

Tools for the Next Way of Life

Evolution

百年物語
Centennial Value Collection
from Niigata JAPAN

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from Niigata JAPAN



Tools for the next 100 years, inspired by those from the last 100 years.

A collection of tools that draw on a century of heritage, the "Centennial Collection" presents lifestyle tools for the next generation.
The collection is based on the theme of creating "heirlooms that enable the enjoyment, sustenance and continuation of a cultured lifestyle".
Unlike tools that are mass-produced for mass-consumption, the tools in this collection are all limited editions designed for longevity and to suit the needs of the individual.
As such they have been designed as tools that mirror the characteristics of the individual and appeal to his sense of value.
They are tools that will be treasured, and can be given as gifts that will be admired for their craftsmanship, tools that express the charm and vibrant culture of Niigata and help create a support system for an enhanced lifestyle.

The Centennial Seal of Quality

The Centennial Value Collection, a range of products representing new values and showcasing the way a new generation of products can be, is the fruit of the collaboration between the industries and craftsmen of Niigata, Japan.
Such a collaboration was made possible by NICO (Niigata Industrial CreationOrganization), a foundation set up by Niigata Prefecture to assist networking for businesses and creators, in addition to supporting the developmentof new products.
Items created with the assistance of NICO carry a seal of quality certifying their excellence.

This seal of quality is constructed from the following three components

CENTENNIAL VALUE COLLECTION
A certification marking indicating that the item is of a quality and based on a vision befitting its place in Tales of a Century: The Centennial Value Collection

FROM NIIGATA JAPAN
A second marking bearing the motif of a Japanese crested ibis - a beautiful bird that symbolizes Niigata Prefecture, indicating that the item is produced by the excellent skills of the local craftsmen in Niigata Prefecture. Incidentally, the Japanese crested ibis, with the scientific name of Nipponia nippon, is also a bird that represents Japan.

THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP 2015
A third marking indicating the year in which the item was developed. In addition to the Christian era, the Japanese also use the twelve signs of the Japanese zodiac to designate a calendar year. For instance, the year 2015 also the year of the Sheep, and the Japanese character for Sheep is displayed on the marking to indicate the developing year.



Tools for the Next Way of Life

Hyakunen Monogatari 2015 Collection

Evolve through design
The discovery of something entirely new, something of beauty, something that makes you smile. The discovery of a new sensibility.

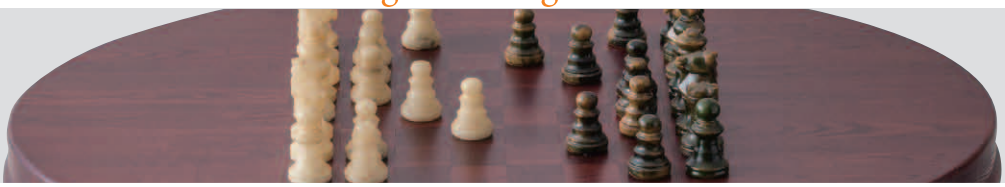
Evolve through material
Materials that are selected not only for their functionality but for their inherent worth, for the feelings they evoke. The discovery of a new value in materials.

Evolve through technique
Techniques that create products with individual appeal, bespoke products with their own distinct character. Techniques that impart a new sense of value.

Evolve through function
Products that offer ease of use, convenience, safety and peace of mind. Products that provide the things we cannot do without in our every day lives.

Evolve through meaning (narrative, culture, conduct)
A fresh look at products that possess their own inherent worth, in and of themselves, as well as possessing worth through their use and function.

Evolve through design



1 Defy... p.05



2 oo-zuchime (sledgehammer finish) series p.07



3 monge plus “shake hands” p.09

Evolve through material

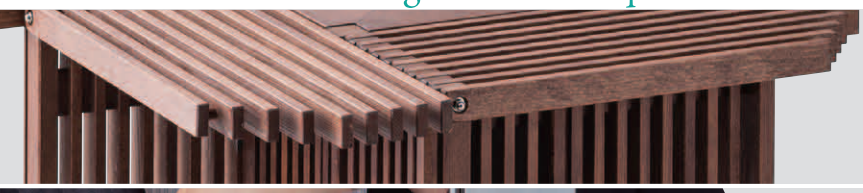


4 Copper stainless Damascus layered p.11
〈Evolve through material and design〉

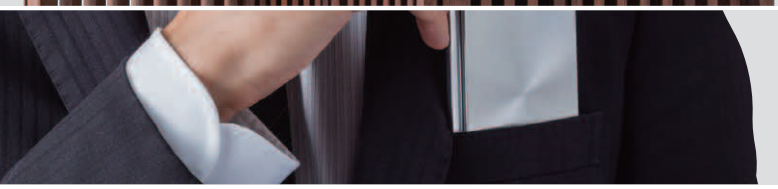


5 AvanWood p.13
〈Evolve through material, technique and design〉

Evolve through technique



6 IKSKI Tea table p.15
〈Evolve through technique and design〉



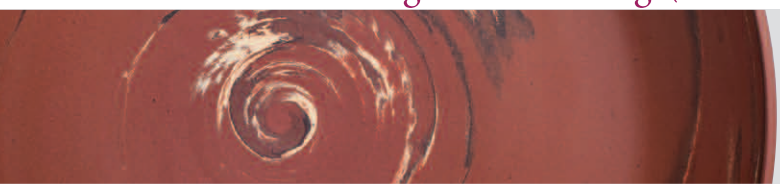
7 Pocket Card Case p.17
〈Evolve through technique and design〉

Evolve through function



8 Toss Out p.19
〈Evolve through function and design〉

Evolve through meaning (narrative, culture, conduct)



9 Breakfast crockery p.21



10 Gentleman’s walking stick “Snake”and“Hawk” p.23

Evolve through design

Kamo-shi, home of ISHIYAMA MOKKOUSHO has long been a hotspot for the woodworking industry. The city is host to numerous manufacturers of wooden products, including pieces of traditional Japanese furniture such as the Paulownia “tansu” or chest of drawers. ISHIYAMA MOKKOUSHO with its history of 65 years, is itself a product of this environment. The origin of the works lies with Aomi Jinja, the shrine at the heart of the city. The company was formed in 1949 when it was commissioned to create lanterns to be presented to the shrine. Since then the woodworks has constantly challenged itself to create products for the modern lifestyle.

