



IFDA
INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION

Paul HAIGH

IFDA Projects 2001 - 2023

IFDA

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 seven projects, beginning in 2001, designed by Paul HAIGH.

glance seating - 2001



flex high + low table - 2004



springboard chair - 2011



dash table - 2017



branch chair + table - 2020



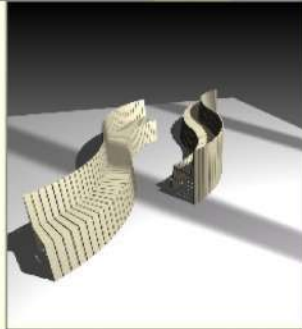
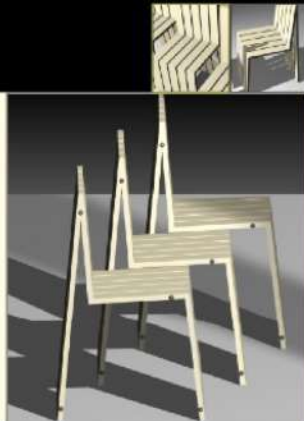
saki console table - 2020



sugi bench - 2023



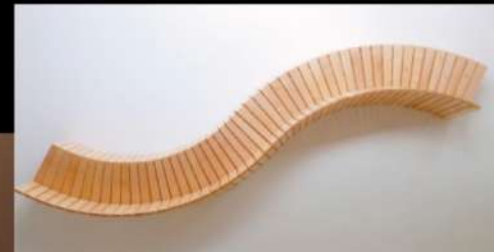
...glance competition board



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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 notion 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.

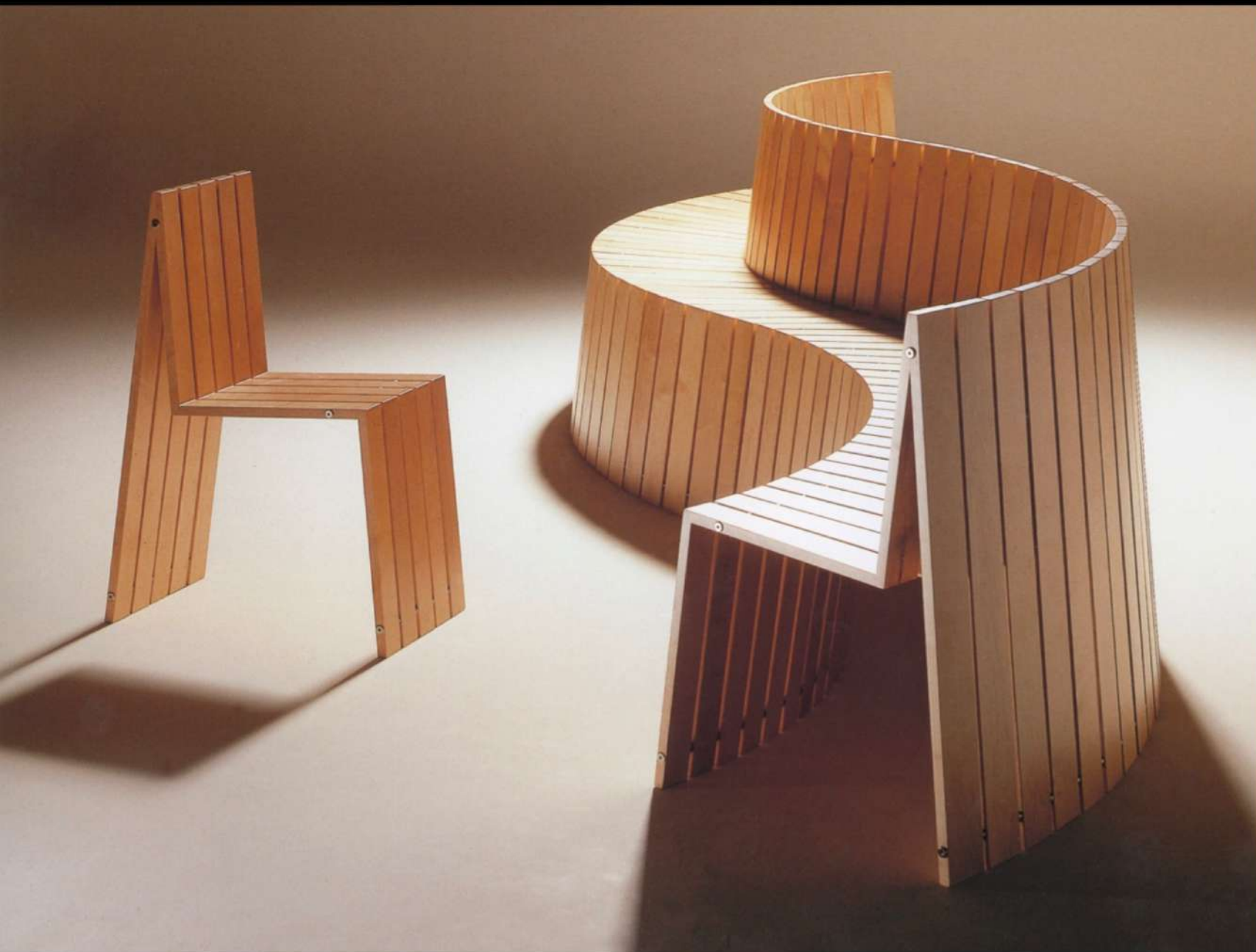
Various slat sections are combined to form bench versions, including straight, concave, and convex 'public...glance' configurations.



glance

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...glance private + public



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...glance chair

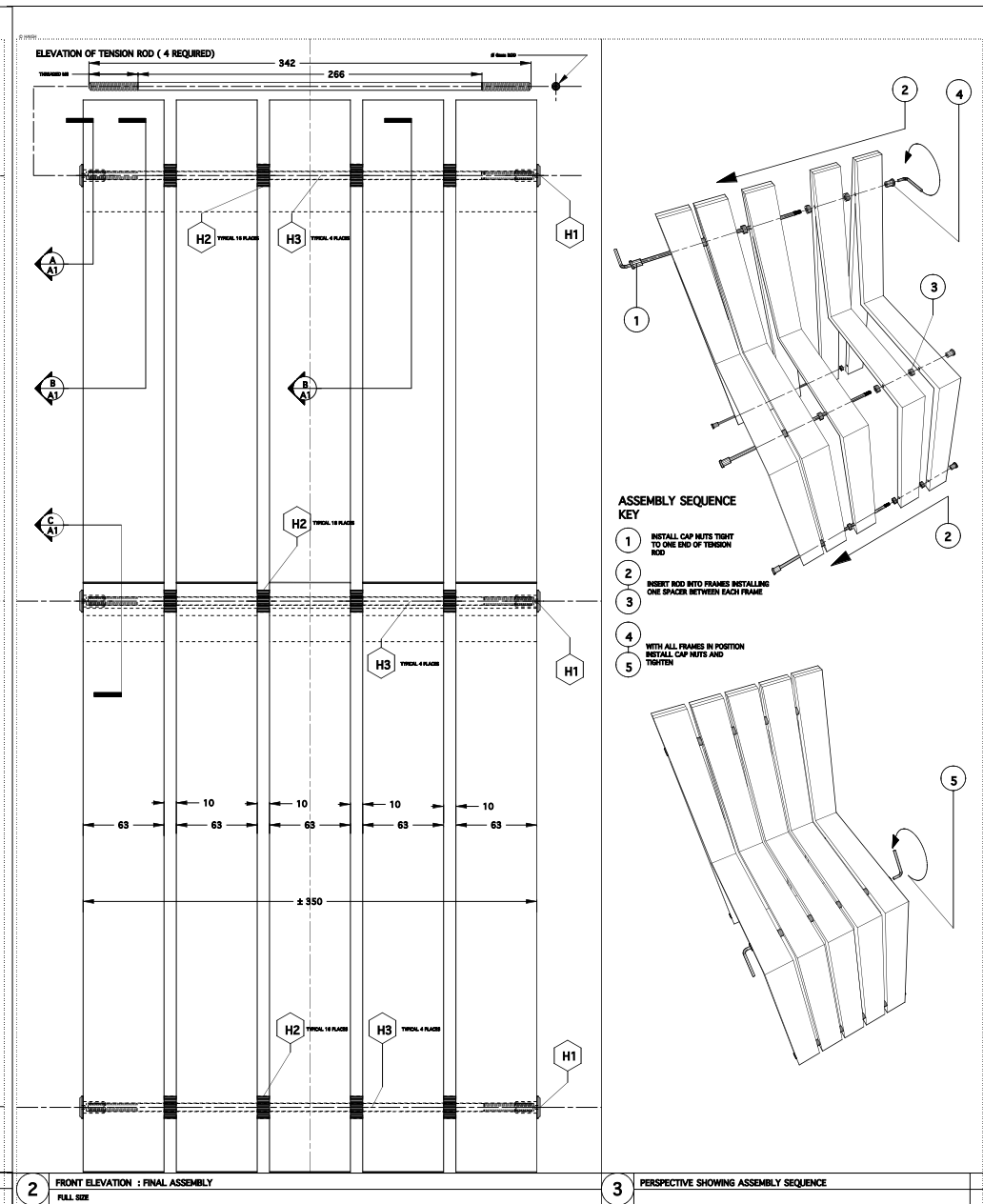
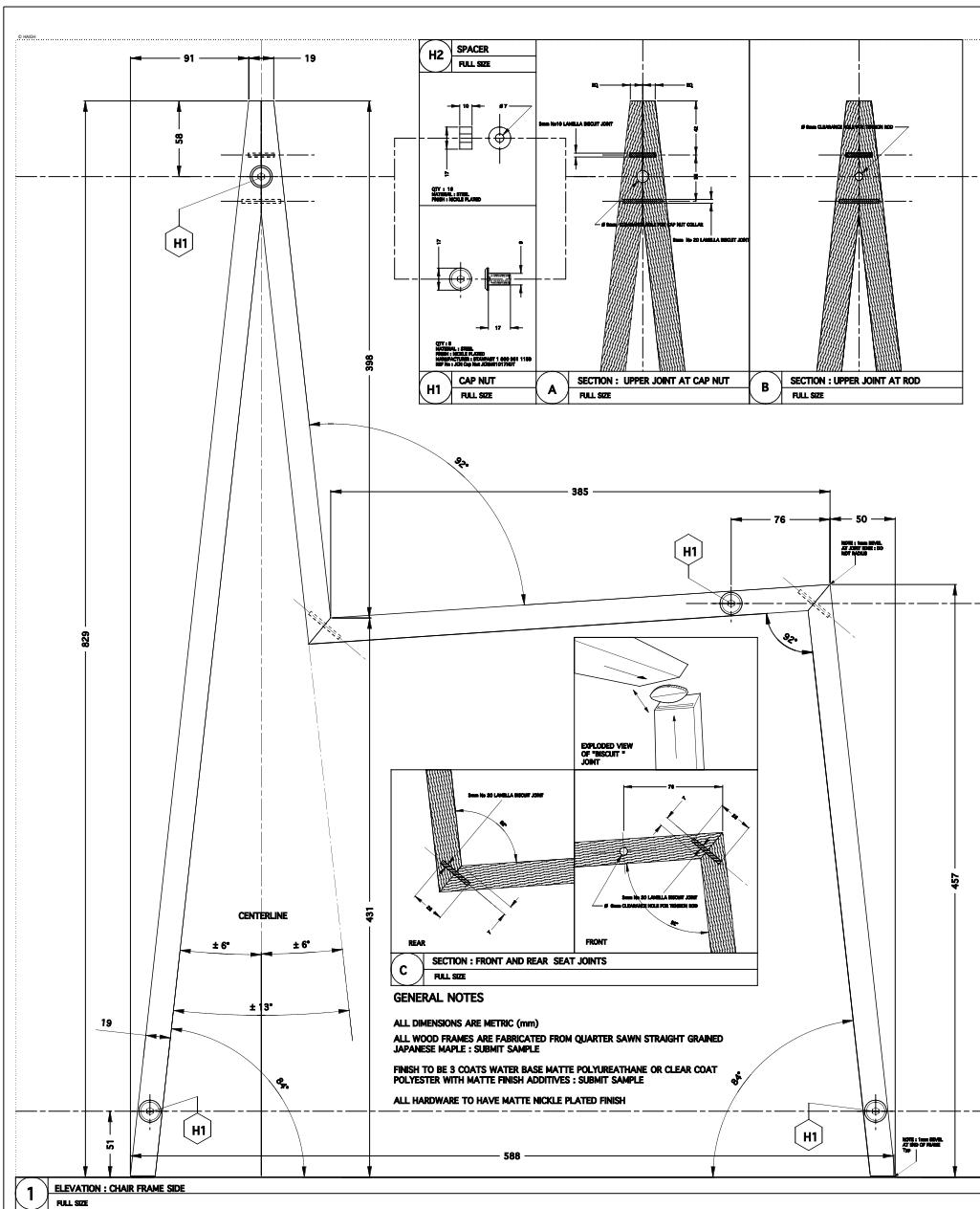
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...glance seating







