IFDA

INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION

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IFDA Projects 2001 - 2023

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INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION

The International Furniture Design Competition, Asahikawa, Japan (IFDA) explores the future of furniture design, specifically furniture crafted from wood.

The competition has united international expertise and knowledge with the aim of advancing cross-cultural, friendly, and professional exchanges every three years since 1990.

This book presents **7** projects, beginning in 2001, designed by Paul HAIGH.

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About

Founded in 1990, IFDA promotes the skills of furniture design and manufacturing in Asahikawa, Japan. Asahikawa's woodworking industry has flourished as one of the leading centers in creating wooden furniture. Asahikawa joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of design in 2019. It is one of only three cities of design in Japan and one of just 40 in the world.

As part of this journey, the International Furniture Design Competition Asahikawa, IFDA, was created in 1990. It has been held every three years since. Every edition of this prestigious competition brings together expertise and design approaches from across the world, with a total of 9,433 entries from 77 countries and regions to date. Of these, more than 50 entries have gone on to be manufactured in Asahikawa and distributed throughout Japan and internationally.

The 2024 IFDA is expected to mark many firsts for the competition, including an opportunity for the finalists to present their creations before the final round of judging and the announcement of the results at the awards ceremony. Such additions will further elevate the sense of occasion and open up a world of possibilities to both showcase Asahikawa furniture from various perspectives and encourage active engagement with competition participants.

Asahikawa, the heartland of furniture in Japan, will undergo a major transformation as it continues to develop as a must-visit hub where professional and aspiring designers hope to build connections. As a first step on this journey, the hope is that the IFDA will continue to capture the imagination of as many people as possible as it looks to inspire even more talented designs on their way to realization.

Introduction

The International Furniture Design Asahikawa, Japan (IFDA) competition explores the future of furniture design, specifically furniture crafted from wood. The competition has united international expertise and knowledge with the aim of cross-cultural, friendly, and professional exchanges every three years since 1990.

The primary aim of each competition is to showcase the future of wood furniture and, more importantly, to emphasize the need to make use of limited resources within our modern society. Ideally, the designs need to be made to be loved, be used for many decades, and grow more beautiful with use and over time. Crafting from wood is fundamental to these ideals, but the use of other innovative ideas and methods is also important.

The IFDA competition seeks forward-thinking yet aesthetically timeless designs that follow these future-oriented principles. Focusing on the theme of wooden furniture, it is important that the designs are newly created and previously unpublished, i.e., having never appeared on the market, in public media, or as winners in other awards.

A preliminary selection process narrows over 900 international entries down to 15–25 works that advance to prototype fabrication. During the main selection process, an international jury of experts examine the full-scale prototypes and select three winners and finalists.

This book presents seven IFDA projects beginning in 2001. Of the seven projects, **glance** (2001) and **springboard** (2011) were selected as finalists and advanced to the prototype final evaluation.

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IFDA Projects 2001 - 2023

glance seating - 2001

flex high + low table - 2004

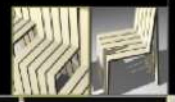
springboard chair - 2011

branch chair + table - 2014

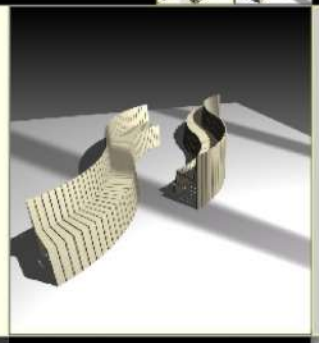
dash table - 2017

saki console table - 2020

sugi bench - 2023



...glance competition board



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ASAHIKAWA 2001

private...glance

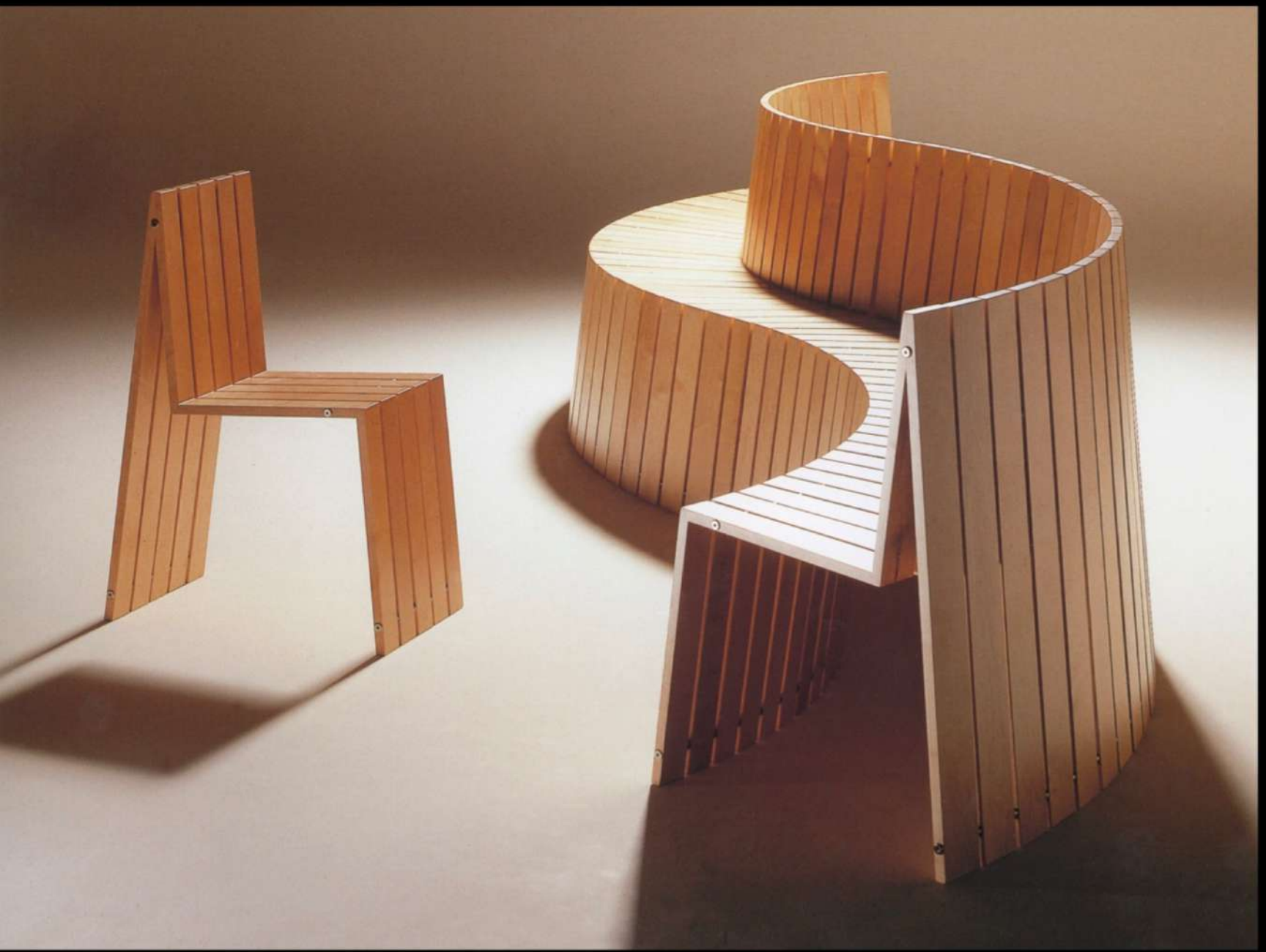
public...glance

...glance is a seating product expressing the idea of structural lightness. Inspired by Gerrit Rietveld's zig-zag chair, glance re-interprets his nation that a composition should be comprehended '... at a glance' with a minimum of elements.

Five identical slats of finger-jointed Japanese maple are held in compression by lateral rods to form the 'private...glance' chair.

Various slat sections are combined to form bench versions, including straight, concave, and convex 'public...glance' configurations.

glance



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ASAHIKAWA 2001

...glance private + public

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ASAHIKAWA 2001

...glance chair

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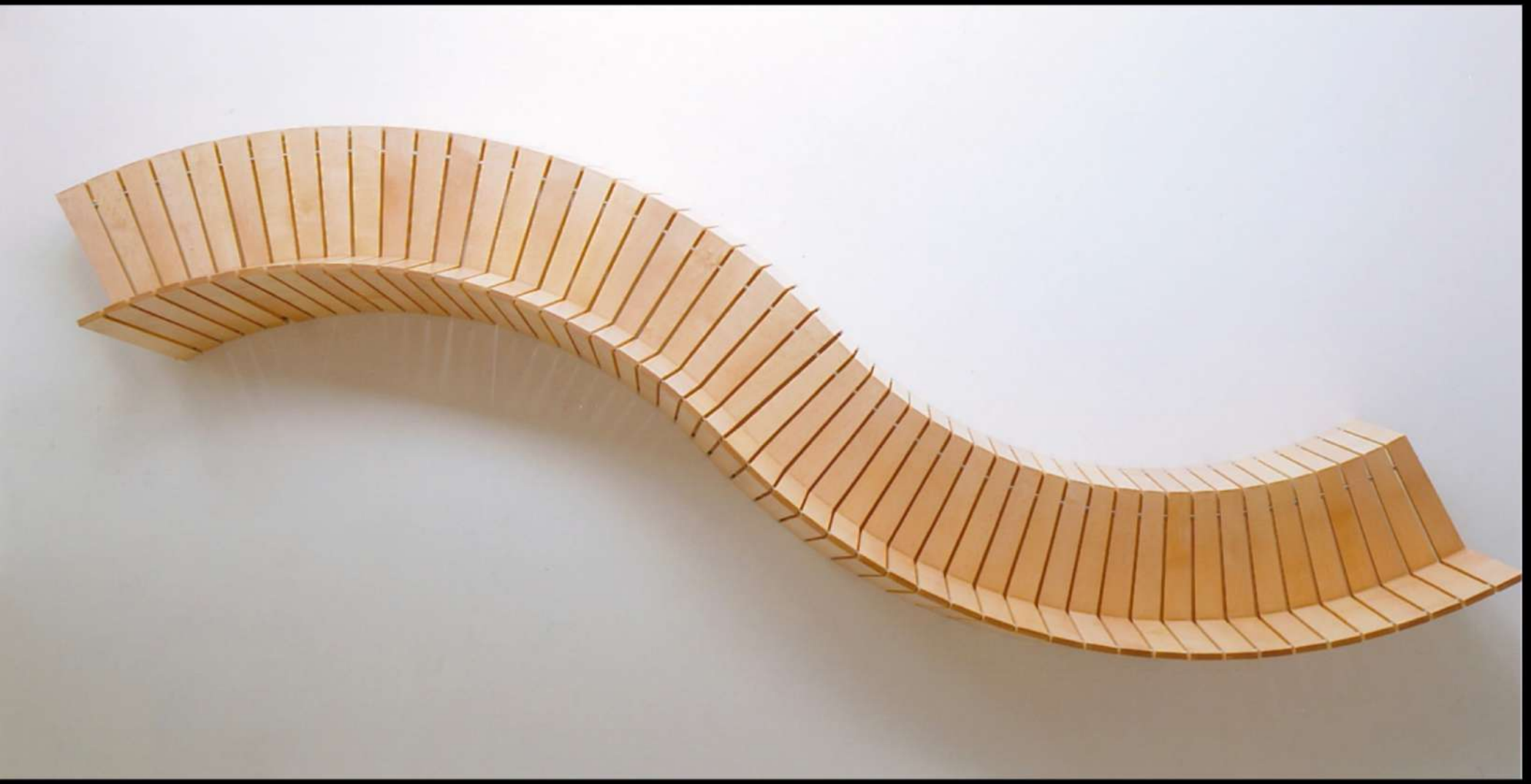
ASAHIKAWA 2001