1 Defy... / ISHIYAMA MOKKOUSHO, INC.

▸“YUCA” Storage as objet



Defy... Pieces that refuse to be categorised as just furniture.

Freeform design that will not be confined by definition or expectation.
Pieces to tantalise and charm.






Specialising in shop fixtures and fittings and furniture for the home, ISHIYAMA MOKKOUSHO have worked hard to broaden their market by using innovative techniques, implementing 3D CAD and CAM technologies to create wooden products characterised by sweeping, curved lines. The exciting new range, “Defy..” is also the product of techniques developed through the use of 3D CAD/CAM and CNC routers. The beautiful ribbed finish of each piece is the end result of a process of time-consuming trial and error and the highly skilled craftsmen have succeeded in creating a truly fluid wood surface, emphasising the natural grain in the wood. Although the latest technology is utilised in the production process it is the human touch of the master craftsmen in the final stages that give the pieces their distinctive character and powerful aesthetic appeal.



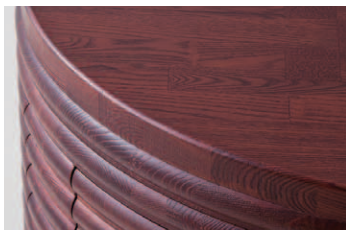
Evolve through design Defy...



YUCA is at once a chess board, a planter, a storage unit with handleless drawers, a work born from a free and fertile imagination. The form is not something flat that would be placed against the wall but rather an elliptical cylinder with ribbed wood on all sides giving the impression of movement. The size has is not overly small and would suit both Japanese and Western style interiors, enhanced by the muted tones of the finish.
Tamo ash laminate has been selected for its durability and resistance to distortion, vital qualities for a table, as well as its attractive and interesting grain. CAD and NC (numerical control) manufacturing techniques are used in the laminating process to create an entirely new departure in what we think of as furniture.







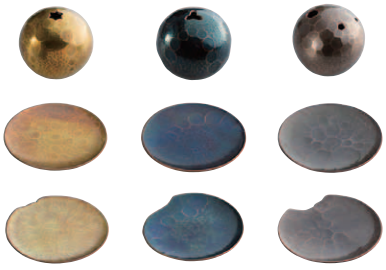
Specification/Item no:TNL-001 / Size:W750×H680×D600mm / Material:Ash・Laminated Wood / Finish:Urethane Finishing/Weight:40kg / Designer:Yuka Tanaka

ISHIYAMA MOKKOUSHO, INC.
5-26 Shineicho Kamo-City
959-1381 JAPAN
http://ishiyama-mokkousho.co.jp

Evolve through design

Mt. Yahiko, sacred mountain. The copper yielded by this mountain lies at the very heart of the works of Gyokusendo. Established in 1816, the company has been nurturing and refining techniques associated with “tsuiki-doki”, or hammered copperware production for almost 200 years. It is this very history that has allowed the development of new skills and ideas, in a long sequence of innovation. “For things to remain the same, everything must change” – over successive generations the Gyokusendo dynasty has mastered new techniques and technologies to create products relevant to contemporary living.

2 oo-zuchime (sledgehammer finish) series/ GYOKUSENDO



▶①Flower ball / ②Free tray

Taking the heritage Gyokusendo pattern known as sledgehammer grain, female artisans have created this series of gift items.

The so-called sledgehammer grain pattern can only be achieved by hand and has, over the years, become synonymous with Gyokusendo. For this latest series female artisans have taken the well-known hammer finish and given it new life as a range of gift items for the individual.



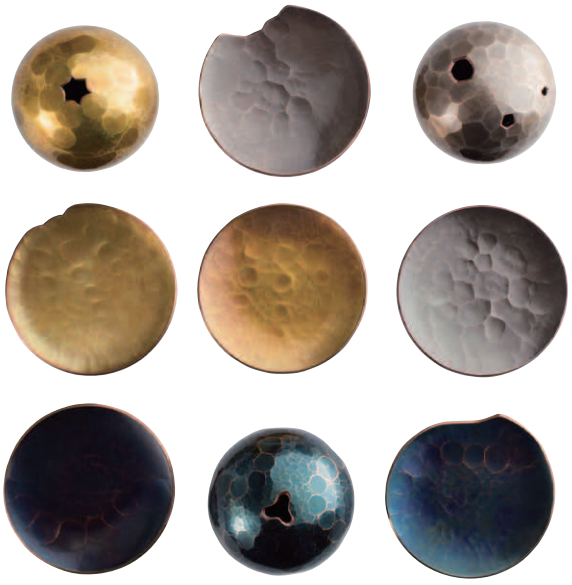


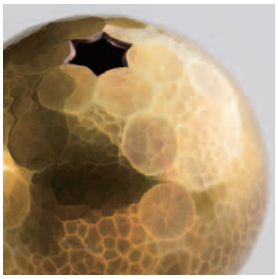

“Tsuiki-doki”, or hammered copperware, is produced by repeatedly striking and compressing single sheets of copper. Firstly the sheet is cut to the right size and heated in a furnace. Upon cooling, the copper sheet is struck repeatedly with a wooden hammer until it assumes a vessel-like form. It is then hammered again, this time with an iron bar known as a “bird’s mouth”, and repeatedly compressed into the required shape. A wealth of experience and knowledge is required when selecting the most appropriate tool from the store of over 200 different types of iron bar.The copper is fired and re-cooled then the rough surface of the metal is struck repeatedly with a hammer as it is coaxed into shape. It is the delicate hammered pattern that is created at this stage of the production process that gives tsuiki copperware its distinctive character. The surface of the copper is then tinned and polished, upon which a special liquid is applied to add colour. It is this secret formula that gives rise to the signature Gyokusendo lustre and sheen. Elegantly shaped with beautiful surface patterns and colours so deep one is almost drawn in – the very heart and soul of the artisan is embedded in each and every piece.