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1

HAIGH



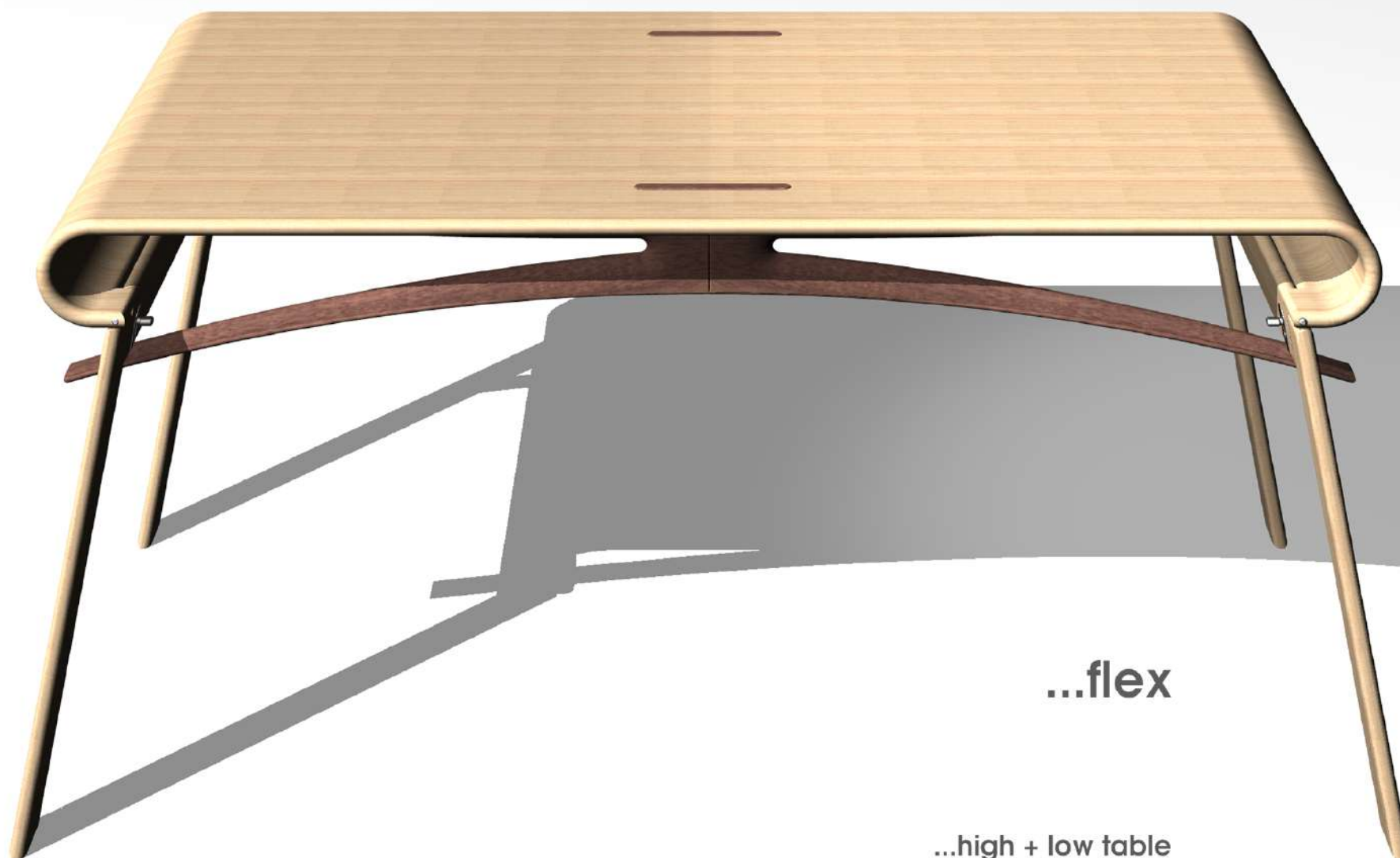
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2

HAIGH





...flex

...high + low table

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

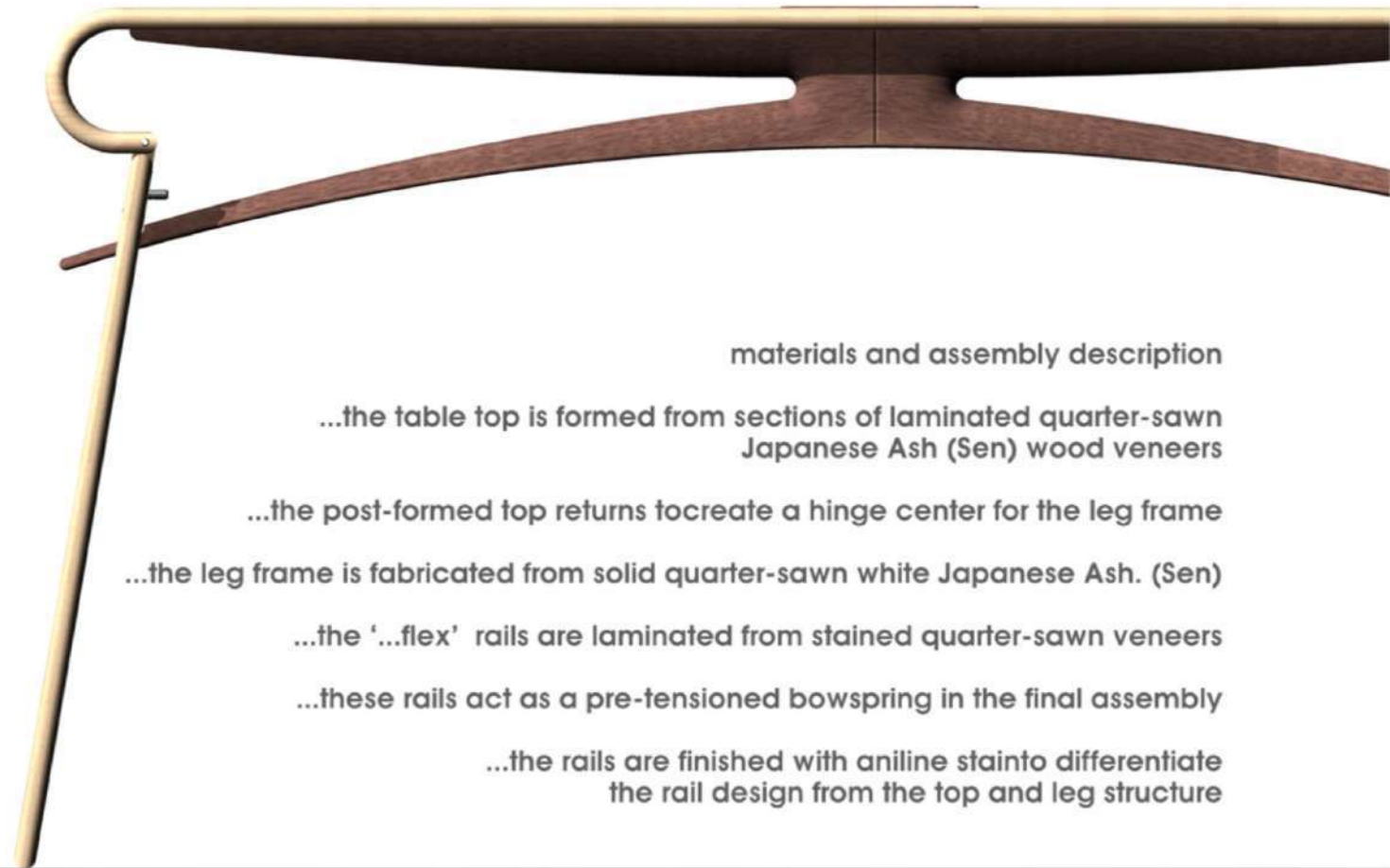
...the intrinsic 'spring' qualities of laminated wood are used as the technical means to achieve this structural and functional transformation

