

NEW HOPE, PA
JUL 7 1982
18938



Mr. George L. Townsend



WASH DC



Mr. George L. Townsend
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GEORGE NAKASHIMA, WOODWORKER NEW HOPE, PENNSYLVANIA 18938

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The Soul of a Tree

A WOODWORKER'S REFLECTIONS

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



THE SOUL OF A TREE

A Woodworker's Reflections

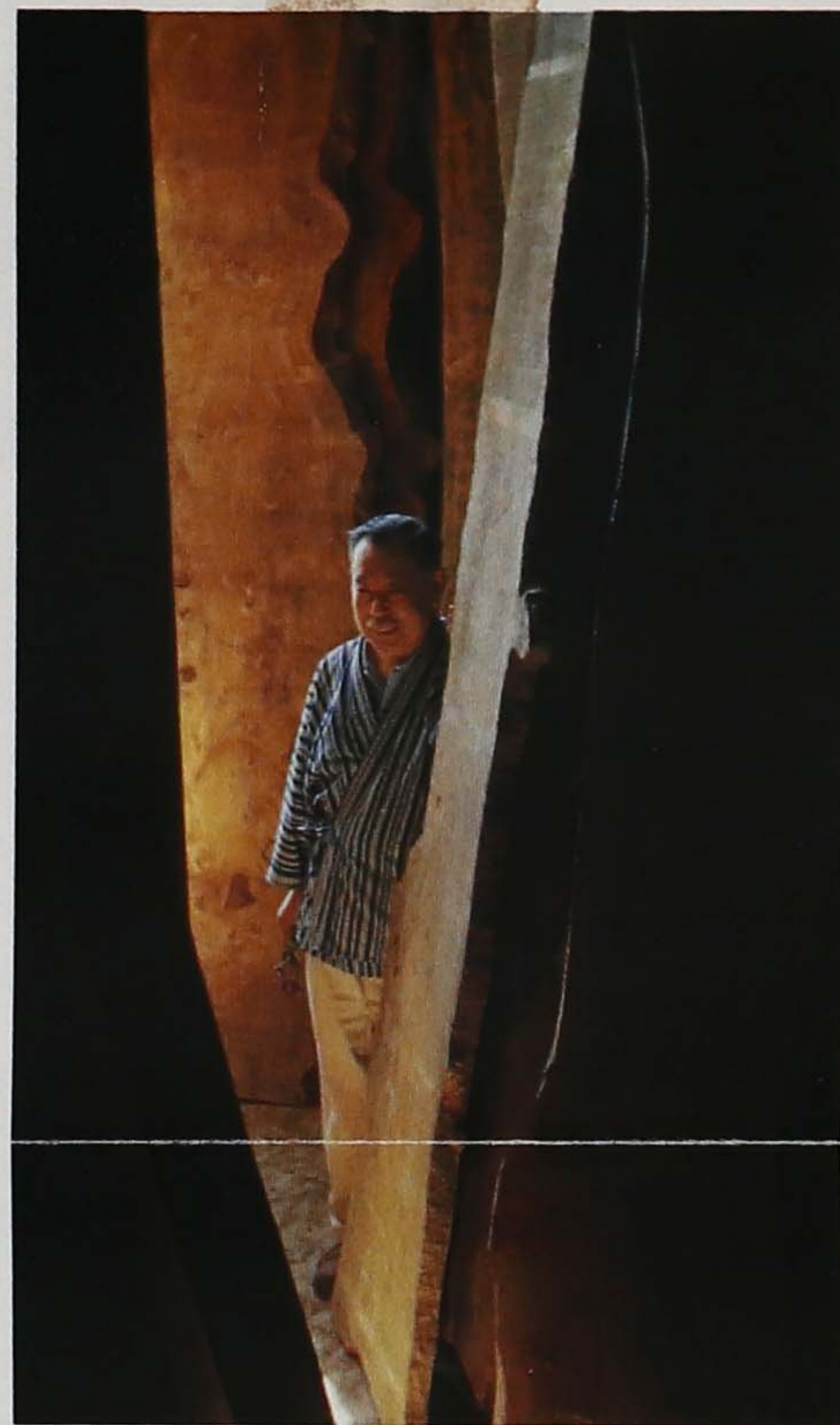
George Nakashima

introduction by Dr. George Wald

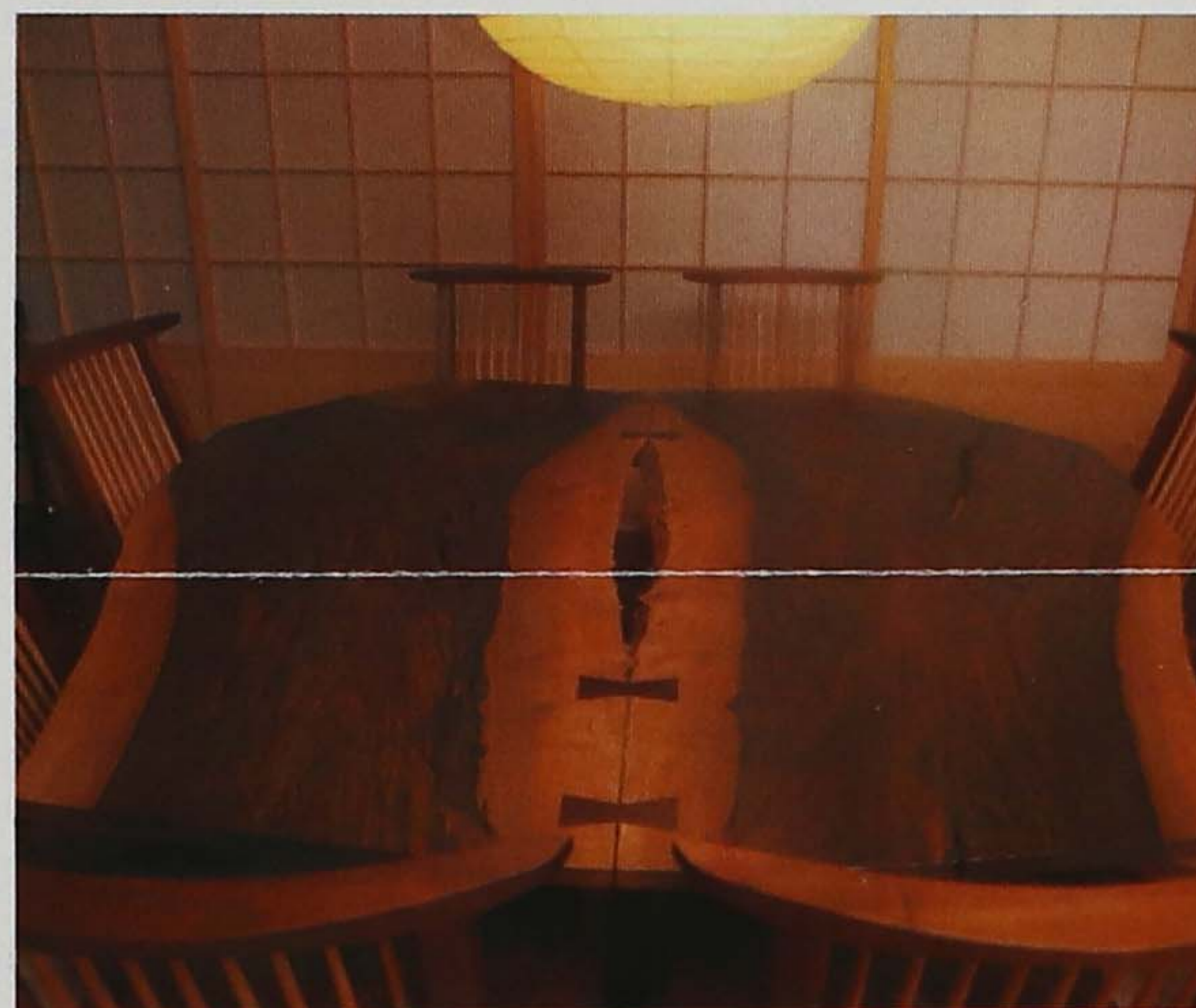
English walnut from forests planted by Queen Elizabeth I, rosewood and laurel from India, zebrawood from Africa—out of these and other varieties of richly grained, rare timber, George Nakashima creates exquisite furniture that graces executive boardrooms and mansions of the rich as well as modest homes of couples who prize excellence. This lavishly illustrated volume presents an intimate portrait of this artist-philosopher who shares his experiences, techniques, and above all, his devotion to giving noble trees a second life as furniture.