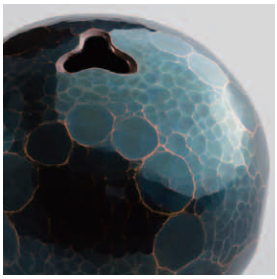


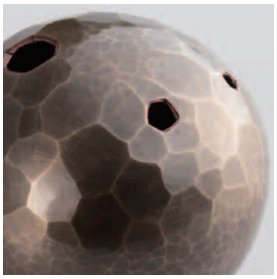
Evolve through design

oo-Zuchime series







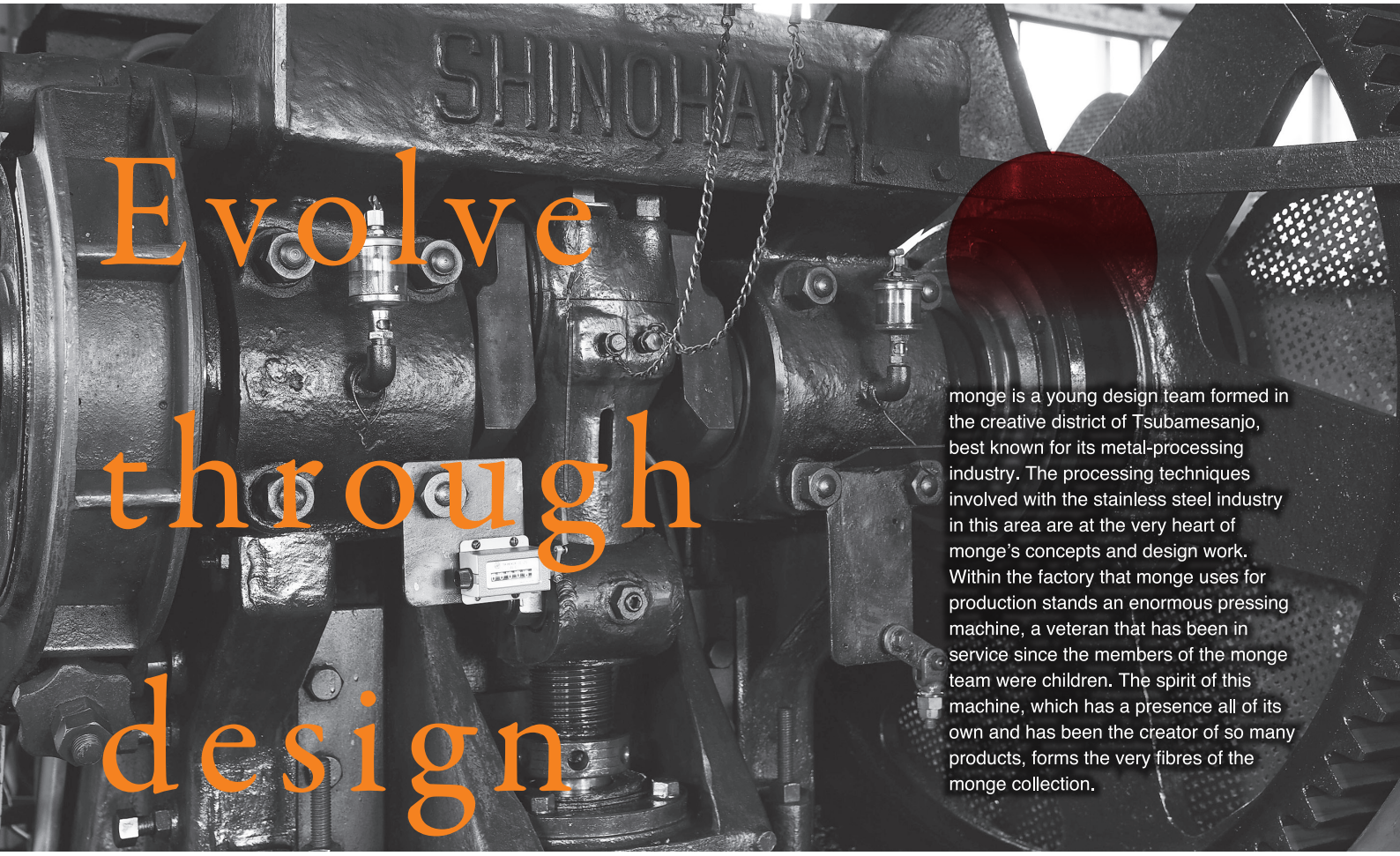


Specification / Item no:TNL-002 / Size:①Flower ball:W62×H52×D62mm, ②Free tray:W75 × H5mm / Material:copper / Finish:Tinned copper / Weight:①Flower ball:90g,②Free tray:50g / Colour:Sun(gold),Moon(black silver),Sea(purple) / Design:Akiko Hiyama,Marie Ushio

Taking the most distinctive characteristic of hammered copperware, the grain of the finish, to the next level, sledgehammer finish is an exercise in bold overstatement and is available in multiple colours: Sun (gold), Moon (black silver) and Sea (purple).
The small ball-shaped single stem vase can be used to display seasonal flowers and placed in a room, a hall, on a desk and help to bring something calm and beautiful into one's living space. The free tray is a multi-purpose item - thanks to the simplicity of its design it can be used to store almost anything and can be placed in any convenient spot.
Both designs are ideally suited for use by the individual and would make the perfect gift. As each and every piece is slightly different from the rest in colour and form, please select the piece that most clearly speaks to you!