...glance seating



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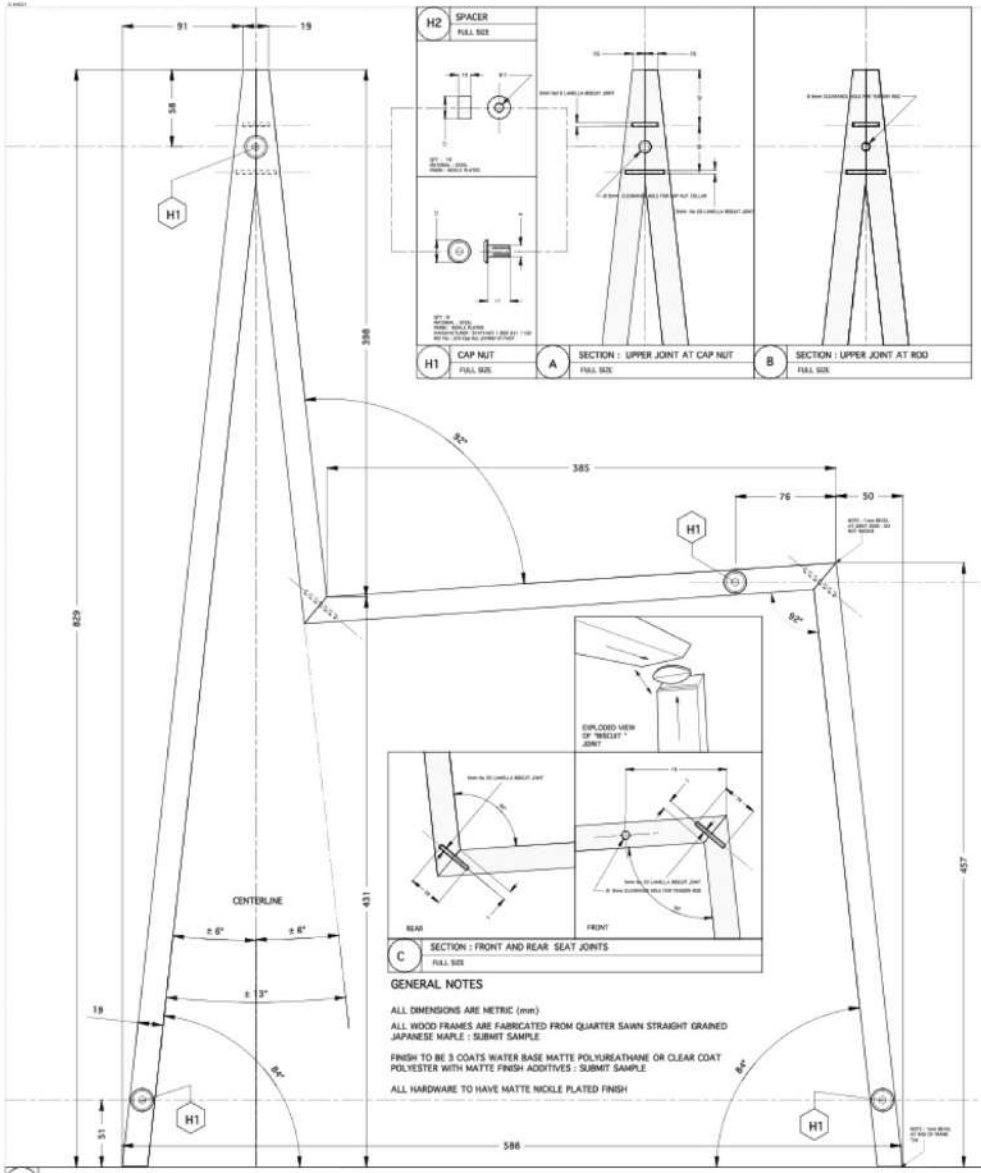
INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION

ASAHIKAWA 2001

...glance seating



GENERAL NOTES

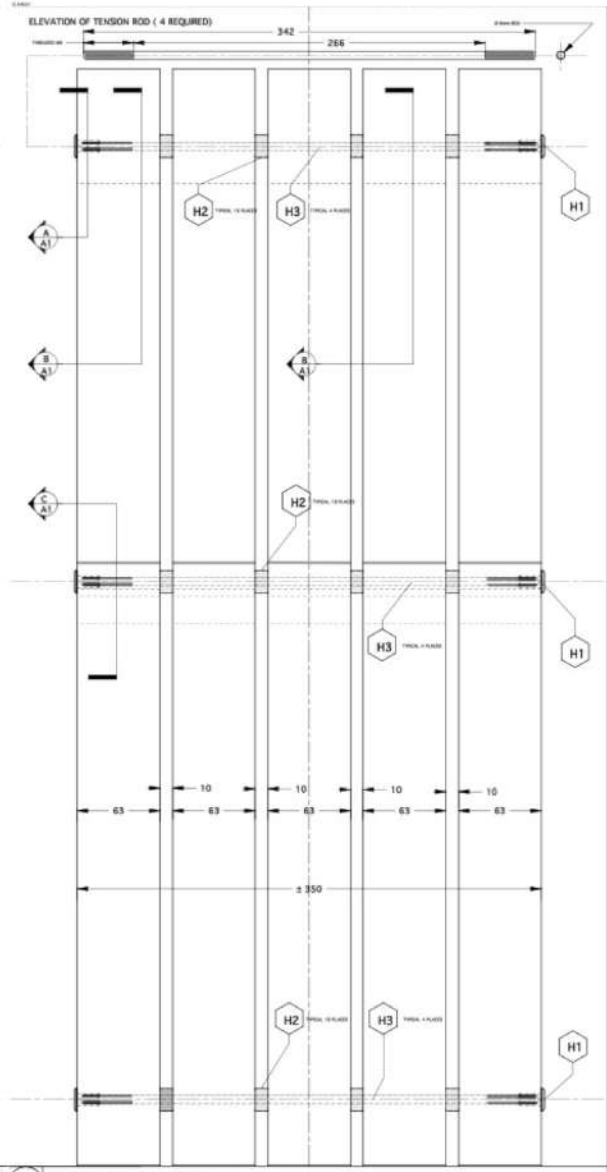
ALL DIMENSIONS ARE METRIC (mm)

ALL WOOD FRAMES ARE FABRICATED FROM QUARTER SAWN STRAIGHT GRAINED JAPANESE MAPLE : SUBMIT SAMPLE

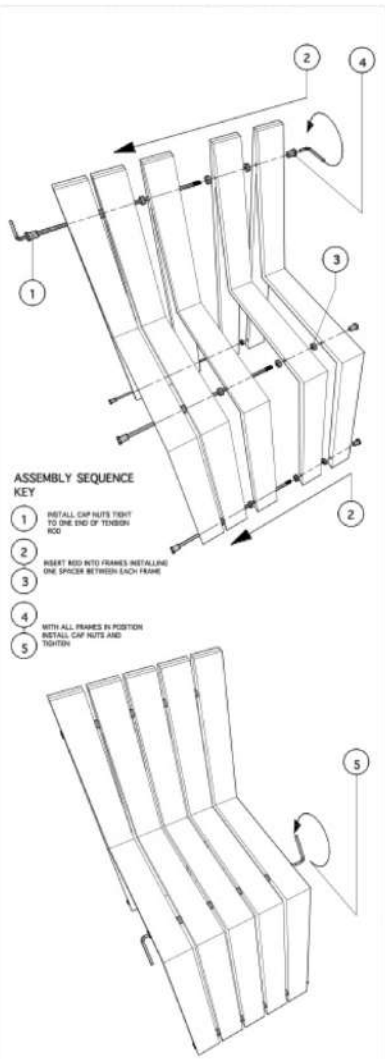
FINISH TO BE 3 COATS WATER BASE MATTE POLYUREATHANE OR CLEAR COAT POLYESTER WITH MATTE FINISH ADDITIVES : SUBMIT SAMPLE

ALL HARDWARE TO HAVE MATTE NICKLE PLATED FINISH

1 ELEVATION : CHAIR FRAME SIDE
FULL SIZE



2 FRONT ELEVATION : FINAL ASSEMBLY
FULL SIZE



3 PERSPECTIVE SHOWING ASSEMBLY SEQUENCE

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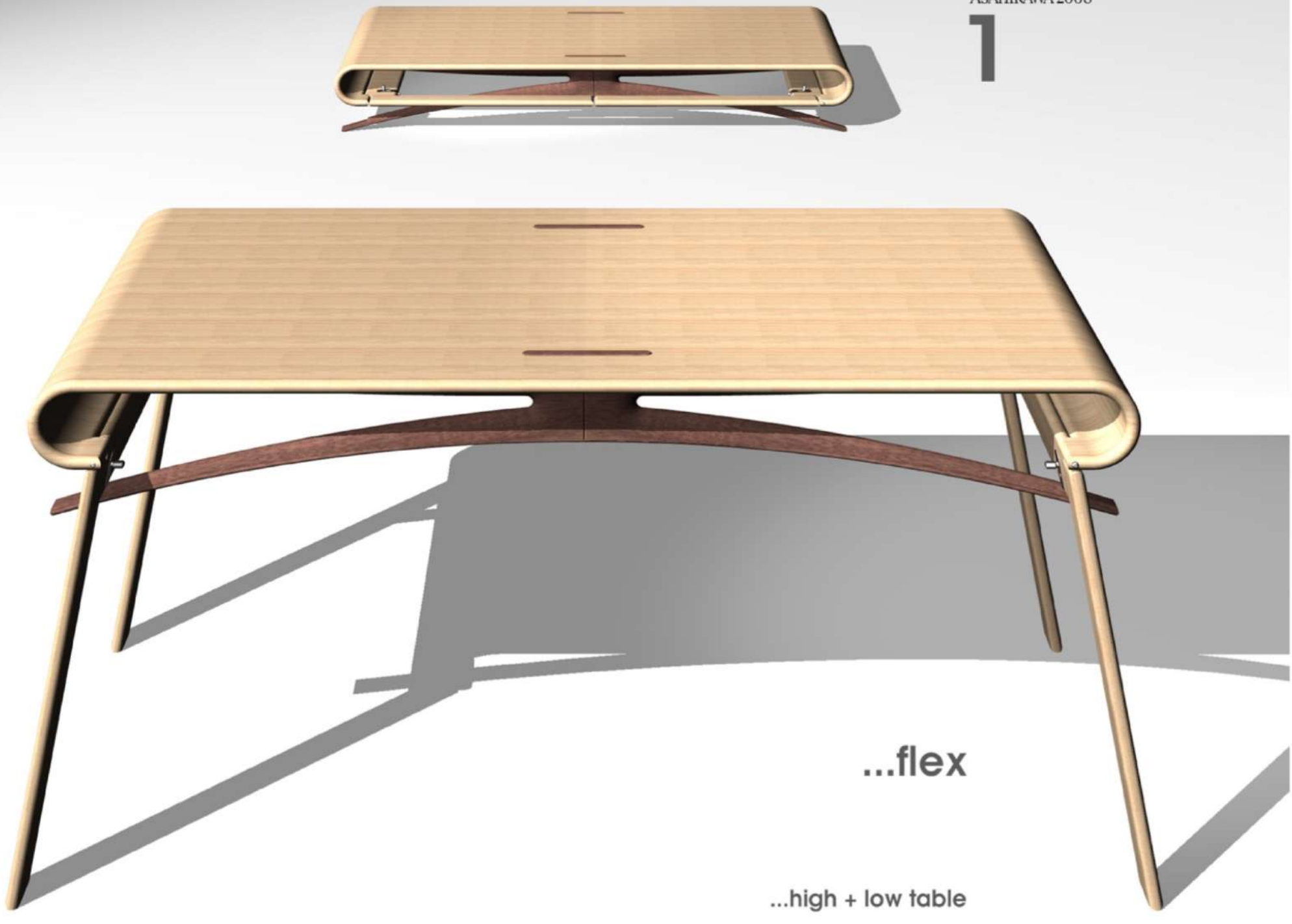
ASAHIKAWA 2008

