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The Soul of a Tree: A Master Woodworkers Reflections

By George Nakashima



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The Soul of a Tree: A Master Woodworkers Reflections By George Nakashima

On a farmlike compound near New Hope, Pennsylvania, George Nakashima, his family, and fellow wood-workers create exquisite furniture from richly grained, rare timber. Tables, desks, chairs, and cabinets from this simple workshop grace the homes and mansions and executive boardrooms of people who prize such excellence. In this lavishly illustrated volume, George Nakashima allows us in intimate look at his artistry, his philosophy, his life. It is the portrait of an artisan who strives to find the ideal use for each plank in order to "create an object of utility to man and, if nature smiles, an object of lasting beauty."

The author's search for the meaning of life took him as a young man to Paris, Tokyo, and Pondicherry, India. In India, he found the inner peace for which he had been searching and began to find ways to work with timber. He writes movingly about the grandeur of ancient trees and stunning figured woods and explains how he selects and prepares his materials. Above all, he impresses us with his devotion to discovering the inherent beauty of wood so that noble trees might have a second life as furniture. The Soul of a Tree looks at the world through the eyes of an artist and evokes the joy of living in harmony with nature.



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Editorial Review

Review

"An impressive book that effectively conveys the textural qualities and sensitivity of this master craftsman's use of wood" -*The New York Times*

"Today's increasing reverence for nature, truth, simplicity and the independent spirit makes the life, work and philosophy of George Nakashima especially meaningful."-*Town & Country*

"From [Nakashima's] tables and chairs flows the unadorned beauty of the rhythms of nature."-*Smithsonian*

"George Nakashima, the foremost master of the craft."-*Time*

"Part woodworking manual, part philosophical journal, this book is as unique as author and woodworking legend George Nakashima's exquisite furniture." -*This Old House magazine*

About the Author

GEORGE NAKASHIMA, woodworker and architectural designer, is a native of Seattle, Washington. A graduate of MIT in architecture, he worked briefly in New York, then traveled to Paris, Tokyo, and India. It was while in Japan that he was sent on an extended architectural assignment to Pondicherry, India, where he designed Golconda, the primary disciples' residence at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, which was his first major architectural project. Running a small integrated business near New Hope, Pennsylvania, since 1943, Mr. Nakashima's major commissions include furnishings for the country home of the late Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, Pocantico Hills, in Tarrytown, New York, and interiors for Columbia University, Mt. Holyoke College, the International Paper Corporation, and the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu, New Mexico, for which he also provided the architectural design. Featured in such publications as *Smithsonian*, *Town & Country*, *House Beautiful*, *Life*, and *Fine Woodworking*, Mr. Nakashima has exhibited at many institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C.; the Nelson Gallery, Kansas City; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He was awarded the Gold Medal for craftsmanship by the American Institute of Architects in 1952, was named a Fellow of the American Craft Council in 1979, received the 1981 Hazlett Award, and in 1989 will be the first honoree in a series of major retrospective exhibitions of "America's Living National Treasures" at the American Craft Museum.

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Typically the book *The Soul of a Tree: A Master Woodworkers Reflections* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. The author makes some research previous to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this article book.

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