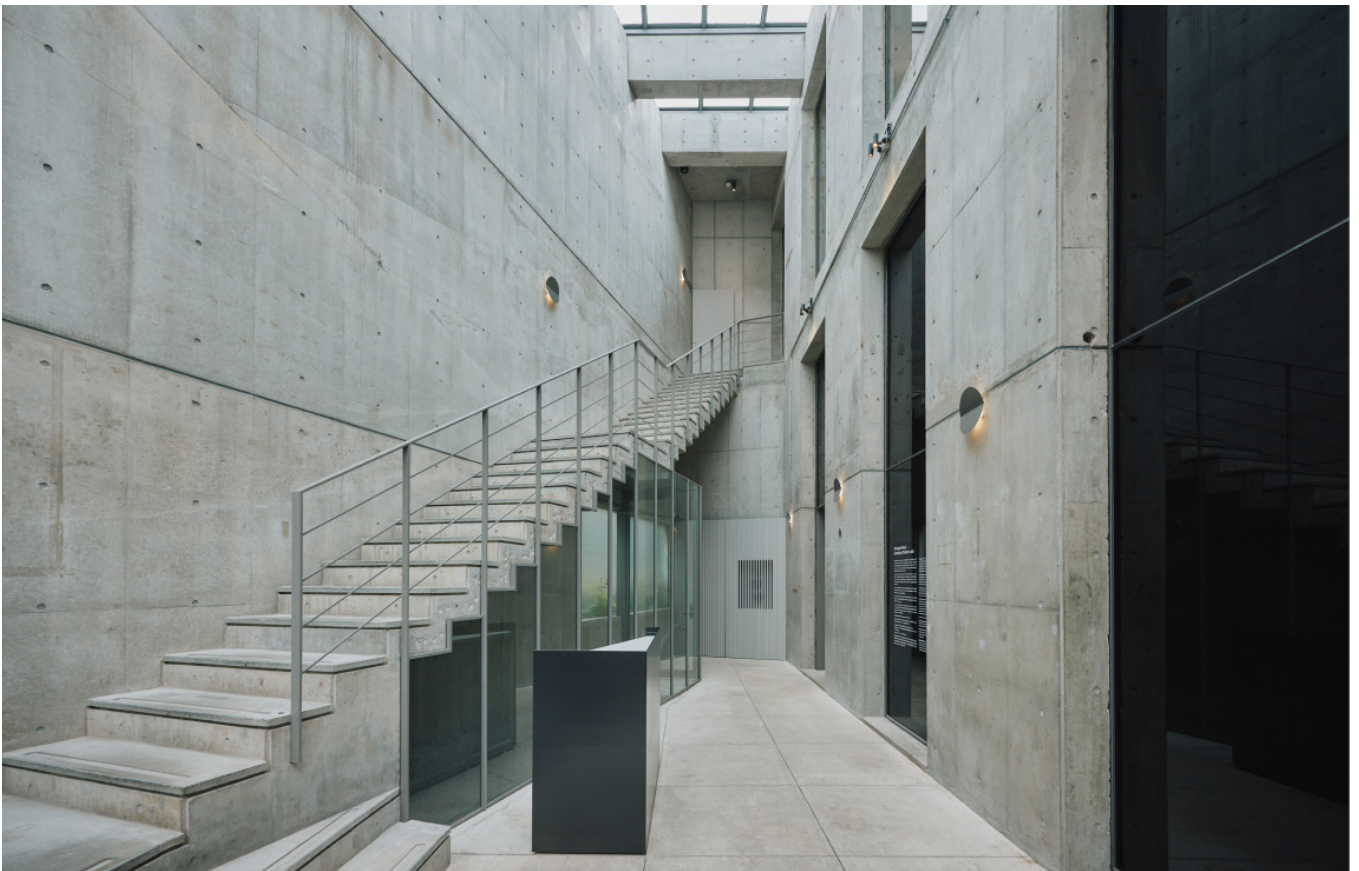


KARIMOKU RESEARCH

PRESS RELEASE

NOV. 2024

KARIMOKU FURNITURE LAUNCHES KARIMOKU RESEARCH: A CO-CREATION SPACE AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE HOUSED IN A STANDALONE FACILITY IN CENTRAL TOKYO



Karimoku Furniture Inc. launched their new project, KARIMOKU RESEARCH, accompanied by the opening of the KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER in Nishiazabu, Tokyo.