...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 to create 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

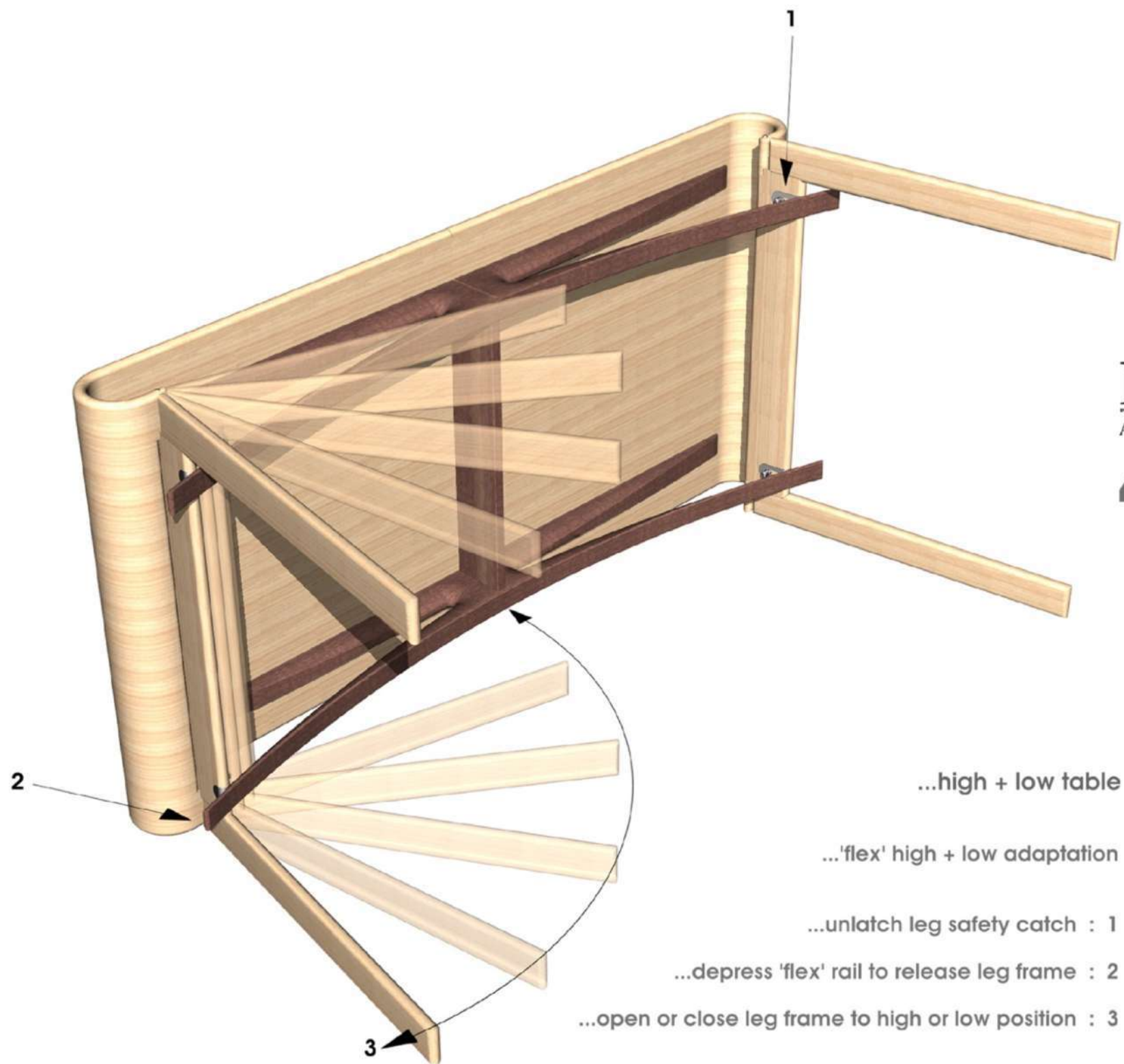
...the rails are finished with aniline stain to differentiate the rail design from the top and leg structure



...flex

...high + low table

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INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN ASSOCIATION
ASAHIKAWA 2008
3



...high + low table

...'flex' high + low adaptation

...unlatch leg safety catch : 1

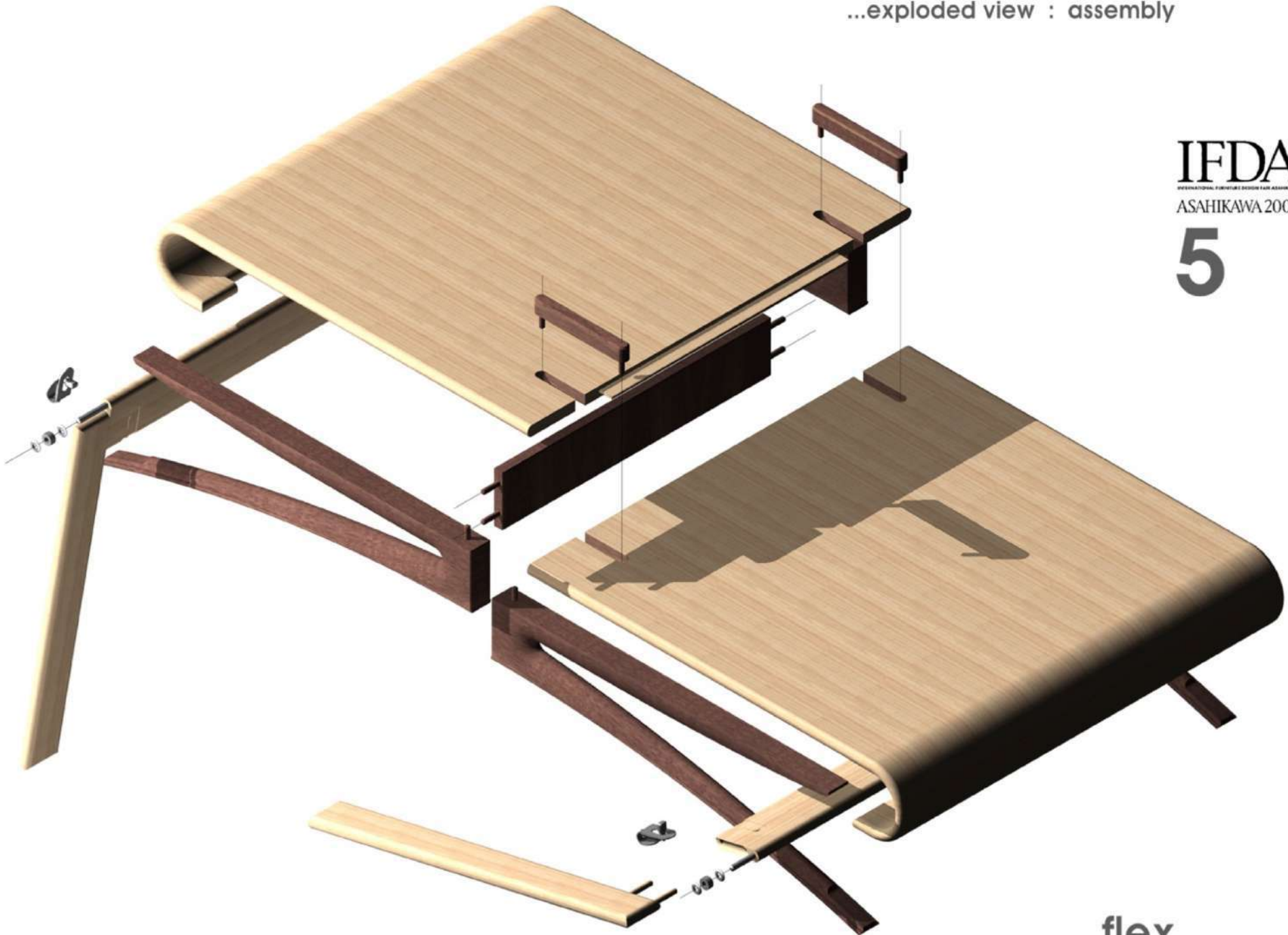
...depress 'flex' rail to release leg frame : 2