1



...flex

...high + low table

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ASAHIKAWA 2008

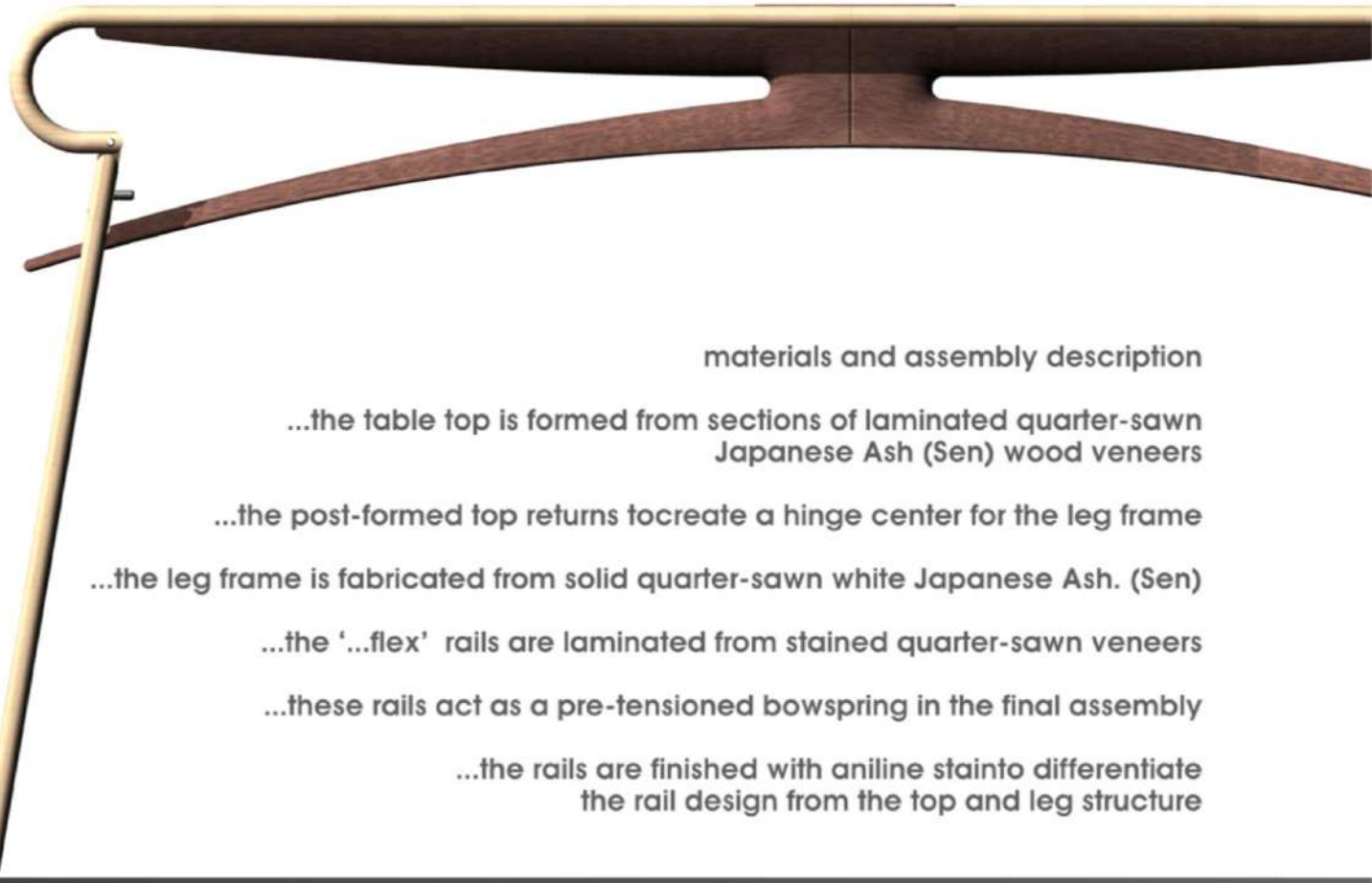
2

...the '...flex' concept examines a flexible
and adaptive furniture concept in a high + low table

...the intrinsic 'spring' qualities of laminated wood are used as the
technical means to achieve this structural and functional transformation

...adaptation and flexibility are two functions that define modern urban living

...the '...flex' table concept examines these functions suggesting multiple uses and configurations



...flex

...high + low table

materials and assembly description

...the table top is formed from sections of laminated quarter-sawn
Japanese Ash (Sen) wood veneers

...the post-formed top returns tocreate a hinge center for the leg frame

...the leg frame is fabricated from solid quarter-sawn white Japanese Ash. (Sen)

...the '...flex' rails are laminated from stained quarter-sawn veneers

...these rails act as a pre-tensioned bowspring in the final assembly

...the rails are finished with aniline stainto differentiate
the rail design from the top and leg structure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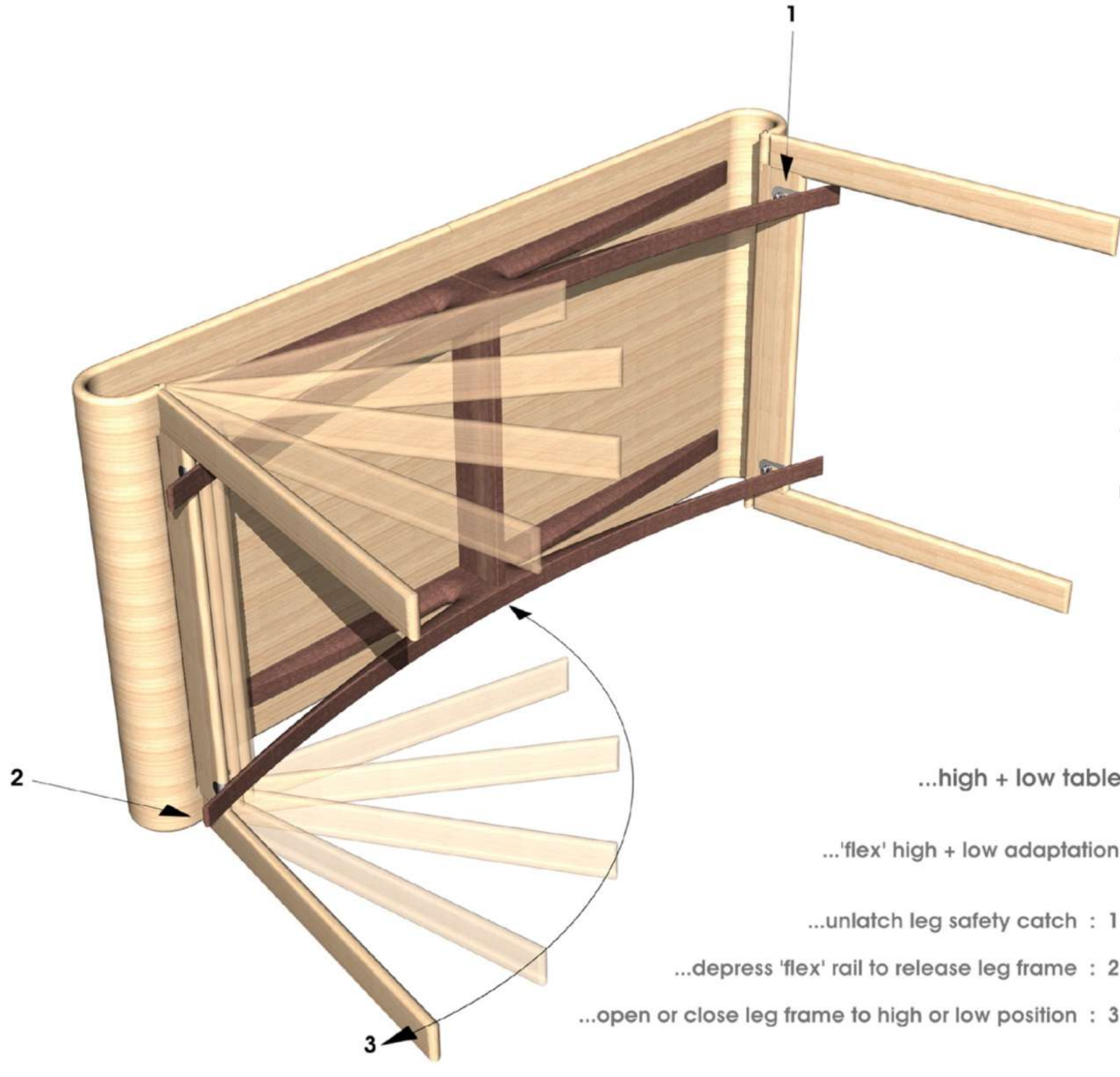
ASAHIKAWA 2008
3
...flex
...high + low table



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ASAHIKAWA 2008
4

...high + low table

...'flex' high + low adaptation

...unlatch leg safety catch : 1

...depress 'flex' rail to release leg frame : 2

...open or close leg frame to high or low position : 3

...exploded view : assembly

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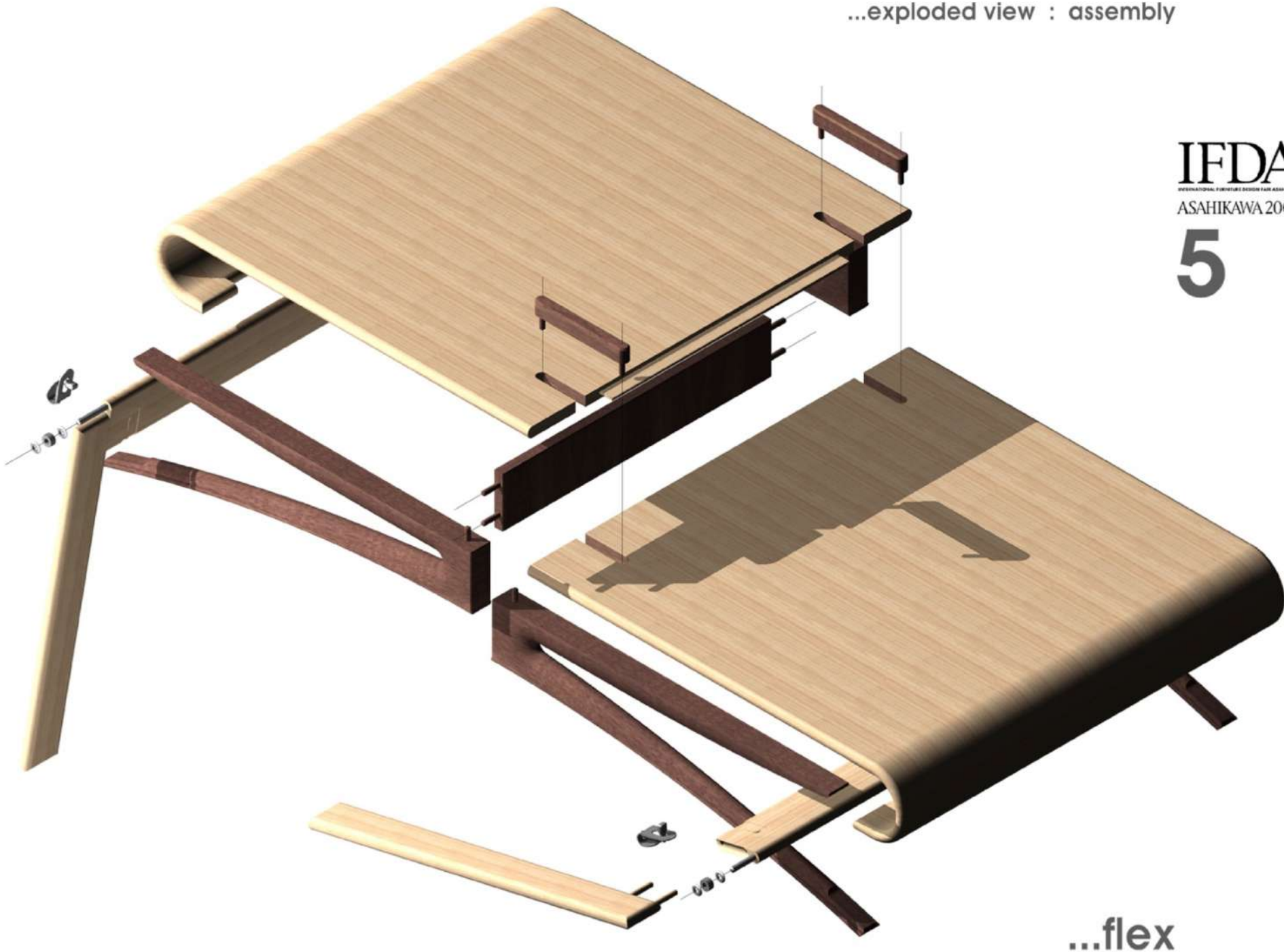
ASAHIKAWA 2008

