu Prefecture.



Timber stockyard at the factory in Akita Prefecture.



“High-tech and high-touch” production approach.



The Karimoku Furniture factory in Chitagun, Aichi.

THE PRODUCTION METHODS OF KARIMOKU FURNITURE

Karimoku Furniture has been firmly established as a synonym of fine quality furniture and proof of reliable design solutions; a reputation they have maintained to this day. Building on the manufacturing concept of “high-tech and high-touch”, Karimoku Furniture has found the ideal balance between machine-made and man-made, producing highly crafted, industrial objects that simultaneously demonstrate the skilled craftsmanship of the artisan craftsmen of Karimoku Furniture. Each of their factories in the prefectures of Aichi and Gifu is specially developed to create and work with specific furniture categories, ensuring to produce the best quality furniture in the most reliable and efficient way.

Promoting the use of domestically grown timber and utilizing FSC certified imported hardwoods from around the world, Karimoku Furniture takes part in an initiative to revitalize the Japanese forests and the industries they support. Thanks to the state-of-the-art woodworking machines and experienced craftsmanship, Karimoku Furniture is able to use low-diameter trees, softwood and rubber wood to produce furniture that meets the highest standard and will be loved as lifelong partners.



THE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH OF KARIMOKU FURNITURE

With the 21st century, Karimoku Furniture has consolidated its international endeavours by collaborating with internationally renowned designers and studios such as Zaha Hadid Design and Norman Foster. This collaborative approach brought about the launch of a series of new premium sub-brands that illustrate the modern design philosophy and open-mindedness of Karimoku Furniture, including amongst others the lifestyle-brand Karimoku Case with Norm Architects as Creative Director, Karimoku New Standard (KNS) under the creative lead of David Glaettli, MAS by design director Wataru Kumano, wagetsu わ月 in collaboration with Los Angeles based studio WAKA WAKA or the two brands CMPT and Karimoku Re:issue, both together with the design incubator and studio, Lichen.

While keeping the manufacturing facilities in Japan and using only sustainably-sourced Japanese timber for most of the collections, this collaborative approach allows for a mutual learning process in which Karimoku Furniture's state-of-the-art woodworking machines and the expertise of its craftsmen are combined with the unique perspective of international designers. In doing so, the boundaries and preconceptions of what is possible within furniture design, technically and aesthetically, are constantly being renewed.



"SEYUN", design by Zaha Hadid Design



Karimoku Case, design by Norman Foster



Karimoku New Standard, design by Jörg Boner



MAS under the creative direction of Wataru Kumano



wagetsu わ月 by WAKA WAKA



Karimoku Re:issue by LICHEN

INTRODUCING A SELECTION OF THE SUB-BRANDS BY KARIMOKU FURNITURE

Karimoku New Standard

Karimoku New Standard, founded in 2009, is a brand that combines progressive ideas and manufacturing excellence. Bringing together the unique perspectives of Karimoku Furniture's craftsmen and a select group of international designers, the brand presents new standards in Japanese furniture design. By using domestic low-diameter hardwood trees, which are often discarded or used as paper pulp, KNS aims to make a sustainable contribution to the challenges facing Japan's forests, such as revitalization of the forests and the industries they support.

www.karimoku-newstandard.jp

[@karimokunewstandard](https://twitter.com/karimokunewstandard)

KARIMOKU CASE

Emerging from shared design values, Karimoku Case 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. The lifestyle collection was founded in 2019 by Danish design studio Norm Architects and Japanese architecture and design studio Keiji Ashizawa Design.

www.karimoku-case.jp

[@karimokucase](https://twitter.com/karimokucase)

☐ MAS

Introducing MAS, a woodworking furniture brand born from a dialogue with various woods spread across Japan. By exploring new methods and expressions without being bound by established rules, the company brings valuable products with a universal appeal to the world. Through its shared design language, MAS embraces the inherent charm of its chosen material, crafting practical forms that harmonize with various environments. With an understated, functional, and inclusive elegance, MAS furniture embodies contemporary utility and aesthetics, creating beautiful landscapes intertwined with people's lives.

www.mas.karimoku.com

[@mas_karimoku](https://twitter.com/mas_karimoku)

NOTES TO EDITORS

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