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

...exploded view : assembly

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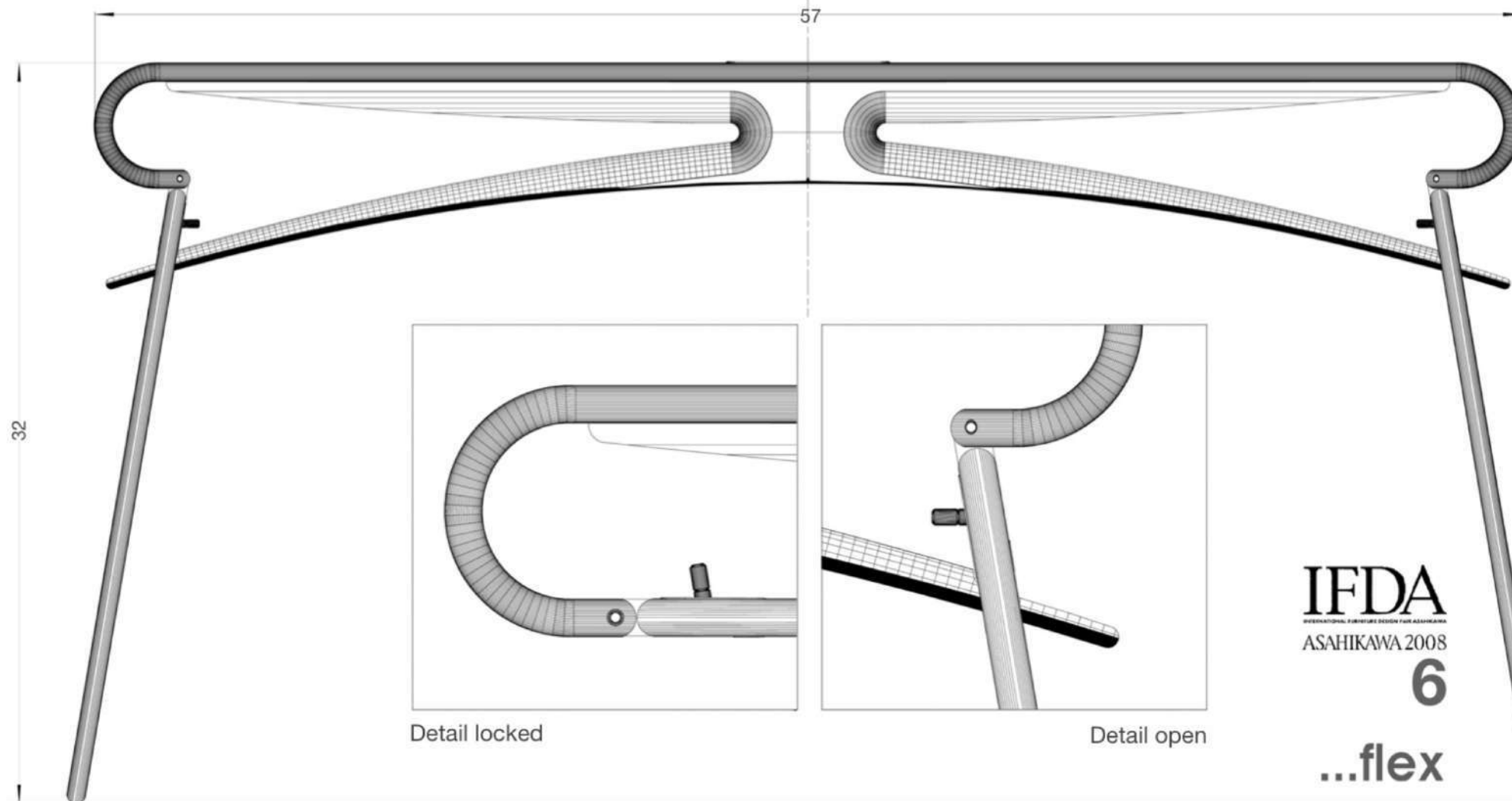
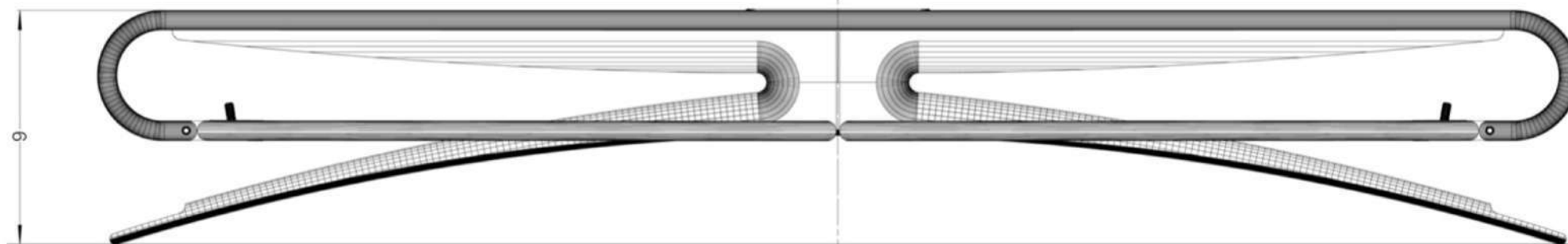
5



...flex

...high + low table

Low Table Elevation



Detail locked

Detail open

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6
...flex

High Table Elevation

...dimensions



...sidechair + armchair

1
...springboard

...springboard is a sidechair + armchair

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.