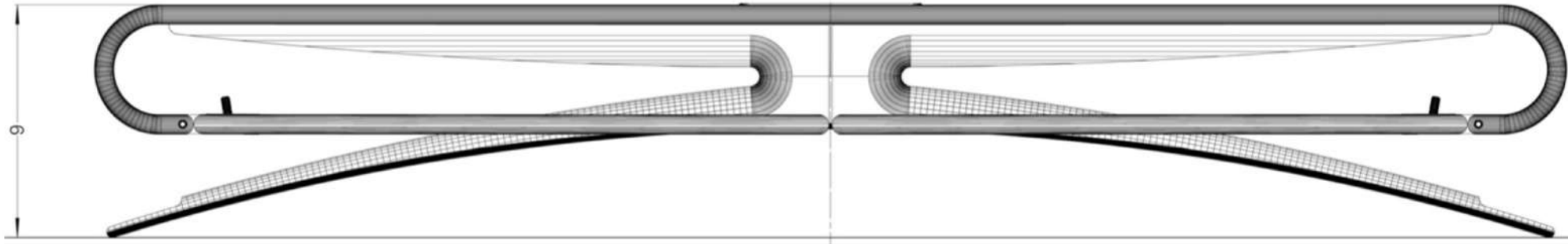
5

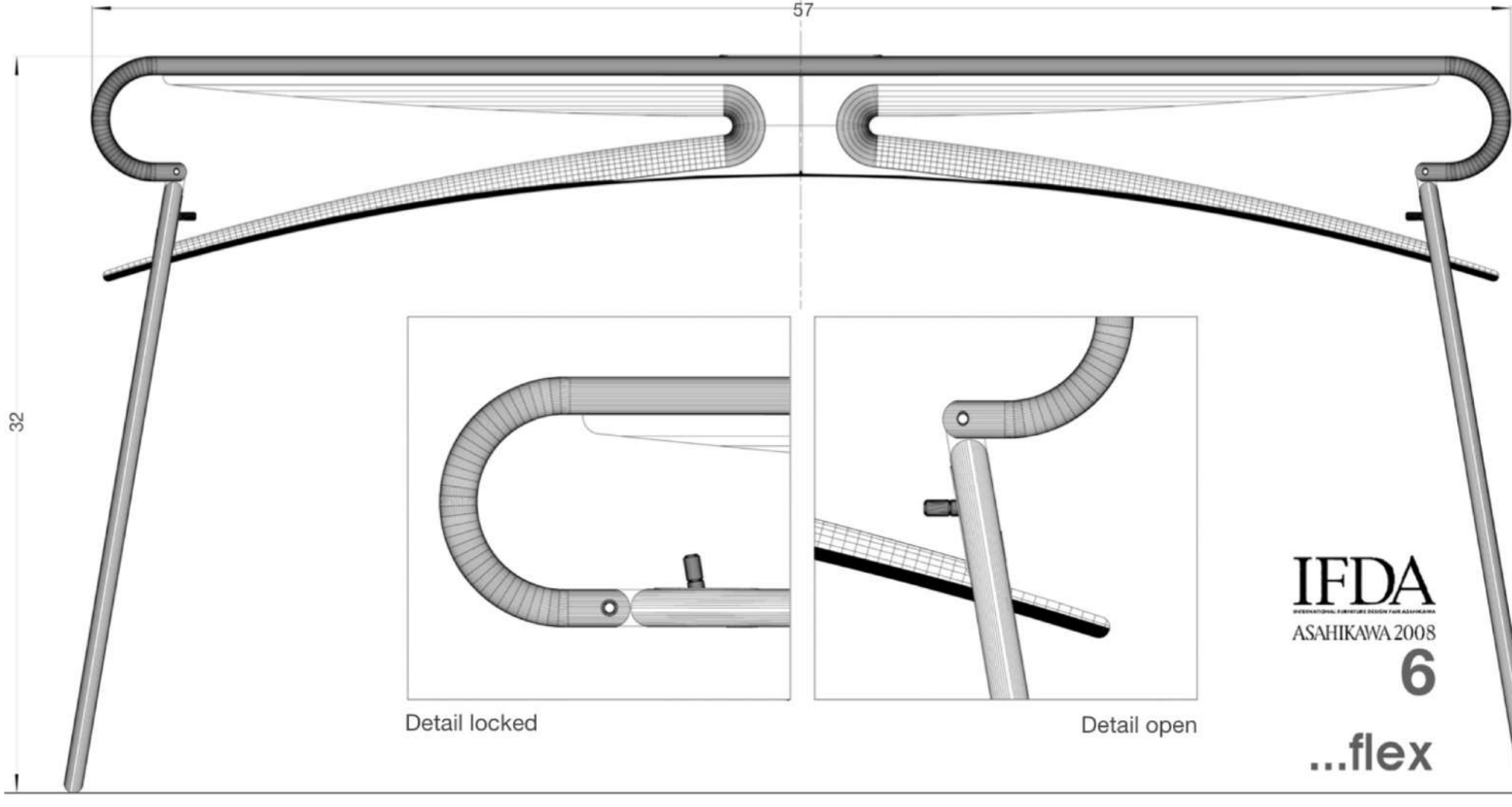


...flex

...high + low table

Low Table Elevation





Detail locked

Detail open

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ASAHIKAWA 2008
6
...flex

High Table Elevation

...dimensions

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ASAHIKAWA 2011

...sidechair + armchair

1

...springboard

...springboard is a sidechair + armchair

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ASAHIKAWA 2011

A 'backflex' feature embodies passive ergonomics derived directly from the intrinsic nature of the laminated wood veneer design.

Technically, the seating shell is manufactured in compression press molded technology utilizing maple core veneers with Japanese Ash 'sen' face veneers.

The 'slotted' springboard back configuration is router cut on a five-axis router set to an oblique angle.

A selection of face veneers, in natural and aniline stained finishes, is proposed to enhance the visual hierarchy of the shell/base composition.

The design concept responds to the competition theme by adhering to sustainable manufacturing tenants in reducing the scale of the product, re-cycling content through design for disassembly and re-use of locally sourced and processed wood products.

...sidechair front

...armchair front

2

...springboard

3

...springboard

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ASAHIKAWA 2011

...sidechair side

...armchair rear

4

...springboard

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ASAHIKAWA 2011

...armchair

5

...springboard

SIDE CHAIR : Version 2

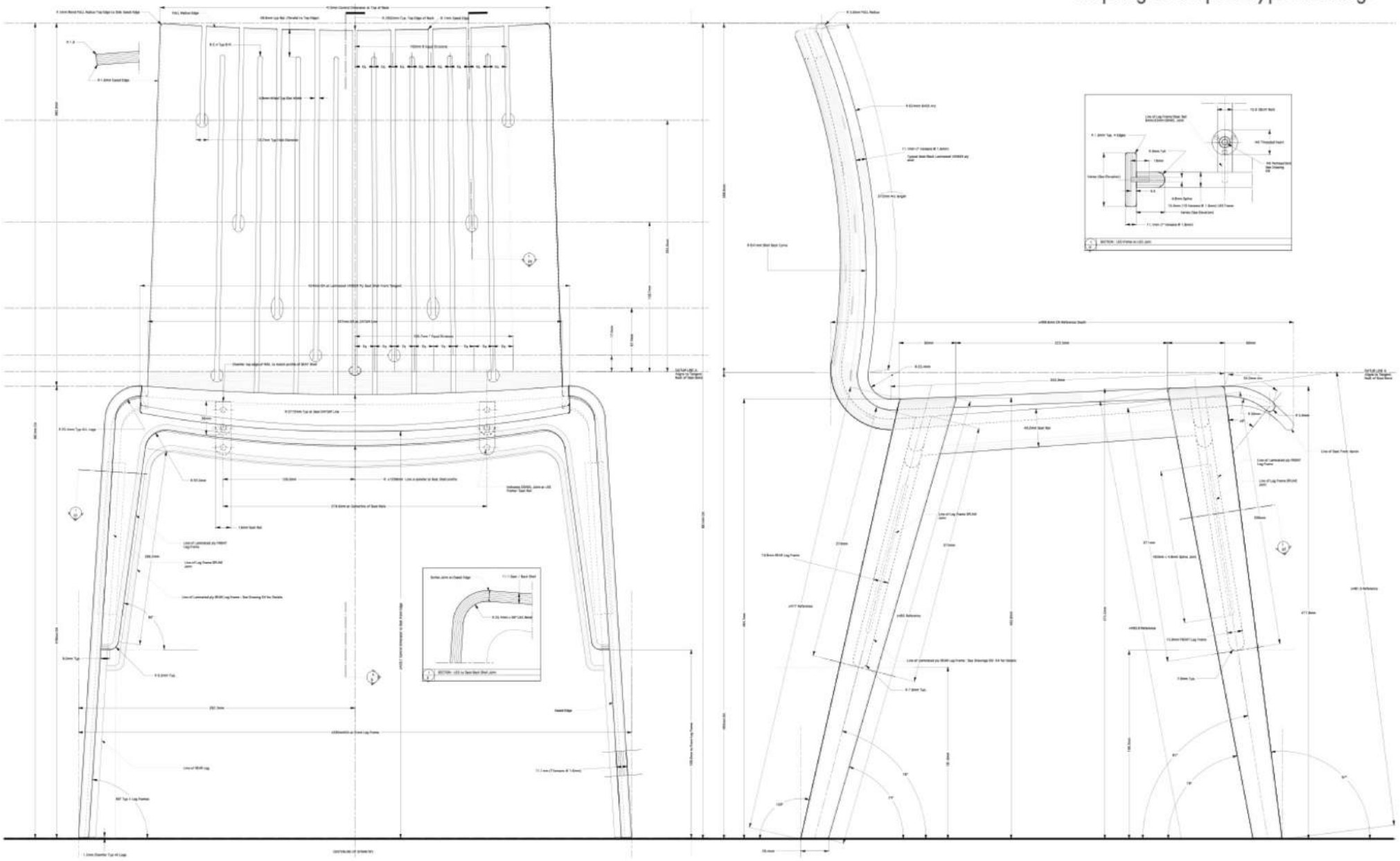
Match CONDE HOUSE Finish : BLACK Maple

Seat/Back Shell

Match CONDE HOUSE Finish : Natural Maple

Leg/Seat Frame

...springboard prototype drawings



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ASAHIKAWA 2011

...springboard chair

1

-dash *table*

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ASAHIKAWA 2017

…the ***–dash*** table explores solid, laminated, and veneered maple in a re-interpretation of the structural and compositional approach pioneered by Alvar Aalto

…structurally a laminated leg/rail is reduced in thickness and reinforced to resist flexing and bending by a solid rib. This single compositional element is repeated, in a 'pin-wheel' configuration, to complete the table under structure

…conceptually the design responds to sustainable manufacturing tenants by proposing the use of locally sourced and processed wood products

3

-dash *table*

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ASAHIKAWA 2017

4

•dimensions : 1200mm x 1200mm x 730mm (h)

• weight : 28 kg

• maple veneer top

• aniline stained tenon

• solid pinwheel top edge

• laminated maple leg/rail

• solid maple / beech stiffening rib

-dash *table*

• the leg/rails are laminated in maple veneers, the stiffening rib is machined solid maple, the top is maple rotary cut veneers with a processed wood core and a solid maple perimeter edging.