Karimoku Furniture, with its 80 years of experience, has developed countless skills, technologies, and innovations in manufacturing through its craftsmanship to date, as well as promoting the effective use of underutilized domestic wood in Japan.

KARIMOKU RESEARCH exists to take those learnings forward and encourage the co-creation of meaningful and innovative ideas. The initiative will couple Karimoku Furniture's extensive expertise as an industry leader with a wide range of collaborative partners both domestically and abroad.

In conjunction with the launch of this initiative, The KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER, located just a few minutes walk from Karimoku Commons Tokyo, also opened its doors. The dedicated facility provides a space for locals and visitors to physically and collaboratively engage with the findings of KARIMOKU RESEARCH.

KARIMOKU RESEARCH

Through KARIMOKU RESEARCH, Karimoku Furniture hopes to collaborate with a wide range of partners - across many different lifestyles, with the ultimate goal of unearthing innovations that can lead to a better future. Karimoku Furniture has a rich history of collaboration, not only with artists and craftspeople but also with brands from a broad range of industries. KARIMOKU RESEARCH looks to utilize the origins of the Karimoku Furniture brand to help create new solutions beyond the furniture design and manufacturing world.

The inaugural survey, “Survey 00 : WOOD ‘The Age of Wood’” will be exhibited from 26 October to 26 December. Collaborators Christian+Jade, a design studio based in Copenhagen, Denmark, showcase the results of their examination of the importance of wood as a material and cornerstone of human craftsmanship throughout recorded history.

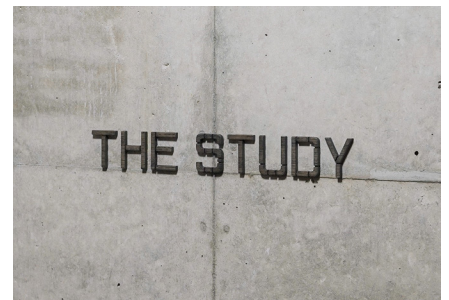


KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER



The KARIMOKU RESEARCH CENTER opened its doors on 26 October 2024, in Nishiazabu, Tokyo. Housed in a renovated three-story building, each floor serves a distinct function. The space is intentionally designed to foster collaboration, learning, and physical interaction, whether it's getting hands-on with pre-production prototypes or browsing the extensive materials library. Exhibitions and events will take place throughout the year, further promoting shared learning and collaboration.

The interior design was created by Keiji Ashizawa, who also designed the nearby showroom, Karimoku Commons Tokyo, alongside his design work with Karimoku Case. Megumi Fukatsu was responsible for scent design, creating a signature aroma that greets guests on arrival.



INFO

Address: 2-24-2 Nishiazabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0031

Hours: 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

*Please note that business hours and days may change

Access: 10 minutes walk from Omotesando Station, Exit A5

Total floor area: 422.19m²

Opening date: 26 October 2024

Structure: Reinforced concrete, two floors above ground, one basement floor

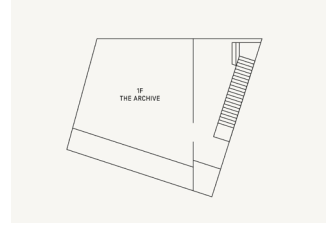
Supported by: Dynaudio A/S (<https://dynaudio.com>)



FLOOR-BY-FLOOR GUIDE

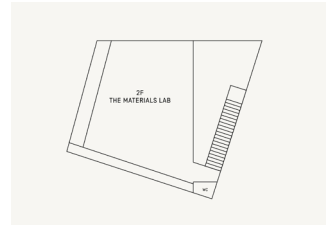
1F Gallery Space: “THE ARCHIVE”

An exhibition space filled with natural light thanks to the floor-to-ceiling windows. A 77m² space with 5.2m ceilings, this floor is built to house and showcase the results of each survey.