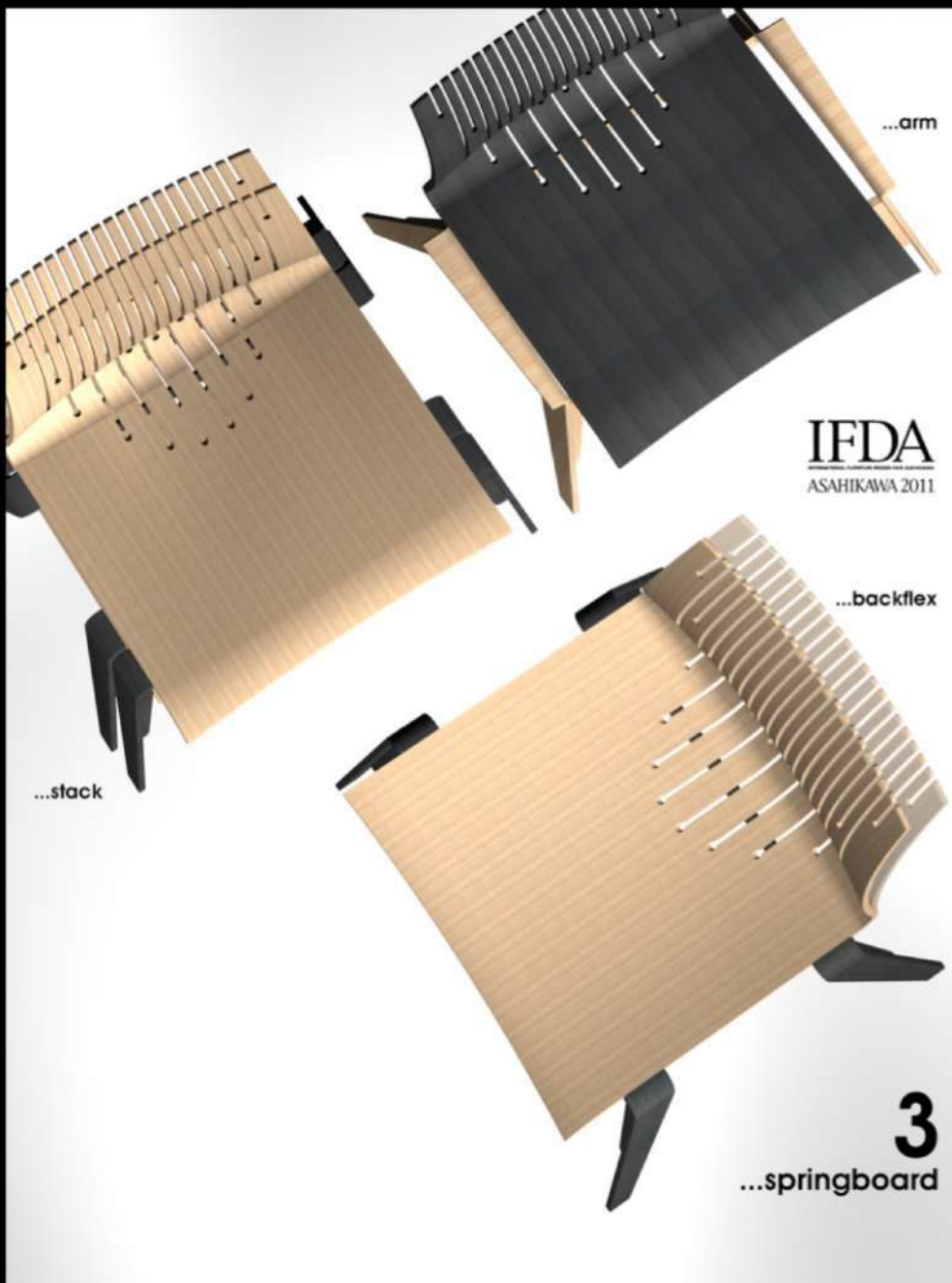


...sidechair front



...armchair front

2
...springboard

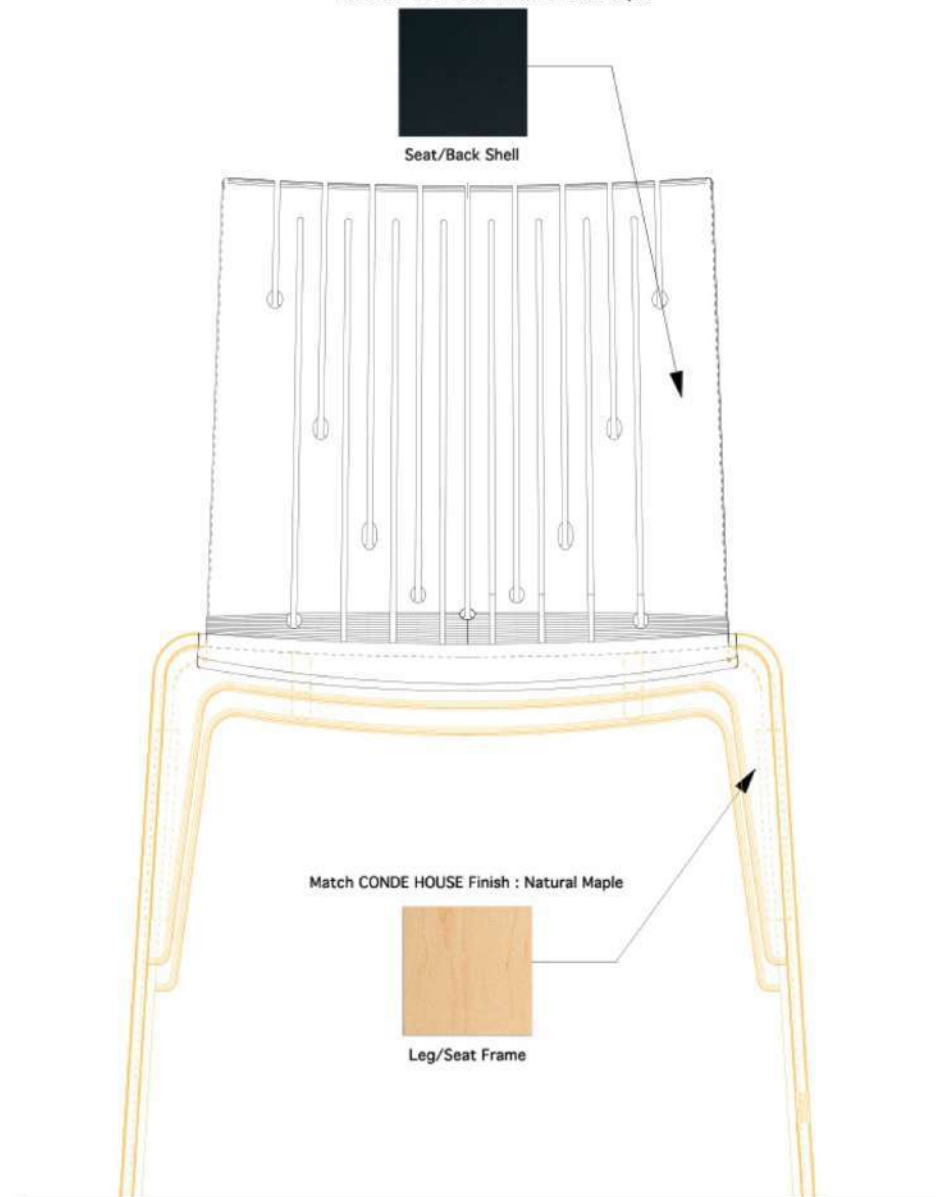




...armchair

5
...springboard

SIDE CHAIR : Version 2
Match CONDE HOUSE Finish : BLACK Maple









...springboard chair



1

-dash table



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...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



-dash

3

-dash table



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• 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

• 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



-dash table

1



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INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN FAIR ASAHIKAWA
ASAHIKAWA 2014

...*branch* high stool



...branches

The *...branches* series consists of the *...branch* chair, *...branch* table and the *...branch* high and low stools. A 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



