

GEORGE NAKASHIMA WOODWORKER, SHOWROOM
1847 Aquetong Road
New Hope
Bucks County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6783-C
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

ADDENDUM TO:
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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GEORGE NAKASHIMA WOODWORKER, SHOWROOM

HABS No. PA-6783-C

- Location: 1847 Aquetong Road, Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 18938.
- Owner: The property is owned by Mira Nakashima Yarnall, and Kevin Nakashima the daughter and son of the original owners, George and Marion Nakashima.
- Present Use: The showroom is used for the display of many of Nakashima's iconic furniture designs and for offices of the site managers and the reception of visitors.
- Significance: Like the Nakashima house, the showroom is a finely crafted structure that blends inside with out, and Modernism with traditional Japanese motifs. Its construction in 1954 signaled the success that Nakashima had achieved, necessitating a formal space to show examples of his furniture and to receive clients.
- Description: The showroom is a one-story rectangular building with a large open interior space to display furniture, with room for conducting business. Like the Nakashima house, it includes character defining elements such as exposed framing members highlighted against white ceilings, stone walls visible both inside and out and a stone fireplace with custom-designed metal hood, large expanses of glass, and the use of shoji screens. The interior features a Tatami platform, cherry wood floors, a small fireplace, a hanging cabinet, and wall lights designed by Nakashima. In addition to the showroom area there is also a bathroom, office and kitchen area now used as office space. In keeping with the Japanese philosophy to harmonize the structure with its natural environment, sliding glass doors lead to a wood deck that overlooks a small pond, situated at the gable end. The building has a gently sloped gable roof supported by recycled barn beams and covered with corrugated Transite. Wall materials include stone, wood and stucco. The building is trapezoidal in shape and has a covered wood deck and patio accessed via sliding rice paper screens. The landscape includes stone retaining walls and pebble walks.
- History: The showroom was constructed in 1954, specifically for use as an area to put examples of the furniture on display and as the business office.
- Sources: James A. Michener Art Museum, *George Nakashima and the Modernist Movement* (essays by Steven Beyer and Matilda McQuaid). Doylestown, Pennsylvania: James A. Michener Art Museum, 2001.
- Mira Nakashima. *Nature, Form & Spirit: the Life and Legacy of George Nakashima*. New York: Abrams, 2003.
- Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS, 2012