• all wood components are finished in odor-free water-based zero VOC coatings.

• insert tenon joints, in contrasting aniline stained maple, express the structural intent and visual rotation of the elements.

• materials : maple / beech

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ASAHIKAWA 2017

1

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ASAHIKAWA 2014

...branch high stool

...branches

The ***...branches*** series consists of the ***...branch*** chair, ***...branch*** table and the ***...branch*** high and low stools. An visual analogy to the tree branch is expressed in the composition, structure, and the craft joinery.

Each piece explores the branching of the leg into a perimeter support frame for either a seat or tabletop. Utilizing advanced 5-axis routing techniques, the branch connection between the leg and rail is made with an integrated compression joint.

The legs, branch joints, and rails are solid maple. Seats are pressed maple veneers, and table tops are maple veneers over processed wood cores. All wood components are finished in odor-free, weather-resistant, water-based zero VOC coatings.

The design concept responds to the competition theme by adhering to sustainable manufacturing tenants. The reduced scale of the product and use of locally sourced and processed wood products add efficiency to the manufacturing process.

3

...branch chair

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ASAHIKAWA 2014

4

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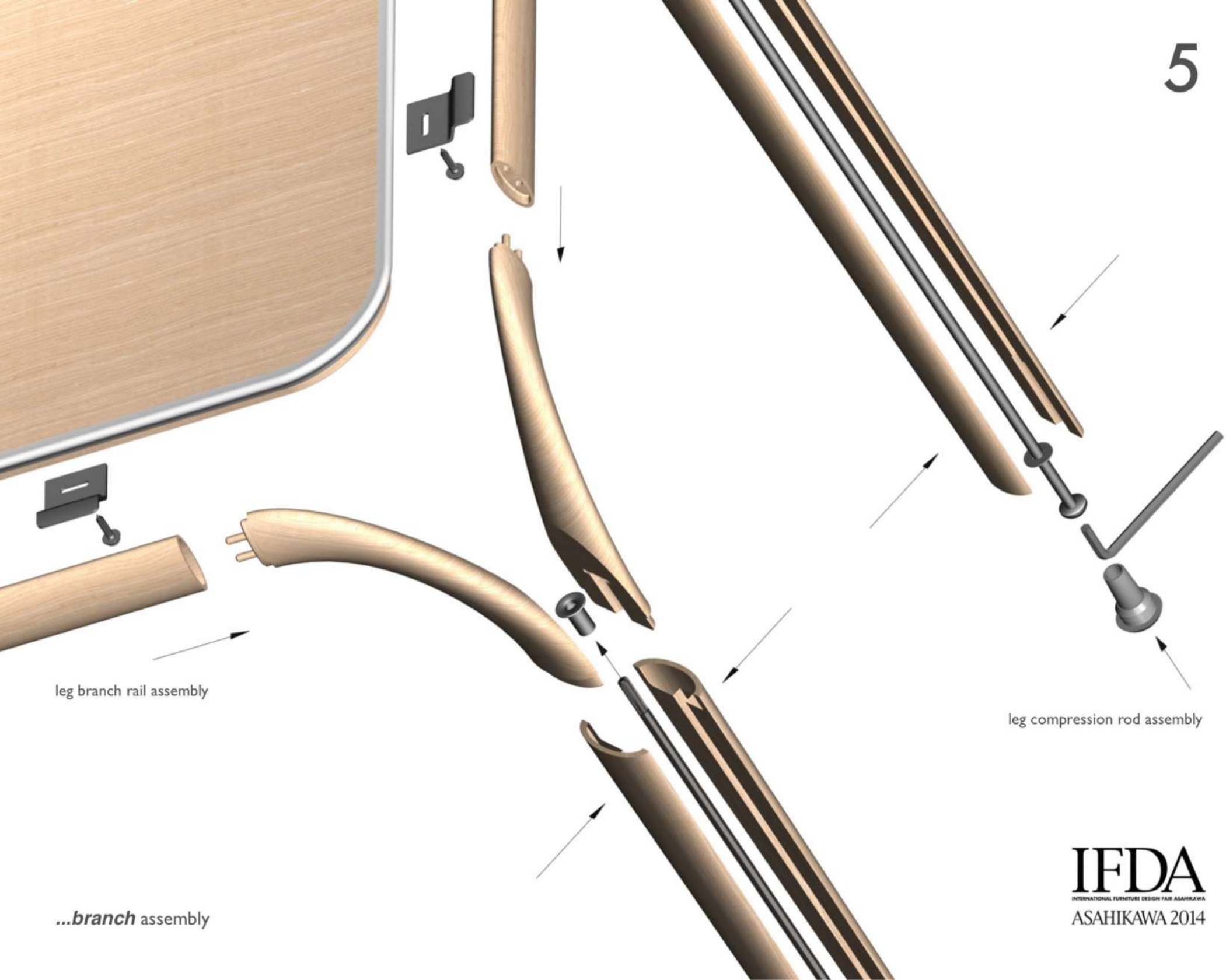
...branch low stool



leg branch rail assembly

leg compression rod assembly

...branch assembly

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ASAHIKAWA 2014

6

...branch table + chair

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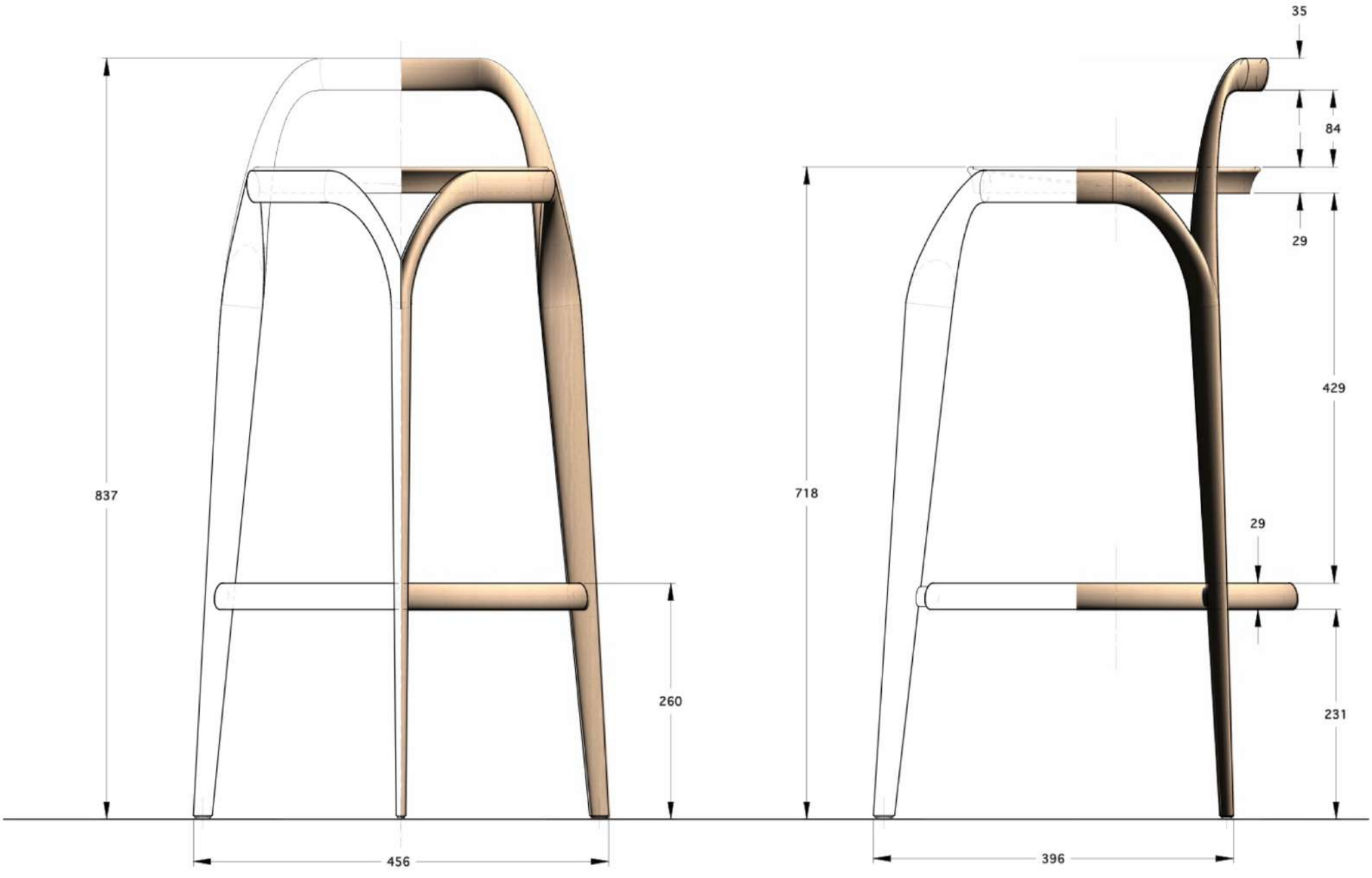
FRONT ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

All dimensions are metric in millimeters (mm)