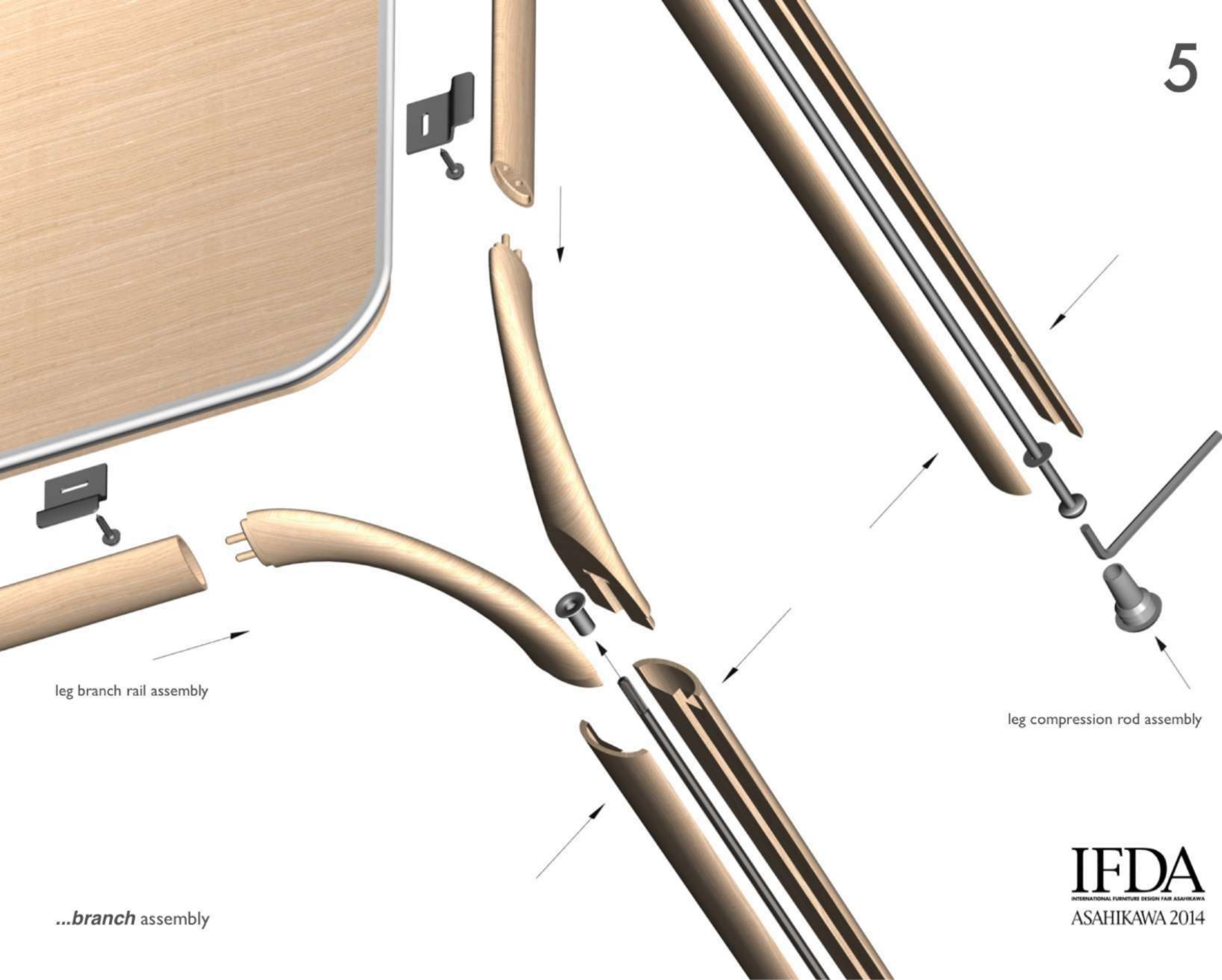
...*branch* chair

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ASAHIKAWA 2014



...*branch* low stool

5



leg branch rail assembly

leg compression rod assembly

...*branch* assembly

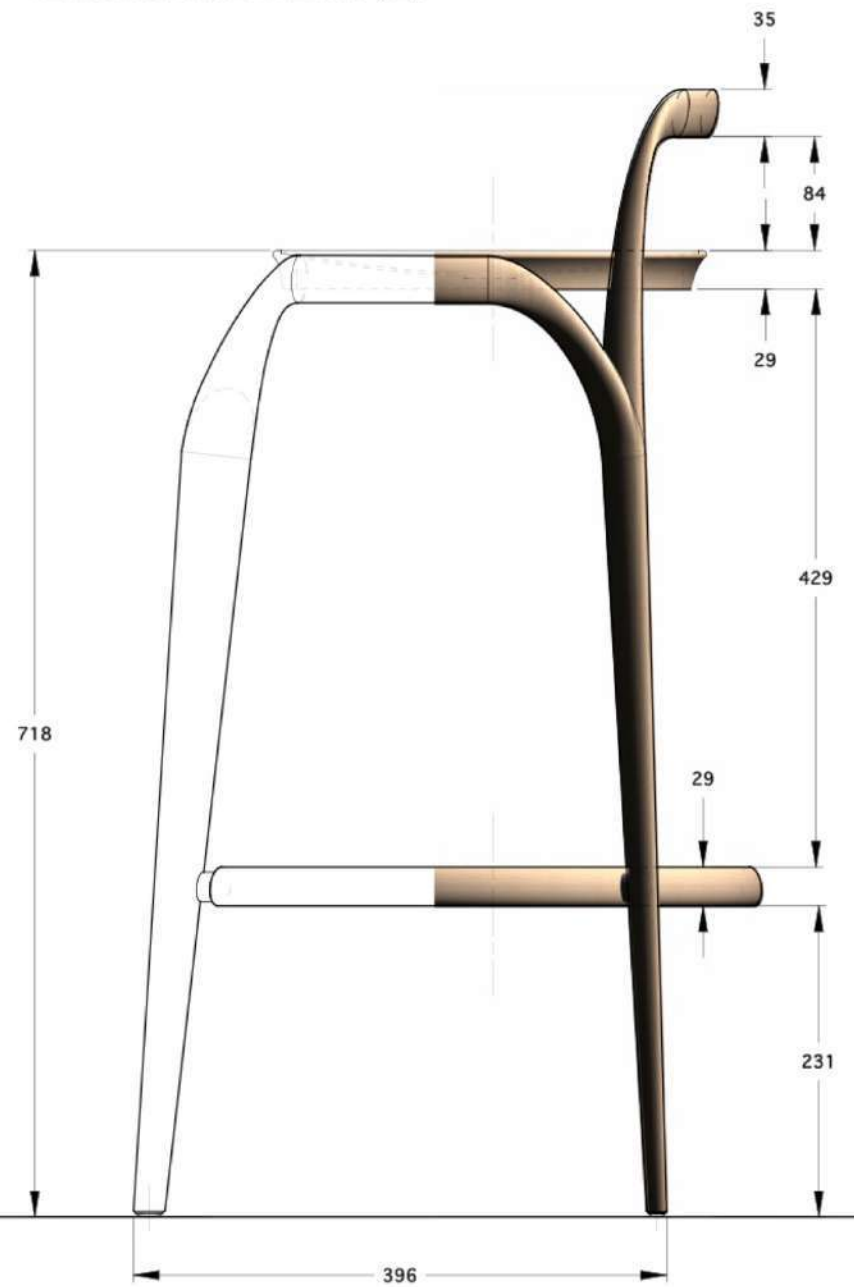
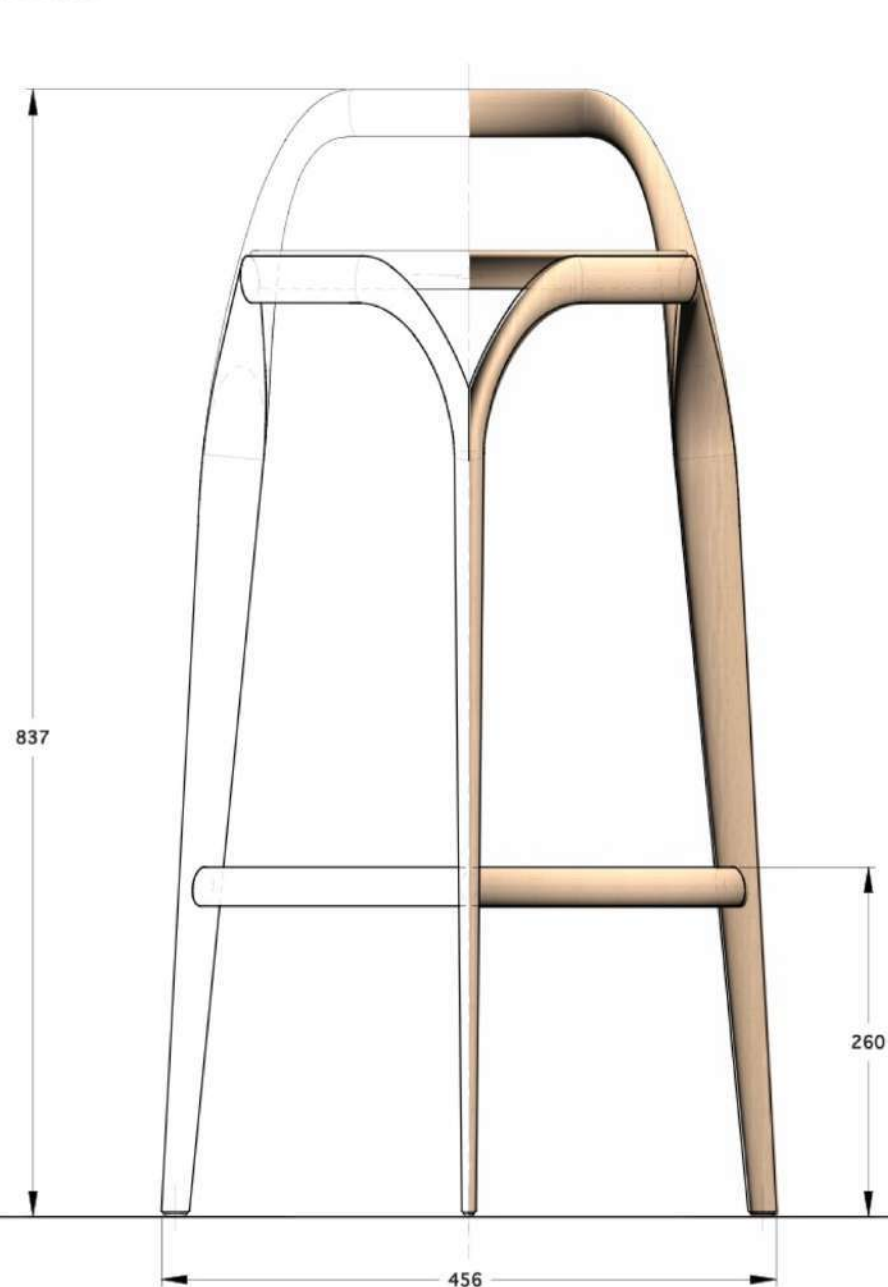


...*branch* table + chair

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 : \pm 5.45kg

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



All dimensions are metric in millimeters (mm)



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

...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



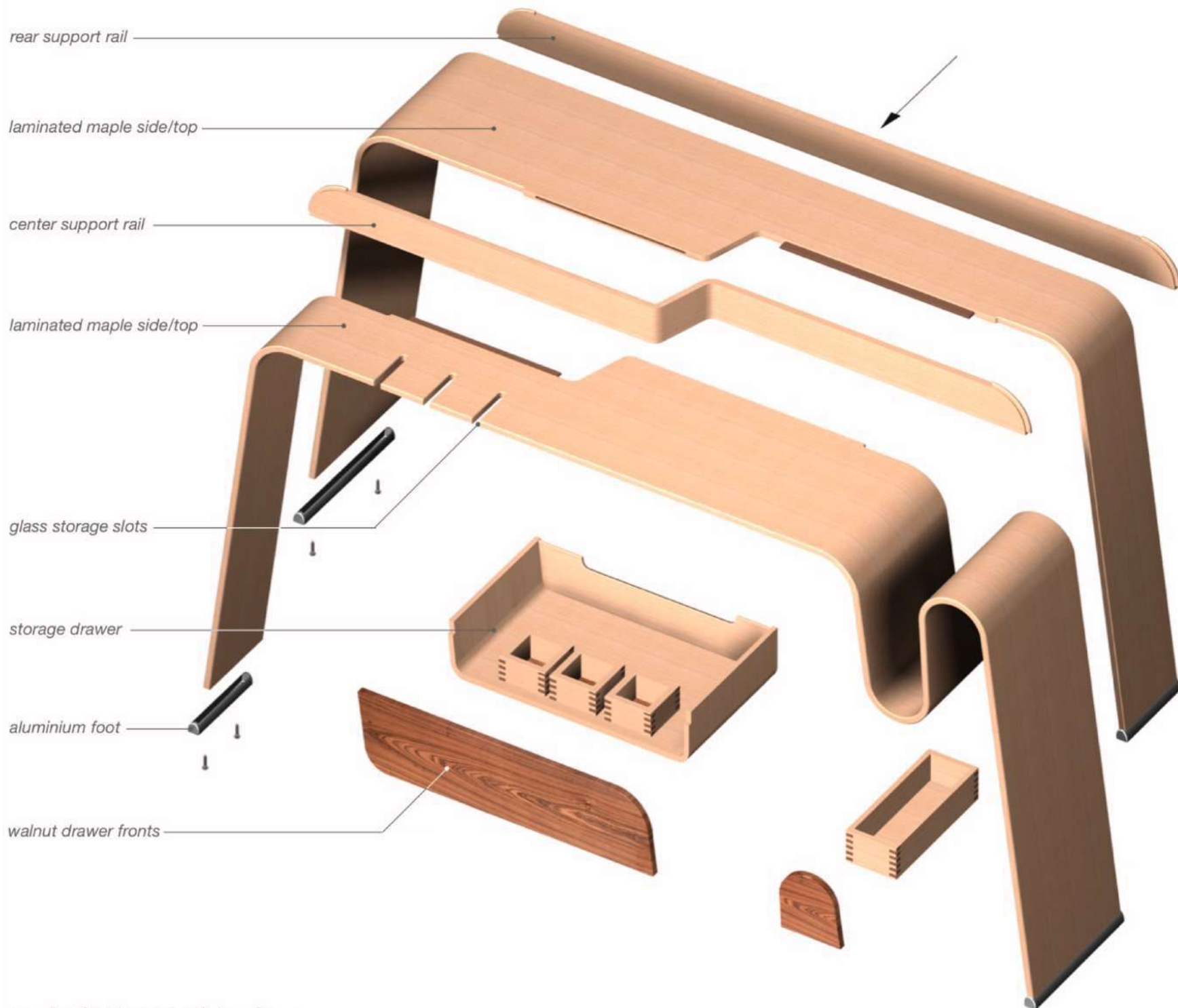
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saké
酒

4

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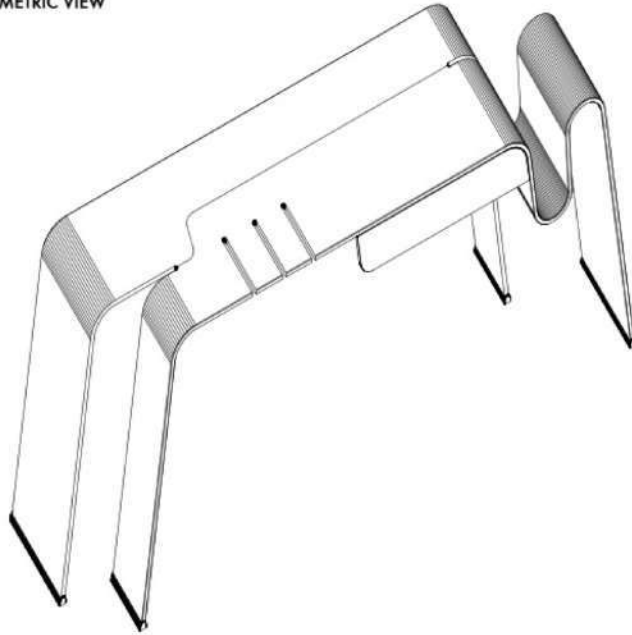
exploded assembly view