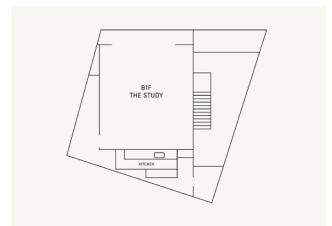
2F Library Space: “THE MATERIALS LAB”

Visitors are encouraged to get hands-on and explore Karimoku Furniture’s past projects, browsing through various wood samples, lacquer, and other displayed materials. Inspired by the tools used in Karimoku Furniture’s factories, the interior design allows visitors to experience the atmosphere of a production site.



B1F Multipurpose Space: “THE STUDY”

A multi-functional hall and lounge space made for seminars and events. Filled with Karimoku Furniture, THE STUDY accommodates approximately 60 people and features a massive 200-inch screen, a fully-equipped kitchen, and 5m ceilings.



KARIMOKU RESEARCH MEMBERS



Brad Holdgrafer Creative Direction

After a stint at Wieden+Kennedy's 'WK12', Holdgrafer worked in design at Apple's Media Arts Lab, before going on to create the design store 'Formerly Yes' which opened in LA and was named 'Best New Retail Store Experience' by Monocle in 2016. Holdgrafer then went on to publish a children's book with Princeton Architectural Press in 2018. Holdgrafer moved to Tokyo in 2022 to co-found Woset, a creative tools brand for children, and DCA Symphony, a full-service Design, Communication & Architecture studio.

Instagram: @brad.holdgrafer



DCA Symphony Produce

"DCA Symphony is a full-service Design, Communication & Architecture studio based in Tokyo, Japan. We use our holistic knowledge of design to help design-driven businesses tell their stories in a more complete and seamless way. From branding to communications to spaces, we help our clients' businesses resonate with a wider global audience."

Web: <https://dcasympphony.com/> Instagram: @dcasympphony



MEGUMI FUKATSU Scenting Design

Born in Hita City, Oita Prefecture, Megumi Fukatsu grew up in the forests of Kyushu. In her early 20s, she worked for an airline, which became the starting point for her hospitality career. She then entered the world of fragrances. Megumi has been involved in the creation of @aroma and has worked on numerous scent production and space design projects for ANA, Louis Poulsen and others, both in Japan and abroad, over a period of 20 years. She also works as an aroma "plant hunter" in production areas to discover and source new scent ingredients. In recent years, she has been teaching at universities, giving lectures and seminars to promote this culture of scenting design. Megumi is also the author of "Scenting Design - Kaori Shitsurae".

Instagram: @megumi_fukatsu

INTERIOR DESIGN



Keiji Ashizawa (Keiji Ashizawa Architectural Design Office)

Architectural Design

Keiji Ashizawa founded his studio Keiji Ashizawa Design in 2005, whose motto is 'Honest Design'. Ashizawa designs architecture, interiors and furniture with an emphasis on craft. He is also the representative of Ishinomaki Laboratory, which was born in result of the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. His works range from domestic and international architecture and interior projects.

Web: <https://www.keijidesign.com> Instagram: @keijiashezawadesign

karimoku

Karimoku Furniture was founded in 1940 when founder Shohei Kato took over a well-established lumber yard in Kariya, Aichi Prefecture. There, he set up a small woodworking shop, refining his skills until the early 1960s when he began selling his own furniture. His production ethos of 'high tech and high touch' combined advanced machine technology with craftsmanship and laid the foundations for the brand to become one of Japan's leading wooden furniture manufacturers.

Web: www.karimoku.co.jp

Instagram: @karimoku_official

Press Contact

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