GYOKUSENDO
Gyokusendo 1816

2-2-21 Chuo-douri Tsubame-City
959-1244 JAPAN
http://www.gyokusendo.com



Evolve through design

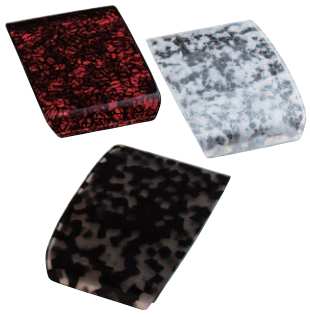
monge is a young design team formed in the creative district of Tsubamesanjo, best known for its metal-processing industry. The processing techniques involved with the stainless steel industry in this area are at the very heart of monge's concepts and design work. Within the factory that monge uses for production stands an enormous pressing machine, a veteran that has been in service since the members of the monge team were children. The spirit of this machine, which has a presence all of its own and has been the creator of so many products, forms the very fibres of the monge collection.

3 monge plus "shake hands" / monge monge

▶Business card holder, card case

A business card holder taking as its motif the shaking of hands

Nostalgic celluloid speaks of gentle manners











A card case that combines the cool, sharp feel of stainless steel with the natural warmth and depth of cellulose acetate. The first step in developing a new product is identifying the most appropriate materials. Many rounds of experimentation were required to reach the correct balance in combining stainless steel with cellulose acetate, a material that is not resistant to heat. Having finally assessed the most suitable means of processing cellulose acetate of 3mm thickness it became possible to make a cover that is both highly functional and pleasing to the eye. The case's hinge is manufactured with metal press moulds made by a factory located in this same area of Tsubamesanjo. The final piece is the end result of numerous techniques and skills amassed in this creative district: the monge card case.

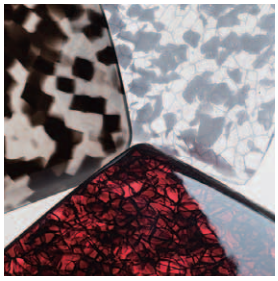


Evolve through design

monge plus "shake hands"



Recognised the world over as a sign of goodwill, the simple gesture of shaking hands. The design of this card case takes the handshake as its motif. Tsubame city (known for its metalworking) and Sabae city (known for the manufacture of glasses), each area has developed its own techniques and materials. This card case brings these materials and disciplines together in a meaningful way, just as in the case of the joining of hands.
The business card holder can hold up to 15 to 20 cards. The cellulose acetate cover opens and shuts by way of a stainless steel hinge. The opening is slightly tilted making for the easy removal of individual cards.







Specification / Item no:TNL10 / Size:W110×H12×D72mm / Material:cellulose acetate,stainless steel,neodymium magnet / Finish:Cellulose acetate:barrel polish,Stainless steel:mirror polish / Weight:60g / Design:monge

monge monge

10-1 Matsumidai Nishi-ku Niigata-City
950-2072 JAPAN
http://monge-works.jimdo.com



Evolve through material and design

Suwada have stayed true to the ancient trade of smithery and still use techniques developed in pre-Christian times. Iron is heated, beaten, moulded into shape and polished. Despite making the most of contemporary high performance finishing machinery every stage of the production process comes down to the skill of the master craftsmen. This deep connection with the human touch gives the products a particular warmth of feeling. Every individual craftsman involved with hand-crafting a Suwada product does so with the pleasure of the end user in mind and each and every product is unique.

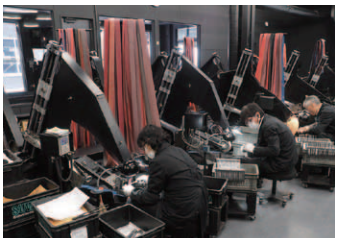
4 Copper stainless Damascus layered / SUWADA SUWADA BLACKSMITH WORKS, INC.

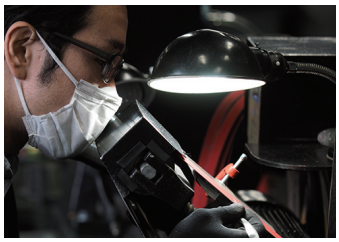


▶①Bangle / ②Cufflinks / ③Tie pin

The luster of copper and the sheen of stainless steel come together in a new pattern.

When finished the material, a layering of copper and stainless steel, has a beauty almost like that of natural wood grain and, due to the qualities of the copper, changes in colour with the passing of the years. The material demands careful handling and highly skilled metalsmiths have created each individual piece with all due care and attention.






Damascus Layered is a new material comprised of layers of stainless steel and copper. Peeling can often occur when layering different types of metal but for the first time, thanks to the consummate skill of the master craftsmen, Damascus Layered has been realised. Judging from its colour the temperature of the heated metal, the artisan then hammers it with a tool known as a “spring hammer”. The metal is hit with very finely graded degrees of force. This can only be judged by something over and above the standard five senses, a sort of “special allowance”. After this a specialist buffing technique is required to bring out the allure of both the stainless steel and the copper that have been stacked in the layered structure of the material. The full extent of the expertise of the master craftsmen is showcased in the cutting edge of the blades of Suwada’s signature product, the nail nipper. The final stage of the production process takes place when the finished product migrates to the user, whose constant touch and use imparts another, deeper layer of brilliance to the finish of the piece.



Evolve through material and design

Copper stainless Damascus layered









Specification / Item no:TNL04 / Material:copper, stainless steel / Finish:polished /
Design:Tomoyuki Kobayashi

Damascus layered, the result of stacking copper and stainless steel. A new combination that juxtaposes the natural colour change that occurs over time with copper and the fixed, non-changing nature of stainless steel. We have treated this unique, characterful pattern with great respect. The layering of the metals means that no two pieces are the same but each has its own individual personality expressed perfectly through beautifully simple design. Layering different metals requires high levels of skill and attention to avoid causing damage and stress to the different metal types and poses a difficult challenge to the craftsmen. The metalsmiths need to practice focussed concentration from the very beginning of the process with the metal as base material through to the final finishing stages.