saké
酒

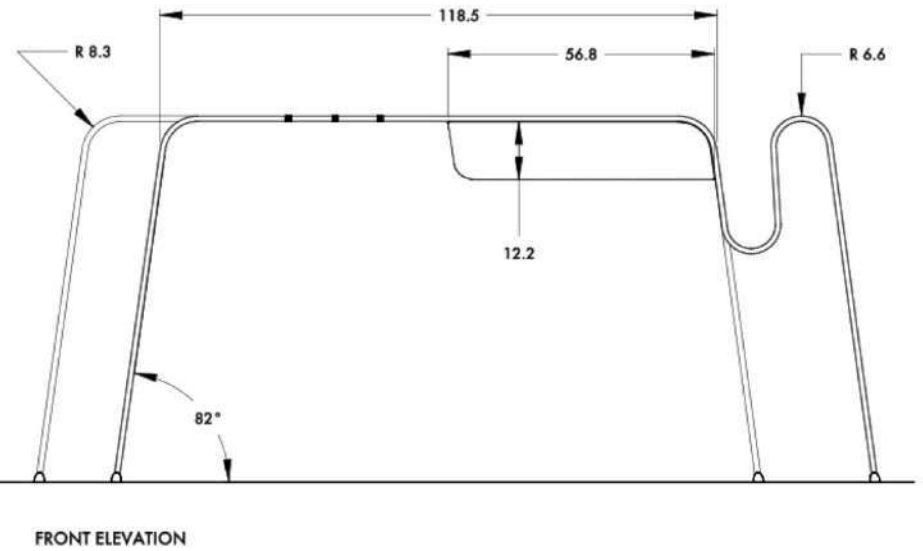
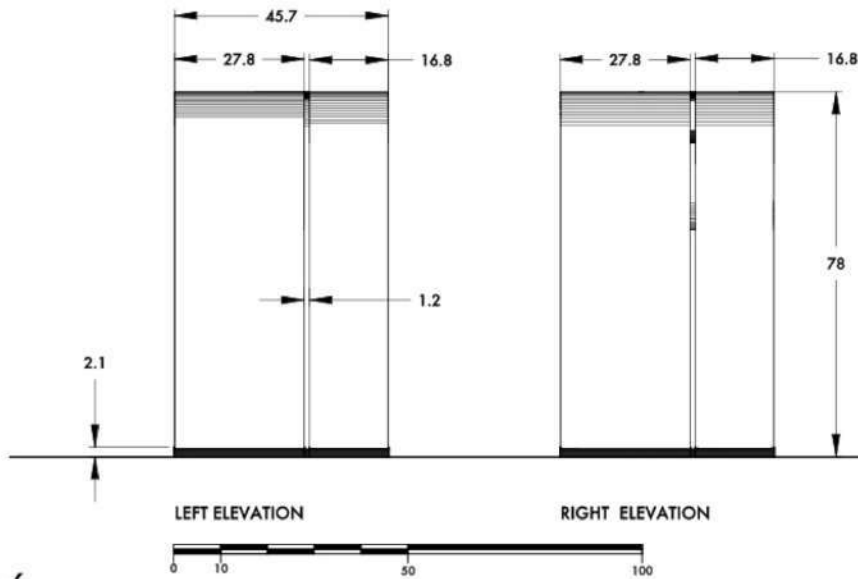
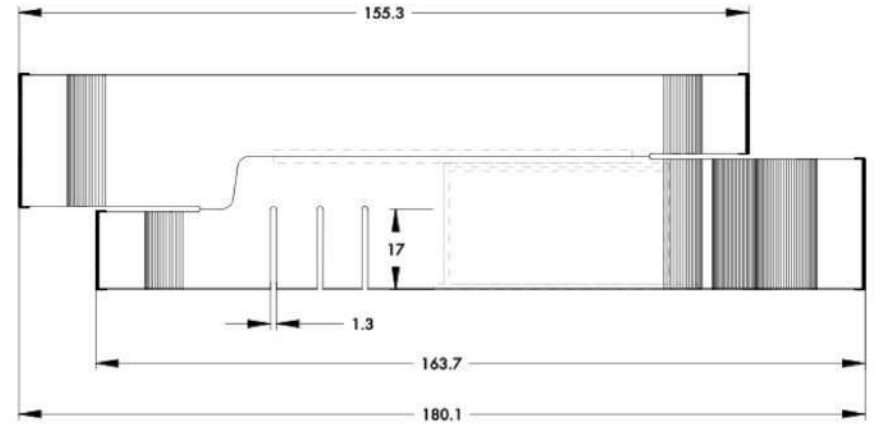
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ISOMETRIC VIEW



PLAN

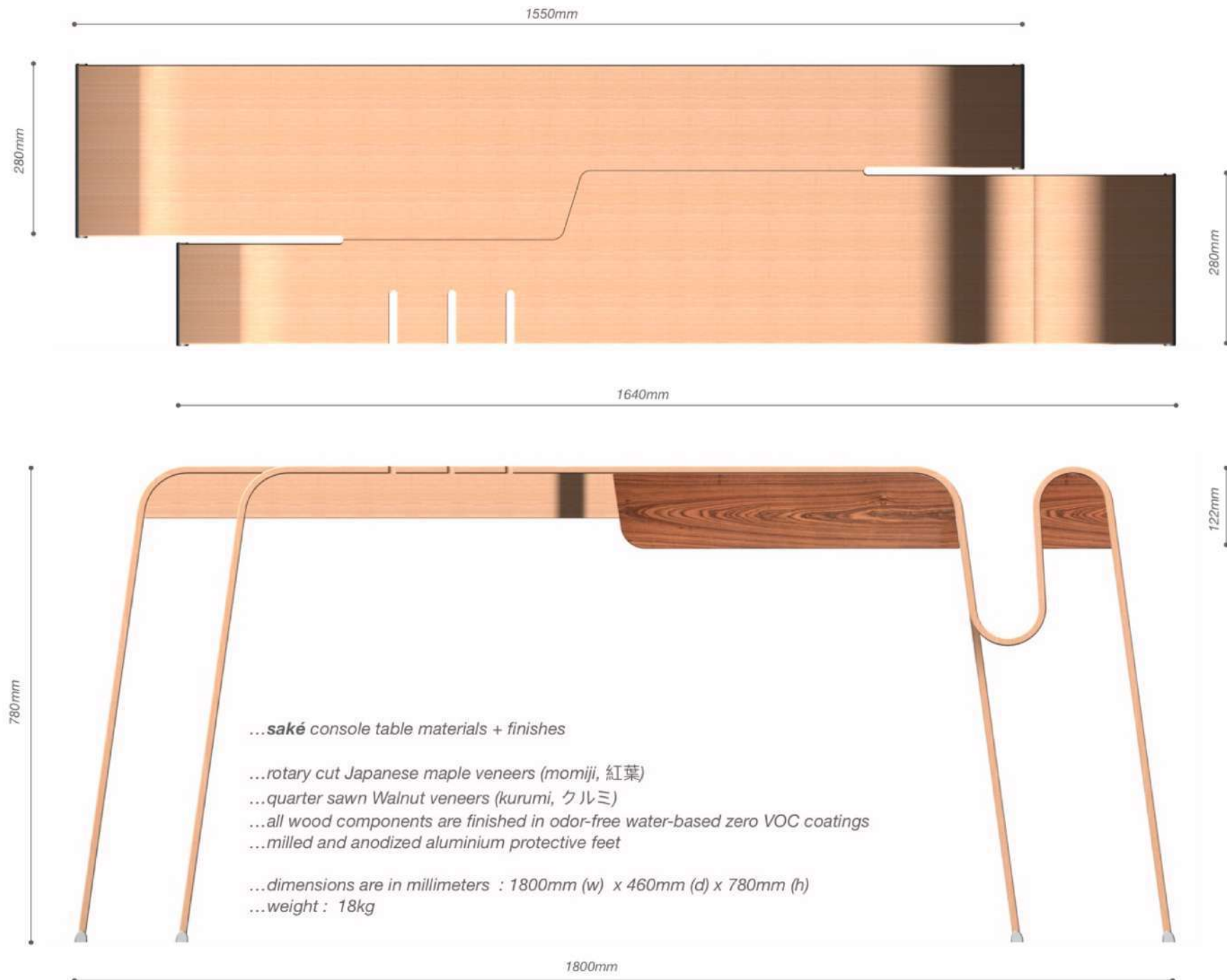


All dimensions are metric in centimeters cm

saké
酒

6

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saké
酒

general arrangement : dimensions

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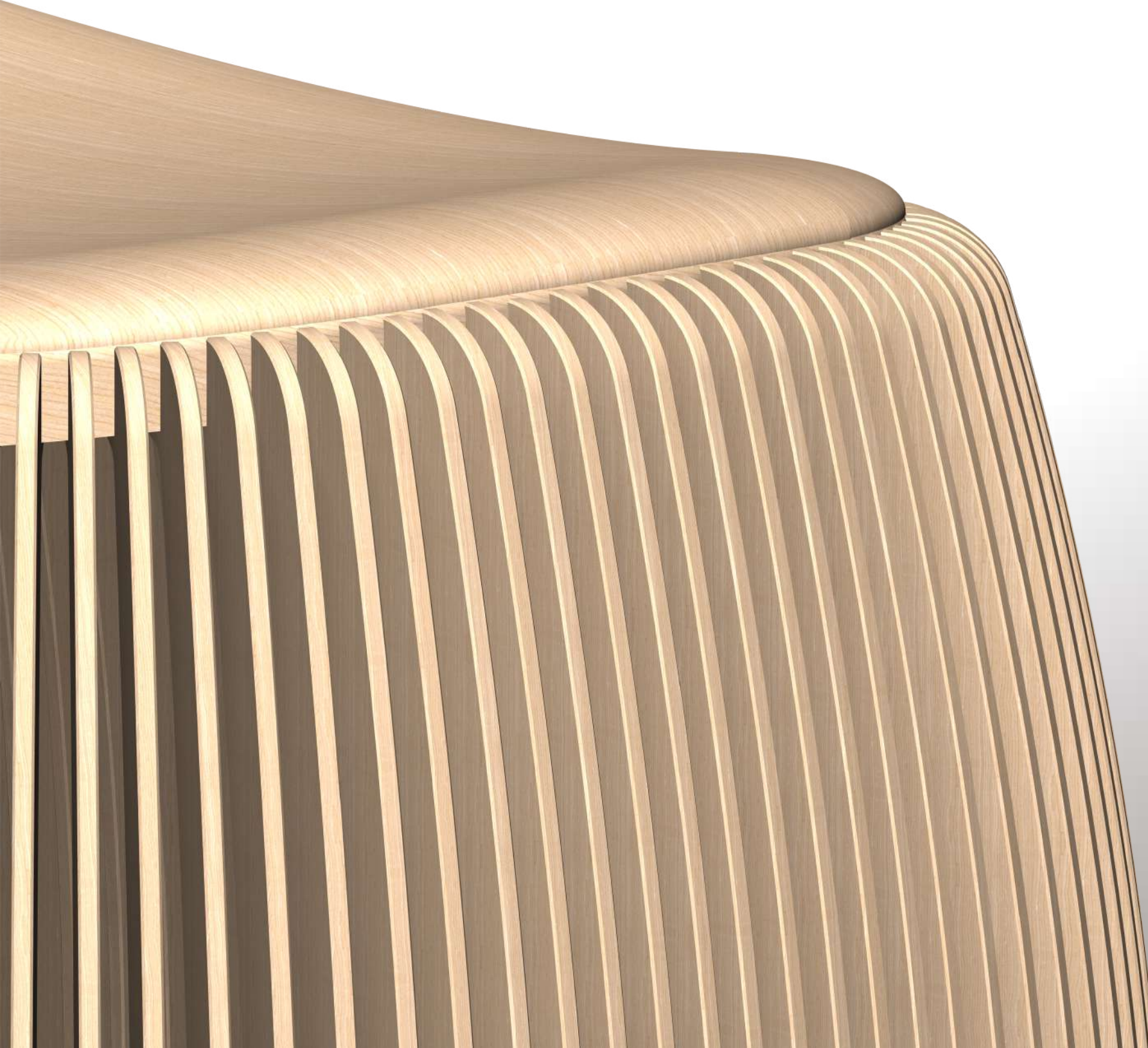
杉