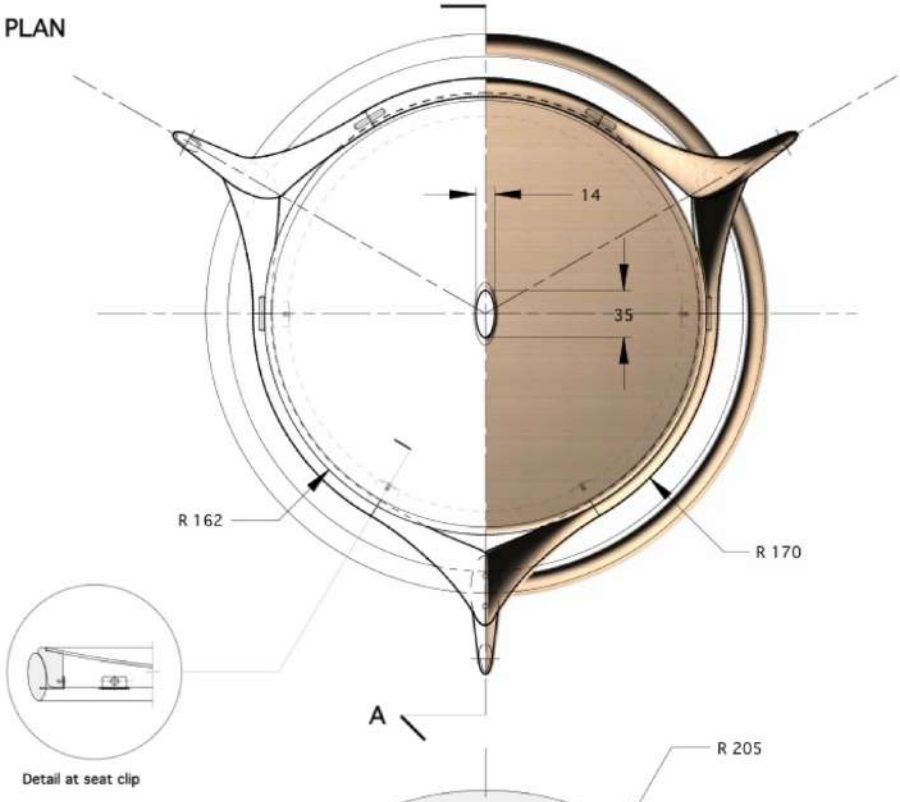
elevations

A

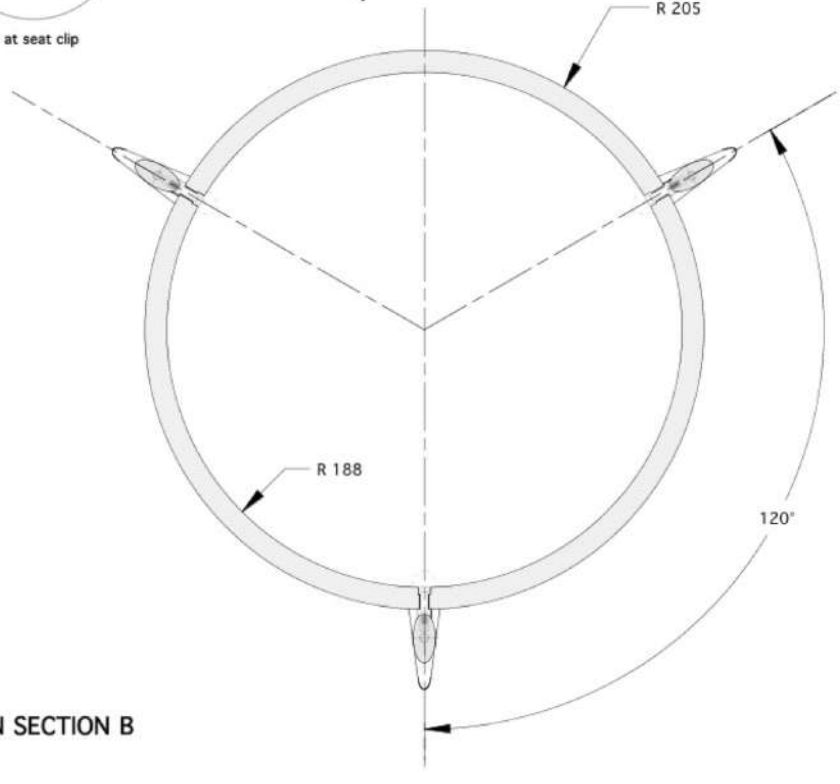
BRANCH high stool
Dimensions : 324mm (seat diam.) x 456mm (d) x 718mm (seat height)
Weight : ± 5.45kg

BRANCH side stool
Dimensions : 324mm (seat diam.) x 456mm (d) x 440mm (seat height)
Weight : ± 3.6kg

PLAN



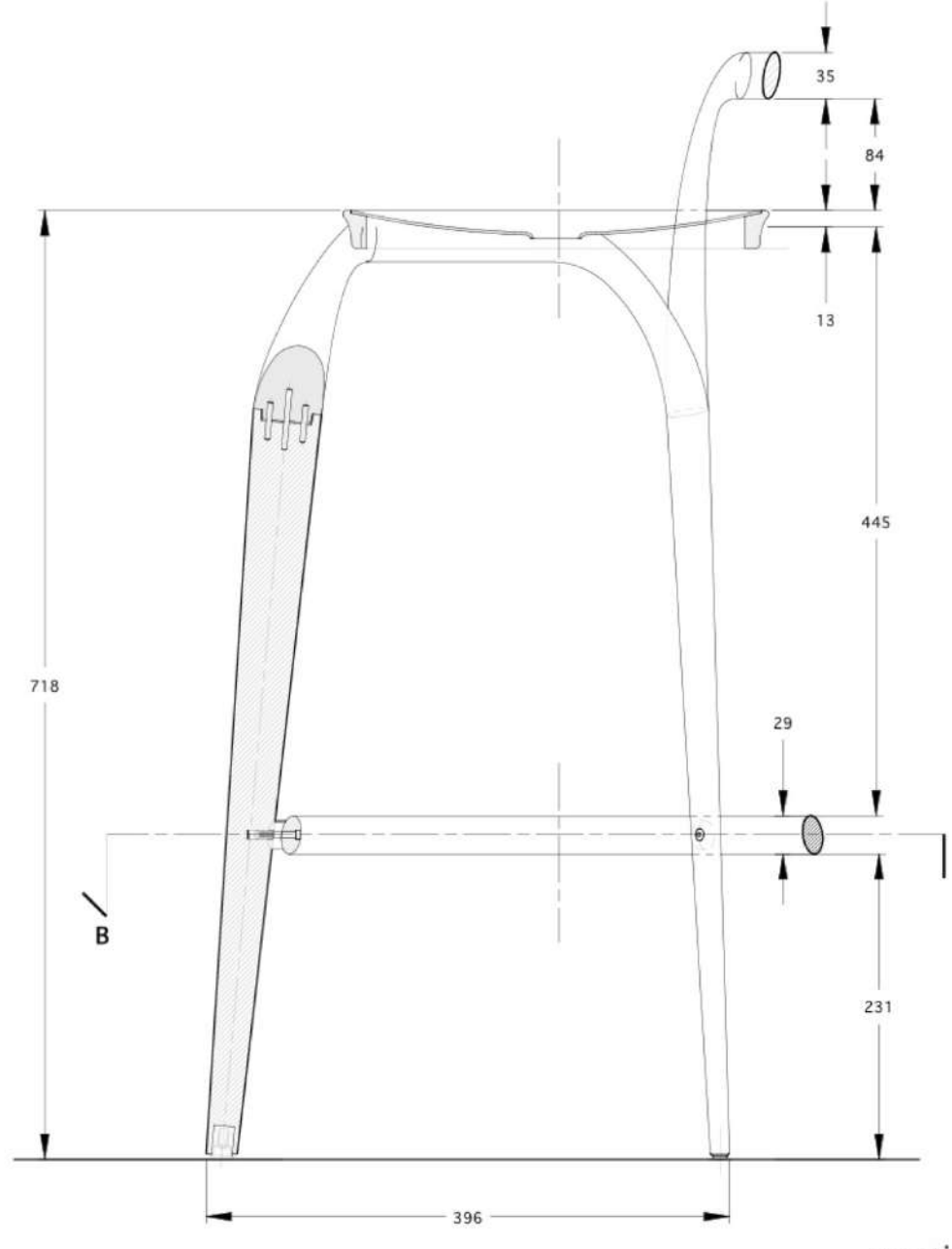
Detail at seat clip



PLAN SECTION B

SIDE VERTICAL SECTION A

All dimensions are metric in millimeters (mm)



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ASAHIKAWA 2014

sections

B

1

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…saké console table
…two undulating forms are moulded in laminated wood veneer technology from 1.6mm maple veneers
…each moulded form is spline joined into the assembled freestanding structure
…straight and moulded maple cross rails reinforce the top surface
…two storage drawers feature walnut drawer fronts
…aluminium protective feet complete the composition

saké
酒

2

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ASAHIKAWA 2020

*…the **saké** console table concept explores the sake tasting etiquette in an evolved furniture object*

…the design integrates the functional needs for storing, opening and tasting saké by incorporating bottle and glass storage, and drawer units for small sake cups (ochoko), flasks (tokkuri), cedar box cups (masu), and accessories

…the design responds to the competition concept by adhering to sustainable manufacturing tenants, including the use of limited and locally sourced wood products which elegantly mature over time

saké
酒

3

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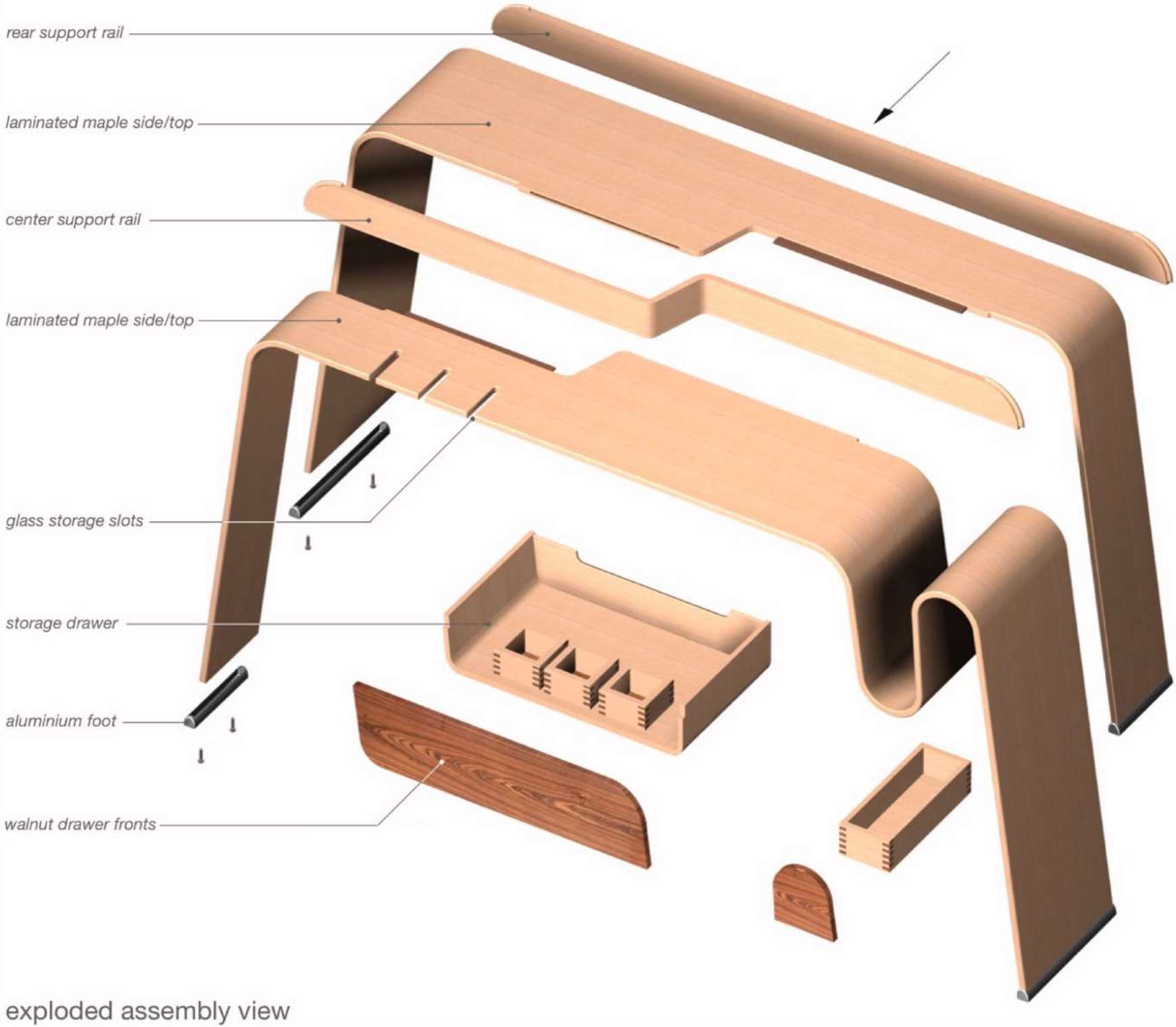
ASAHIKAWA 2020