SUWADA®

SUWADA BLACKSMITH WORKS, INC.

1332 Koanji Sanjo-City 959-1114 JAPAN
http://www.suwada.co.jp



Evolve through material, technique and design

Storio was established in 2004 as a manufacturer and retailer of bespoke wooden products and high-precision self-assembly furniture kits. We are keen to fulfil our customers' desire that each piece created through our order-made service enables them to express their own distinct narrative. This is reflected in the company name. Each member of the Storio team share the spirit of the company's founders so have a real connection with every part of the business. The raison d'être of the company is to develop new services and products that add to and enhance the experiences of their customers' everyday lives.

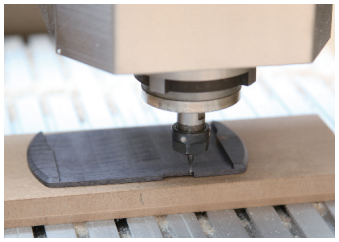
5 AvanWood / STORIO Storio Corporation



▶①Electron money clip /
②Business card holder (landscape)/
③Business card holder (portrait) / ④Cigar case

Harnessing the natural beauty of untreated wood,AvanWood's novel bentwood products, delicate bentwood pieces with their own inherent elegance and poise.

Using world first innovative finishing techniques, AvanWood have been able to produce a range of bentwood products of hitherto unseen delicacy. Using this technology AvanWood present their collection wood design pieces combining functionality and exquisite beauty.

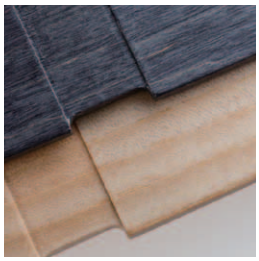


Niigata prefecture has become known as a centre of development for new techniques and materials for woodworking including compression and impregnation woods. The AvanWood collection is a new development focussed on these technologies. Untreated virgin wood of an extremely fine thickness of just 0.8mm is bent, using specialist techniques, to form exquisitely shaped pieces of wooden accessories. AvanWood creations are resilient and incredibly smooth to the touch whilst utilising the durability of hard woods such as maple and walnut. Through an exhaustive process of trial and error AvanWood has succeeded in developing a range of innovative bentwood products that perfectly showcase pliability and fineness combined with the touch and feel of natural wood.



Evolve through material technique and design AvanWood





Specification / Item no:TNL-003 / Size:①Electron money clip:W70× H112× D10mm,②Business card holder(landscape):W115×H69 × D16mm, ③Business card holder(portrait):W79×H105×D16mm, ④Cigar case (holds 2 cigars):W170×H53×D27mm / Material:Maple, leather / Colour:Natural, black / Finish:Paint / Designer:Keiko Yamamoto

Electron money and card clip (holds up to 3 cards)

A vital accessory for those off-duty days when you feel like travelling light and stepping out without carrying a bulky wallet. Also great for commuting, the card clip has been designed so that it can be taken out of the pocket, touched on the reader and returned to the pocket with minimal fuss and maximum composure.

Business card holder(landscape, portrait)

A natural conversation starter, the business card holder can be used when meeting somebody for the first time and name cards are exchanged. Seeing a card taken out of an exquisitely bent piece of thin wood tends to invite comment. The attention of the person you are greeting is firmly held by the eye-catching opening mechanism of the case which is released by the untying of the string around the button closure.

Cigar case (holds 2 cigars)

Perfect for those occasions after a business meeting, when a cigar case is removed from one's bag like an ace from one's sleeve in one stylish, spell-binding manoeuvre. The outer of the case is of bentwood and the inner is comprised of a sliding part. Combining the most exquisite composition and structure in a piece of woodwork the cigar case is simple modern design at its best.

STORIO Storio Corporation

2-7-3 Honcho Ojiya-City 947-0021 JAPAN
http://avanwood.storio.co.jp/en/
http://www.storio.co.jp



Evolve through technique and design

Traditional Japanese architectural fittings for openings and exits such as “shoji”, sliding doors and screens and other room dividers not only function as space partitioners but also allow for the control of air-flow, light and shade and lend the room a certain aesthetic, a certain beauty. The frames of these traditional interior fixtures are made entirely of wood, with no nails, using specialist joining techniques honed over many, many years. The third generation of the Nomura family now heads up the Nomura Woodworks, employing traditional techniques to create products that are relevant to today’s lifestyle.

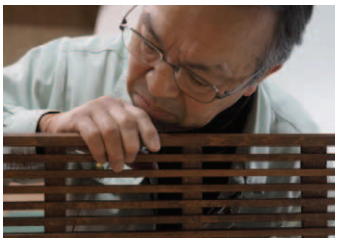
6 IKSKI Tea table / nomura NOMURA MOKKOU CO., LTD.

A tea table integrating the technique of lattice work with the form of a table.

IKSKI is a furniture brand that refines traditional Japanese joinery techniques to create pieces of furniture.