Sugi
bench



杉

Sugi
bench



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ASAHIKAWA 2023

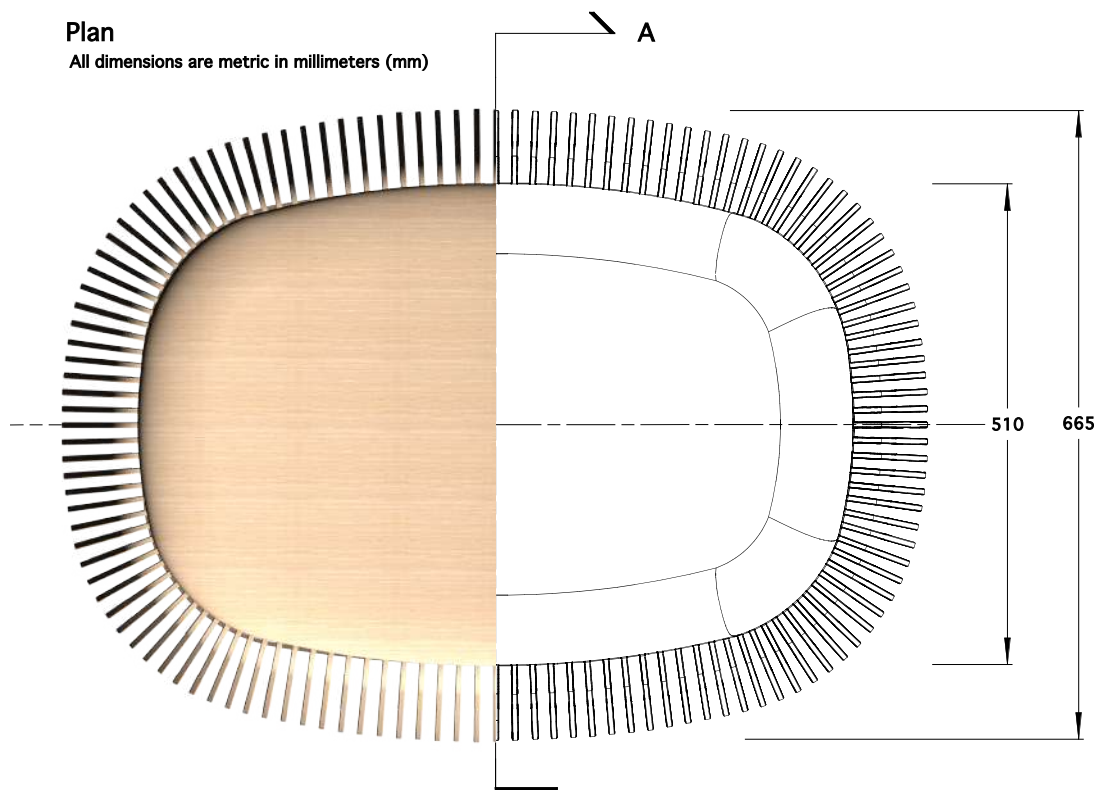
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Sugi
bench

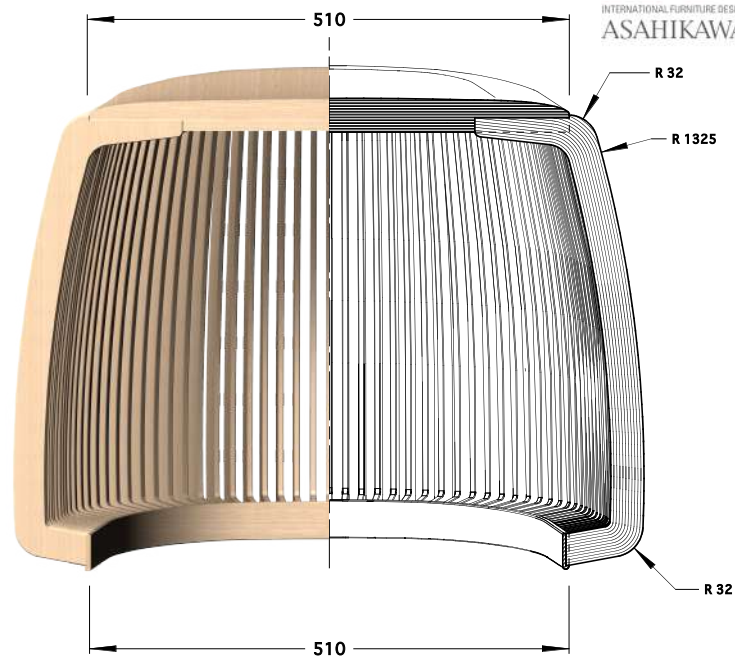


Plan

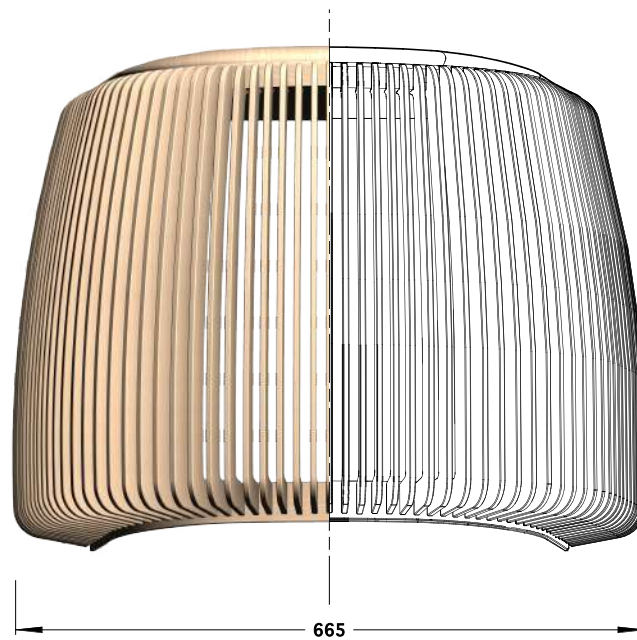
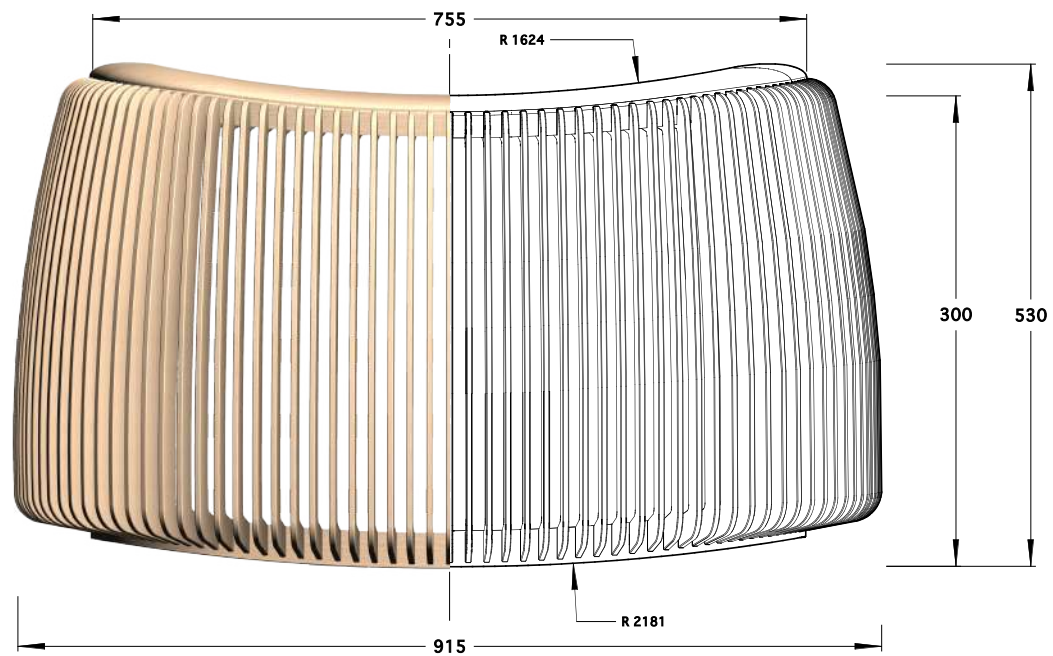
All dimensions are metric in millimeters (mm)



Section A



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Front Elevation

Side Elevation

杉
Sugi
bench

IFDA

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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).



CondeHouse