saké
酒



4

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ASAHIKAWA 2020

saké
酒

exploded assembly view

5

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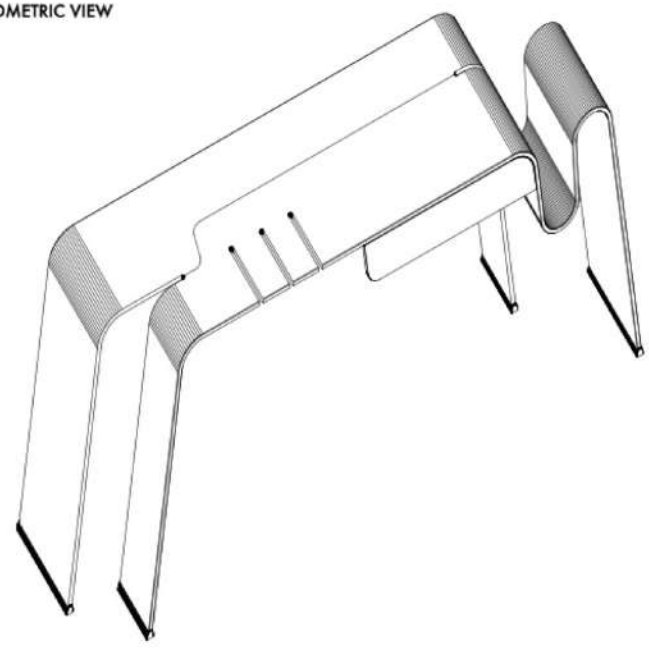
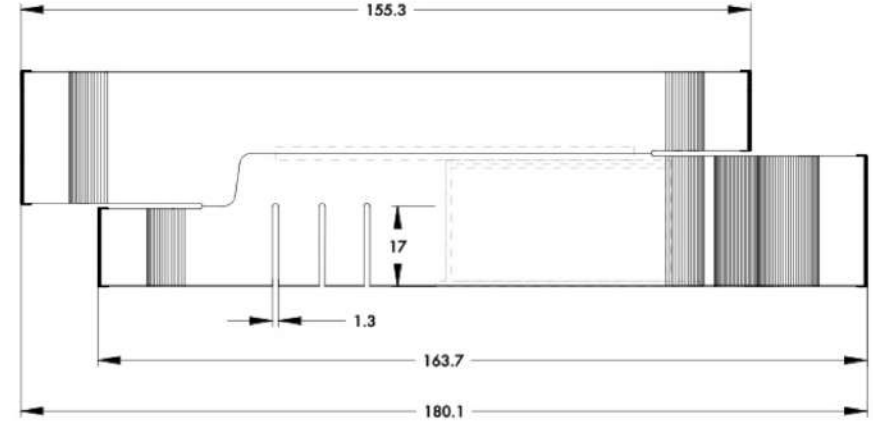
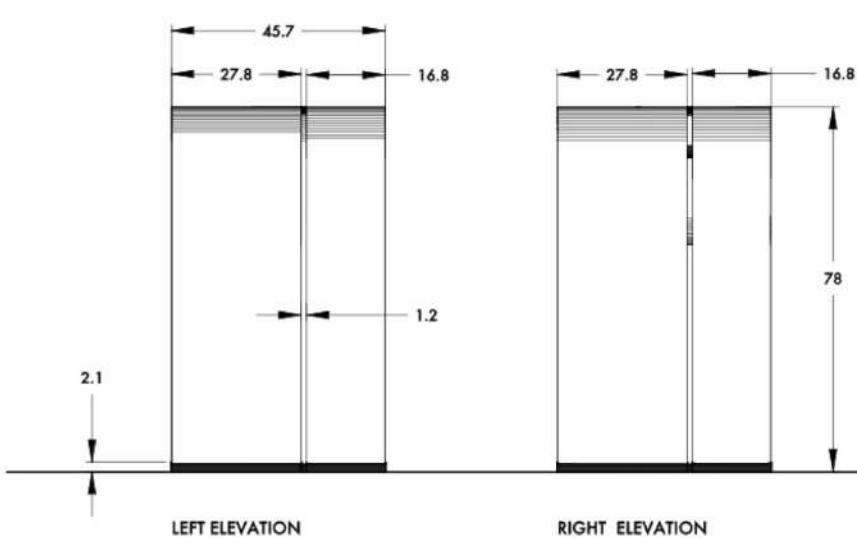
ASAHIKAWA 2020

ISOMETRIC VIEW



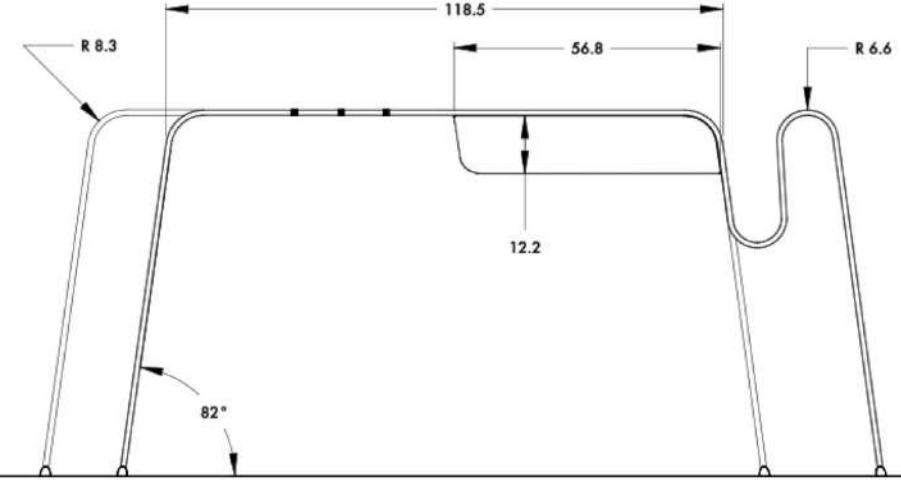
PLAN





LEFT ELEVATION

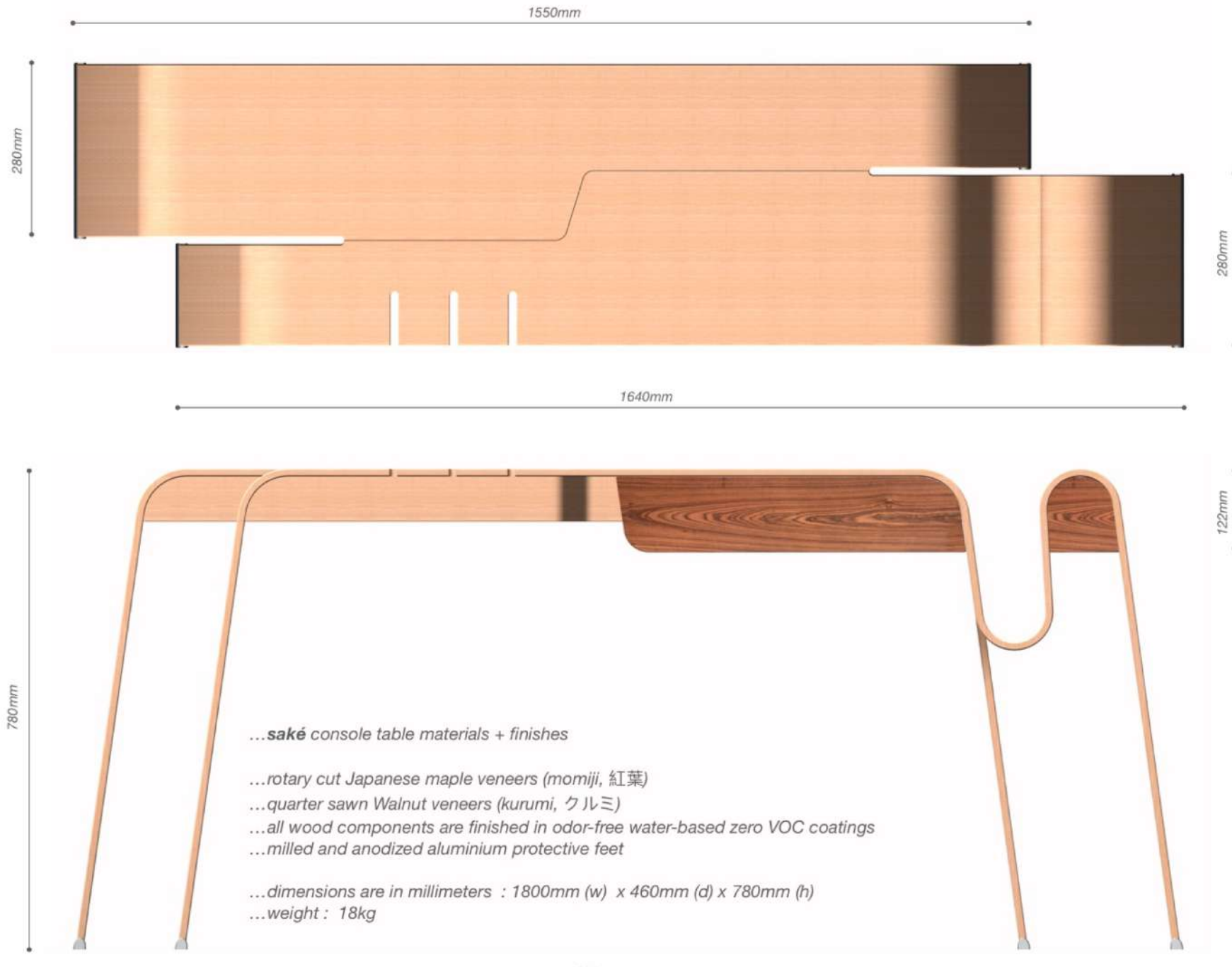
RIGHT ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION

All dimensions are metric in centimeters cm

saké
酒



*…**saké** console table materials + finishes*

…rotary cut Japanese maple veneers (momiji, 紅葉)
…quarter sawn Walnut veneers (kurumi, クルミ)
…all wood components are finished in odor-free water-based zero VOC coatings
…milled and anodized aluminium protective feet