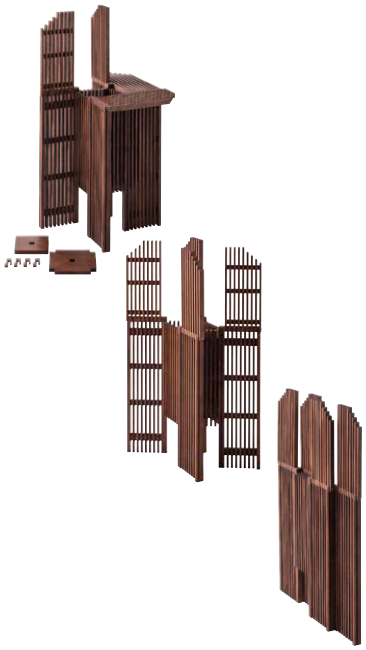
In the case of architectural fittings that do not use nails one must always bear in mind the risk of distortion due to overly humid or dry conditions. That is where the skill of “reading wood” comes into play. The hardness of the wood, the feel of both its top and bottom surfaces, the appearance of the grain and so on are literally read by the experienced master craftsman when he selects the most appropriate wood for a specific task. Always keeping in his mind’s eye the overall shape of the final assembled product the artisan begins the job of cutting each small rod shaped part. At the place where one part will be joined to another a small hole called a “nuki” is made. Once the pieces have been polished they are assembled to form a lattice structure with perfectly pitched balance between the horizontal and vertical parts and the “nuki” joints. The level of the master craftsman’s skill and expertise is evidenced by the complete absence of any gaps in these grid-like structures, and their beauty is set off to an even more exquisite degree by the play of the shadows as the light catches and passes through the lattice.

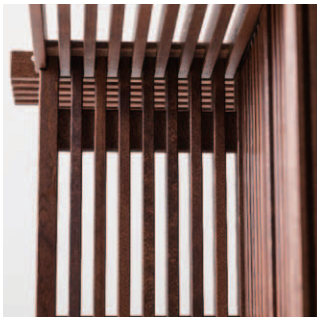


Evolve through technique and design

IKSKI Tea table







By bringing together the disciplines of joinery and furniture making we have created a series of products that express the very beauty of Japanese traditions. Taking one of the iconic elements of Japanese joinery, the lattice, we have created an altogether new form of tea table. Not only is the table top made of latticework but the legs also, indeed the entire piece is built up of grids placed at exactly the same pitch so that the overall appearance is one of coherence and harmony. The table top and the legs can be folded so the table can be made compact. This allows for easy transportation and storage and means it can be used in various different situations. Intricate shadows form on the floor or surrounding walls when the latticework catches the light, further enhancing the charm of the table.

Specification / Item no:TNL08 / Size:W520×H600×D520 mm / Material:spruce / Finish:colour painted / Weight:6.0kg / Colour:Dark mahogany / Design:Taiji Nomura,Takashi Yamazaki,Aki Kiguchi

nomura
NOMURA MOKKOU CO., LTD.
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Evolve through technique and design

Takeda Kanagata are manufacturers of press moulds for cars parts, domestic electrical appliances and architectural components. Since its foundation in 1978, the company has been perfecting its manufacturing techniques to create extremely reliable, high-performance metal press moulds that meet every requirement of the market. This diligence and know-how is woven into the very fibres of the company and every member of its workforce. Using these high performance metal press moulds, Takeda Kanagata has teamed up with its affiliate company MGNET to produce their own range of finely detailed, design-led card cases.

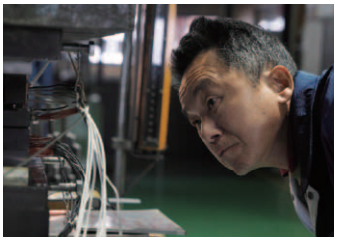
7 Pocket Card Case / ngn

Takeda Kanagata Seisakusho co.,ltd.
MGNET co.,ltd.

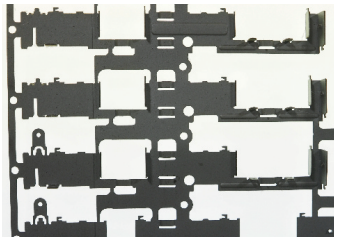
Keep simple, slim and smart style in your pocket!

A multi-functional business card case that expresses through its form both the delicacy and the strength of metal. The characteristic luster of metal shines out through the finish, these pieces present an alternative option of metal as something to own as part of one's lifestyle.









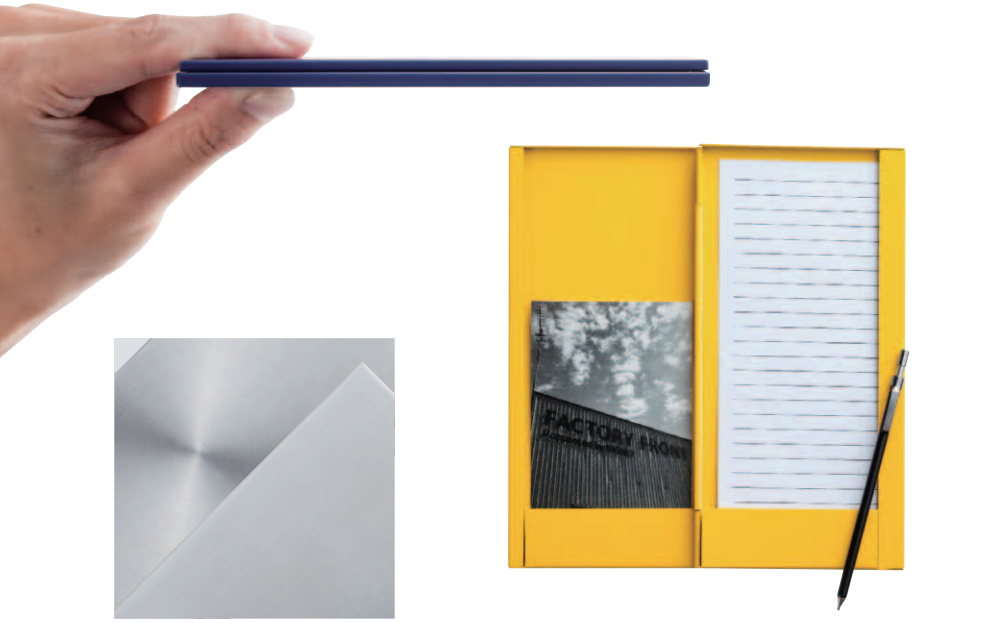


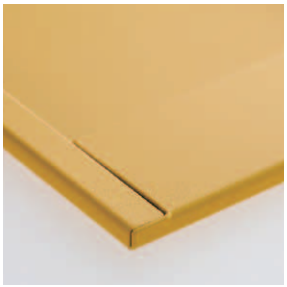
Accurate to the nth degree - Takeda Kanagata's metal press moulds. As well as NC and other high precision machinery the skill of the master craftsmen is an integral part of the production process. Incredibly fine adjustments are needed to make machine-made metal moulds and this requires the experience and expertise of the artisan. Just as in the case of producing metal moulds, the components of these card cases are extremely fine and demand highly accurate degrees of bending and shaping. These same finely honed skills are central to the production of the almost impossibly tiny hinge, of just 1mm in diameter.