"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

Autographed copies available from George Nakashima, New Hope, PA 18938
~~\$52.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling.~~



216 pages; 106 color plates
114 black-and-white plates & drawings.
LC: 81-80655
ISBN: 0-87011-482-4
~~Through December 31, 1981: \$39.95~~
~~Hardcover: \$19.95~~



July 6, 1982

Mr. George L. Townsend
[REDACTED]

Dear George:

It was indeed a pleasure to have received your recent letter in reaction to the article in Time Magazine.

Our work has progressed well over the years, especially since the time you last visited us. We now have a compound of a fair number of buildings set in our wooded hillside in Bucks County. We employ ten men in the shop, with others doing special work on a part-time basis.

My work has become quite international in scope. I have had four large shows in Tokyo, and expect to have another one this fall. I also manufacture furniture in Takamatsu, Japan, associated with a very fine company that conscientiously does my work. I have also worked for a number of years with the National Design Institute in Ahmedabad, India.

I am glad to hear that you are in the Seattle area, and the Olympic peninsula I know well, having hiked more or less the length and breadth of the Olympic Mountains, including several trips from Hood's Canal to the ocean. My sister still lives in Seattle, and we do get there occasionally. The next time we are out I hope we can get together some way.

My work here has become a family affair, with my son (born in Pennsylvania) helping me full time. My daughter, who has a family of four children, and her husband (an architect she married in Japan) are living across the road from us in a house we built for them. My daughter Mira was in the camp, and she also works for us part time, as she has her own house to take care of.

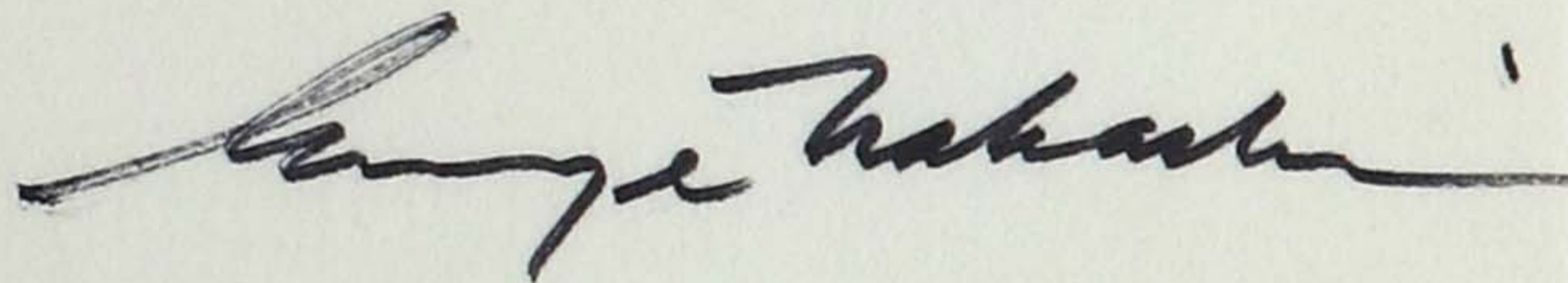
I have had a very fine press in Japan, which has been most sympathetic, with the expressions along the lines of "the return of the native."

I have written a book, which has been out for about six months and has gone well. I am enclosing a flyer, should you be interested. This book is soon to be published also in Japan, in a translation.

I am sending on a listing of recent publications that might interest you.

Hoping to see you before too long,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Nakashima". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

GKN:ajo

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DECORATING, A House and Garden Guide, Fall/Winter 1976/77
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, March 20, 1976
TODAY (The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine), February 12, 1974
THE MIAMI HERALD, March 14, 1976
AMERIKA (In Polish and Russian), April 1973
THE SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE, September 1972
WOODENWORKS (RENWICK GALLERY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION),
January-September 1972
LIFE MAGAZINE, June 12, 1970
THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, October 10, 1977
HOUSE BEAUTIFUL, October 1978
FINE WOODWORKING, January/February 1979
TOWN & COUNTRY, February 1981
REPUBLIC SCENE, November 1981
FINE WOODWORKING, January/February, 1982
AMERICAN CRAFT MAGAZINE, February/March 1982
TRAVEL AND LEISURE, May 1982
TIME MAGAZINE, June 21, 1982

Also a large body of writing in Japanese during the last ten years.

SHUKAN GENDAI, June 1, 1978
KATEIGAKO, September 1978