…dimensions are in millimeters : 1800mm (w) x 460mm (d) x 780mm (h)
…weight : 18kg

saké
酒

general arrangement : dimensions

1

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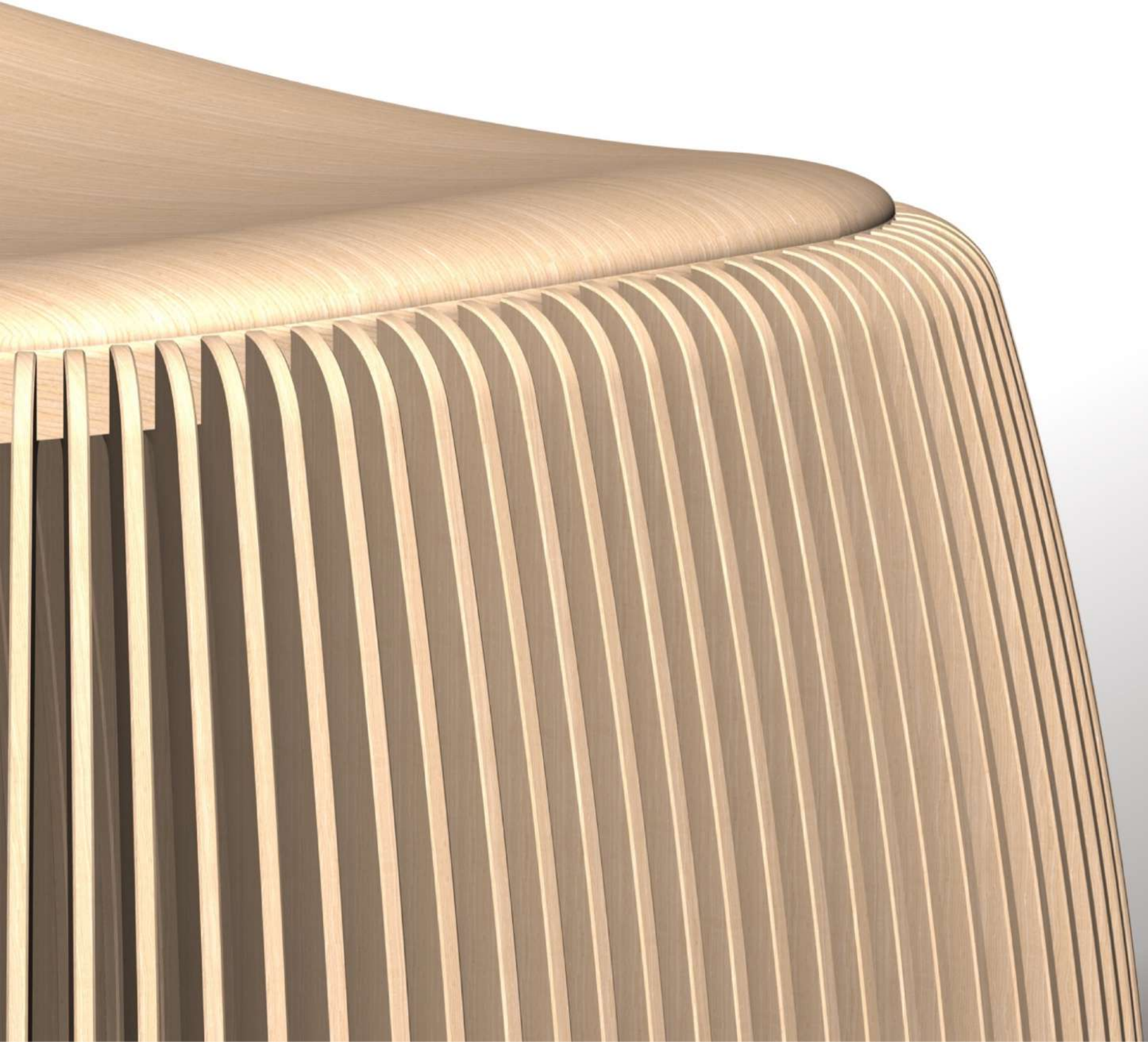
ASAHIKAWA 2024

杉

Sugi
bench



2

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ASAHIKAWA 2024

杉
Sugi

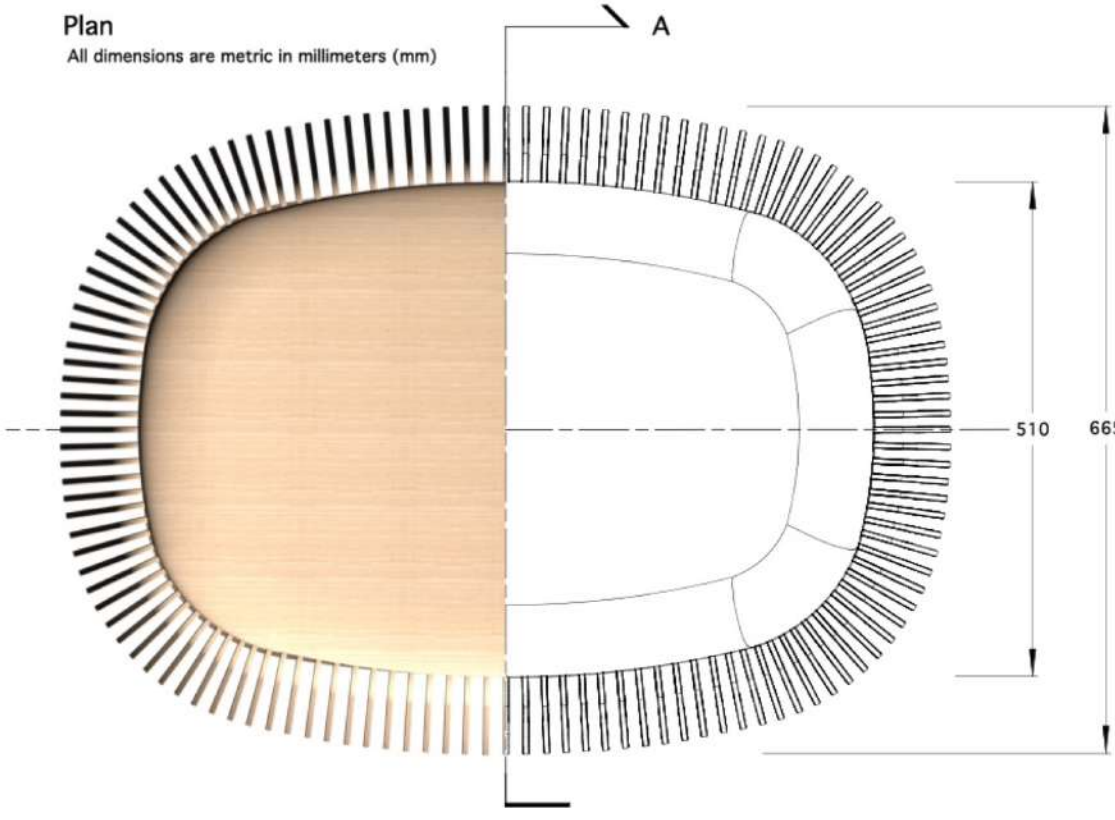
3

杉

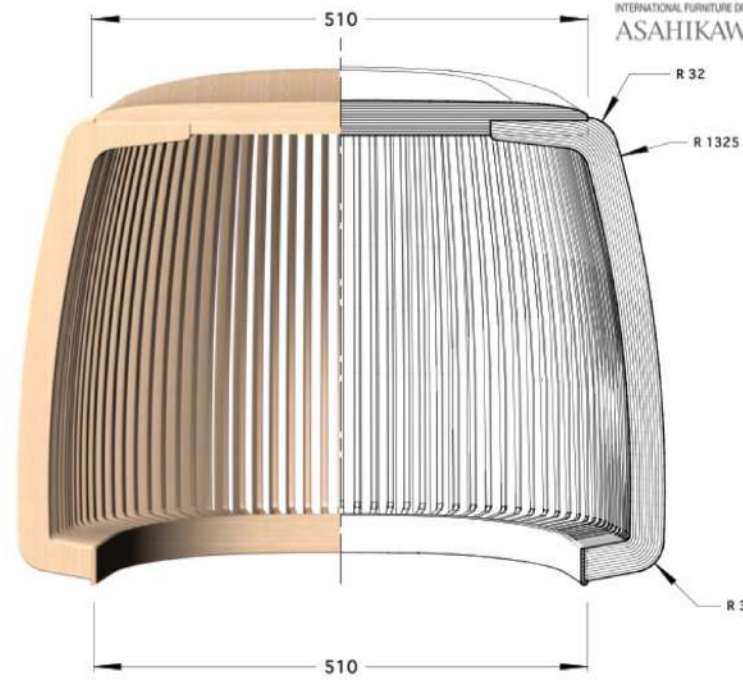
Sugi
bench

Plan

All dimensions are metric in millimeters (mm)



Section A



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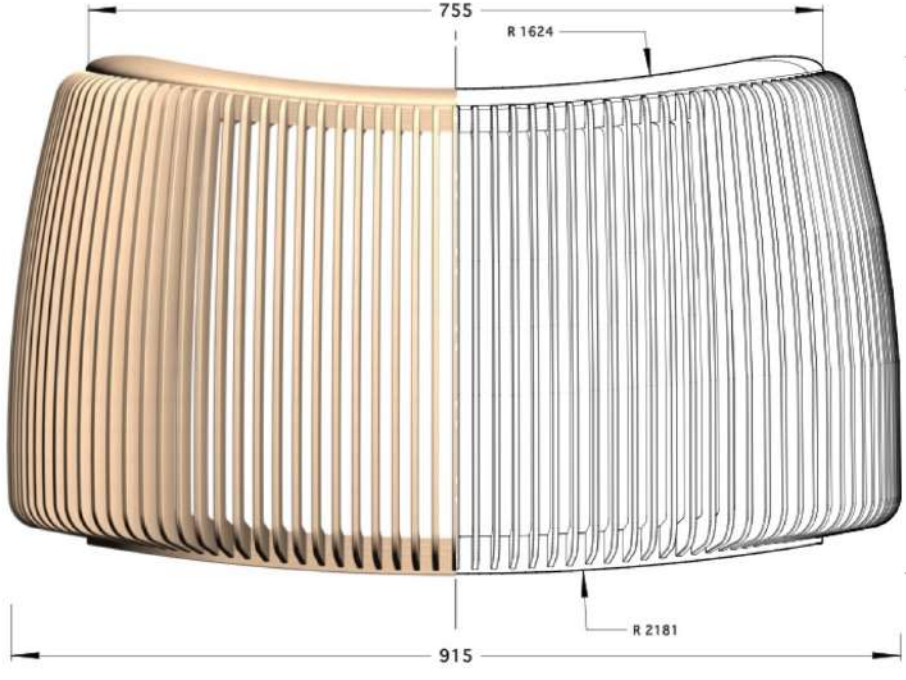
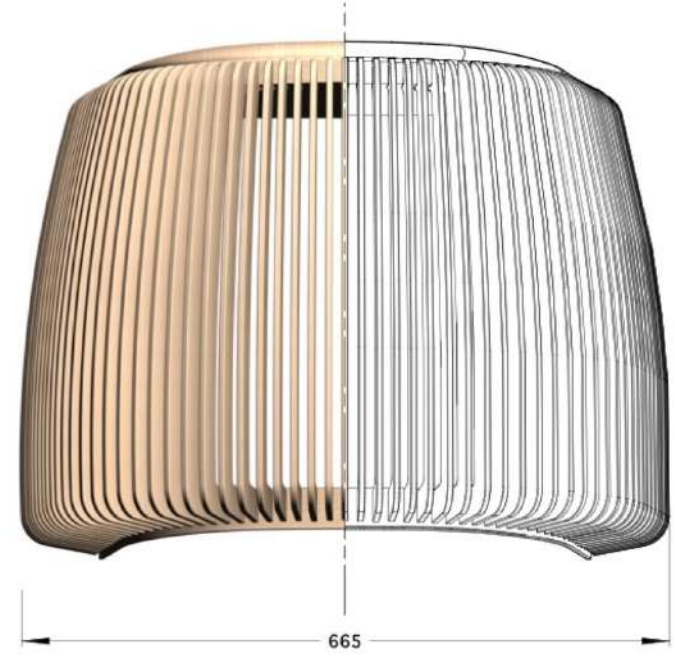
ASAHIKAWA 2024

4



Front Elevation



Side Elevation

杉

Sugi
bench

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The **HAIGH**Architects+Designers studio was founded in New York in 1985, by Paul Haigh and Barbara H.Haigh. The practice is recognized as a leading multi-disciplined architecture and design firm for its portfolio of award winning projects. The studio has completed projects for a wide variety of cultural and commercial clients in the United States, Italy, United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Australia.

We would like to acknowledge Minoru Nagahara, Yuki Watanabe, and the team of highly skilled prototype makers at Conde House (Interiors Center) Japan, for their invaluable help and guidance in developing the finalist projects for *glance* (2001) and *springboard* (2011).

City of Design
ASAHIKAWA

CondeHouse

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