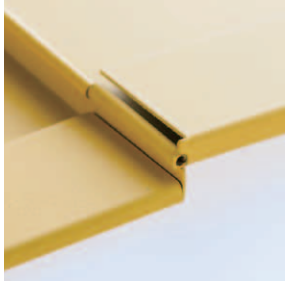


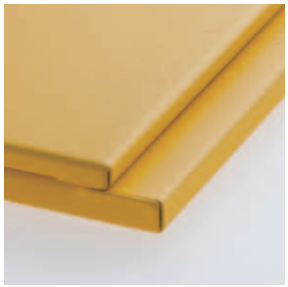
Evolve through technique and design

Pocket Card Case









As well as business cards, credit cards, memos and other papers can be carried in this card holder, making it a multi-functional piece that can be used according to the user's requirements.
We have used the thinnest metal to create this simple, smart design.
Easily opened by altering the width of the lid and the main body of the case, the piece is designed to be good to use as well as to look at. Placing high regard on the importance of business card etiquette the case does not close as such but instead suggests a folding mechanism.

Specification / Item no:TNL05 / Size:W72×H145×D7mm / Material:Aluminium / Finish:polish, Alumite / Weight:Approx 39g / Colour: Striped, spiral, solid, dark solid / Designers:Yusuke Terashima, Takeo Ikarashi

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Evolve through function and design

Because wooden materials make up the main component of Japanese homes many of them have fallen victim to destruction by fire. Even in today's world, with the increased knowledge about fire prevention, the most important factor in stopping fires from spreading is to stop them as soon as they break out, at the very first stage of ignition. Japan Fire Protect have made it their mission to develop a range of products that are specifically designed to put out fires in their earliest stages. The company's raison d'être is to supply users in Japan and all over the world with products that will help protect people and their possessions from destruction by fire.

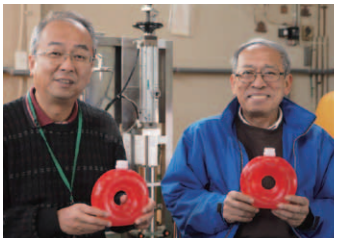
8 Toss Out / Japan Fire Protect, Inc. JFP

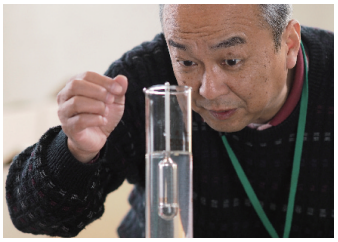
▸Throwable basic fire extinguisher

Extinguish by throwing! Put out a fire in its first stage and secure a route of escape.

A fire-extinguishing tool designed specifically for use at the first stages of a fire. Extinguishes flames by simply being thrown into their midst at the source of the fire.











The development of a fire prevention product that can be used with ease by anybody, minimises the risk to health imposed by extinguishing flames and creates an escape path was the aim behind this innovative fire-extinguishing device that works simply by being thrown. The point of the device is that, whilst it retains its strength and durability when seized, it always breaks upon impact once thrown. This performance feature has been achieved by the use of specialist plastic that breaks or splits when dropped from heights of 30cm and over. As well as a device for general fires there is a version for putting out gasoline and other petroleum fires. As a result the design has been approved by both the JFEII and the NFPA.



Evolve through function and design

Toss Out







▶ Click here for a movie.

Specification / Item no:TNL07 / Size:W1,600×H1,640×D50mm / Material:Bottle:specialised plastic, Liquid:potassium carbonate, phosphoric acid ammonia etc / Weight:690g±10g / Design:COBO DESIGN CO.,LTD

Designed to be used in the early stages of a fire (when the reach of the flames is not yet at standing height) Toss Out brings out the bravery in the user. It is an easy-to-use and highly convenient fire-extinguishing tool that works by simply being thrown into flames at the source of the fire. Dry chemical fire extinguishers only work if the powder is sprayed directly on to the flames from close range but if one is alarmed by sudden fire, especially in the case of children and the elderly, they can be extremely difficult to use effectively. With Toss Out, however, the bottle breaks upon impact with a floor or wall and the solution contained within puts out the flames. By keeping it accessible, should the unthinkable happen and a fire break out, one can extinguish the flames at the early stage and ensure a route of escape. The fire-extinguisher can be used on petrol, oil and textile fires. The design of the tool is a compact, red doughnut shape so does not require a specific place to be kept and does not look out of place in a general living area. The doughnut shape has been chosen specifically as it makes the tool easy to grab and easy to throw.

JFP Japan Fire Protect, Inc.

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Evolve through meaning

During the Edo era (1603 to 1868), large deposits of gold and silver were discovered in Sado Island. The shogunate designated the area as part of his dominion and gathered together the most highly skilled craftsmen from all over Japan. They then built a town and the items needed for everyday life. Ceramicists then found deposits of an iron-rich red clay, or “Mumyoi” within the gold deposits. This iron rich clay, when fired and hardened, assumes a distinctive red colour. This was the beginning of the Mumyoi Yaki story

9 Breakfast crockery/ 永柳陶房 Nagayanagi Tobo

▶①Mug (L) / ②Morning plate/
③Bowl / ④Mini bowl



Make the most of breakfast

Looking again at the importance of the first meal of the day, 4 pieces of Mumyoi Yaki crockery to allow for a truly indulgent breakfast.






Mumyoi is produced in Sado Island and mixed with standard clay to make clay suitable for pottery manufacture. Expertly shaped on a potter’s wheel the pieces are allowed to dry naturally after which they are fired in a kiln at 1200°C. The resulting items have usually shrunk by up to 30% of their original size. One of the distinctive characteristics of Mumyoi Yaki is the high-pitched, almost metallic sound it makes when struck. During the final stages of production the pieces are polished with sand to take away any roughness of texture although some degree of texture is left to give the finished article the distinctive Mumyoi Yaki look. This textured finish assumes an even greater sheen with repeated use as each piece matures and becomes even more beautiful with the passing of time.



Evolve through meaning

Breakfast crockery



Increasing numbers of people are forgetting the importance of breakfast as the source of the day's energy and either grabbing something out or skipping the meal entirely. We want people to look again at the importance of eating breakfast in the home by using this 4 piece Mumyoi Yaki crockery set.
The design takes the base red colour of the Mumyoi clay in Sado, Niigata and adds black, white and brown clays to enhance the beauty of the natural redness of Mumyoi Yaki. At once easy to store and great to use, the mug, morning plate and both sizes of bowl have been designed specifically for breakfast but are also perfect for use at other meal or snack times.

Specification / Item no:TNL06 / Size:①Mug L ∅90×H87mm(Volume 300cc),②Morning plate ∅205×H30mm,③Bowl ∅133×H53mm(Volume 300cc),④Mini bowl ∅82×H36mm(Volume 100cc) / Material:Mumyoi clay / Finish:Kneaded, vitrified (fired to a gloss) / Weight:①Mug L 150g,②Morning plate 380g,③Bowl 190g,④Mini bowl 75g / Design:Shuichi Nagayanagi

永柳陶房
Nagayanagi Tobo
11-1 Aikawa-shimokyomachi Sado-City
952-1536 JAPAN

Evolve through meaning

In the reception of Marunao's modern head office building there is on display an exquisitely carved “sumitsubo”, or Japanese ink pot. The ink-pot is a symbol of the work of the master carpenter who uses the tool to demark lines to cut along when working with wood. Marunao’s beginnings, 75 years ago, lie with the manufacture of pull-along ink-pots on wheels for use by carpenters. These days the mainstay of Marunao’s business lies in the manufacture of wooden items designed for frequent use such as chopsticks and other tableware that require a high degree of accuracy but must also be extremely durable.

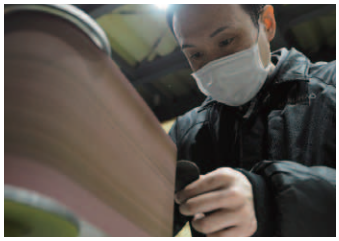
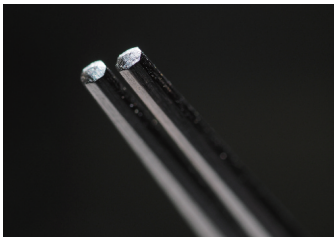
10 Gentleman’s walking stick ①“Snake”and ②“Hawk”



MARUNAO Marunao Co.,Ltd.

“The aesthetics of conduct”, expressed through the use of the European walking stick. Marunao have taken this icon of gentlemanly manners one step further and created sticks from special snakewood and ebony.



Marunao's signature product, the chopsticks, feature a 16 sided, or hexadecagon part where the chopsticks are gripped, and an extremely fine 8 sided, or half octagonal point of a thickness of just 1.8mm. This shape allows for a comfortable, easy grip and a highly satisfying deftness when picking up food. This functionality, as well as the beauty of the form and the natural grain of the wood add up to create what could be termed the “ultimate chopsticks”. The chopsticks are made of ebony and rosewood, both of which are durable and able to withstand repeated exposure to water. These woods are so hard that sparks fly when they are cut with a rim saw. The item is then shaped through a sanding process, using sandpapers of varying textures until the desired form is achieved. It is a process that requires extremely delicate technical skills and a great deal of spirit. The range of walking sticks that Marunao wishes to introduce as part of the 2015 collection are also born of this same diligence and these finely honed techniques.



Evolve through meaning

The aesthetics of conduct





The precious snakewood inlay gives the air of something to be highly cherished whilst the line cut of the ebony lends the stick a particularly clean and sharp impression. Snakewood is a broad-leaf tree originating in South America. Of all precious woods it is one of the most difficult to procure. The term ebony is used to describe the hardwood that comes from the trees of the Ebenaceae family. The characteristically streaky wood is much prized and often used in the making of musical instruments. Both snakewood and ebony, being hardwoods, are very challenging to work with and a high level of technical skill is required to assemble multiple components. The resulting piece is then finished with Marunao's signature polish to bring out the very best in the natural woods.

Specification / Item no:TNL-009/Size:W850(900)×H42×D42mm(both ebony and snakewood) / Material:①Snakewood, rosewood, 18 carat gold, steel,②Ebony, silver 950, stainless steel, rosewood, steel / Finish:Urethane paint (both ebony and snakewood) / Designers:Takahiro Fukuda, Asami Maruta

MARUNAO
Marunao Co.,Ltd.
1662-1 Yada Sanjo-City 959-1107 JAPAN
http://www.marunao.com/

Our factories are here for you

The Niigata manufacturers of Hyakunen monogatari products, possess excellent skills and intuition which can be seen in this group of products. They want to use these abilities to be beneficial worldwide. How about creating the next generation of superior tools by combining your life experience with the Niigata manufacturer's ability?
Our factories are here for you.



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