

vitra.

Noguchi Collection





The work of the Japanese-American artist and designer **Isamu Noguchi** is extraordinarily multi-faceted. In addition to sculptures, he also created stage sets, furniture, lighting, interiors, public spaces and gardens. As a sculptor, he was not only interested in materials and forms, but also in the spatial effect of objects and even in the design of space itself. It was his intention to create artworks with practical and social relevance. Noguchi's work left a lasting mark on 1950s design.

Since 2002, the Vitra Design Museum has produced re-iterations of Noguchi's designs in co-operation with the Isamu Noguchi Foundation, New York. Several of these models are represented in the Vitra Design Museum Collection.

Prismatic Table 1957



Dining Table 1954/55



Coffee Table 1944



Freeform Sofa 1946



Prismatic Table

The small Prismatic Table was Noguchi's first furniture design intended for serial production. Made of bent aluminium sheeting, it was created for Alcoa (Aluminum Company of America), who wanted to demonstrate new applications of its primary product. Noguchi's own motivation for this design can be traced back to his previous experimentation with sheet metal (particularly brass sheeting), which began during his work with Brancusi in Paris.



Noguchi's **Dining Table** is one of the most elegant dining tables designed in the 20th century. A variation on Noguchi's Rocking Stool design, the table echoes the latter's central supporting base made of chromed rods. The cast iron ring-shaped base offers weighty support with a light aesthetic. Collection Vitra Design Museum.



Coffee Table

Noguchi designed the first version of this table, with a glass top resting on interconnected rosewood supports, for the private residence of MoMA president A. Conger Goodyear during the 1930s. In a modified design from 1944, which reflected his great interest in sculptural, biomorphic structures, Noguchi transformed the original idea into a base consisting of two identical wooden elements, one of which is reversed and pinned to the other at a right angle. The Coffee Table has been produced for the US market by Herman Miller since 1947; the Vitra Design Museum began production for the European market in 2002. It is regarded today as one of Noguchi's best-known designs.



Table top with etched signature, rounded edges.





Freeform Sofa

Noguchi's sculptural idiom gains full expression in this sofa, which clearly distinguishes itself from other designs of the same period. Both sofa and ottoman seem almost like a greatly enlarged sculpture of flat, rounded river stones; yet at the same time, their slender organic forms are graceful and vigorous. Noguchi emphasised this effect with thin, but extremely comfortable upholstery padding and a choice of cover fabrics in natural colours.

The Freeform Sofa and Ottoman were produced around 1950 in limited number. Today, the few remaining pieces achieve record prices at auction. Since 2002, the group has been produced by the Vitra Design Museum as a fully authentic re-edition. The sofa is suitable not only for use in the living room, but also in lobbies, hotels and retail shops.

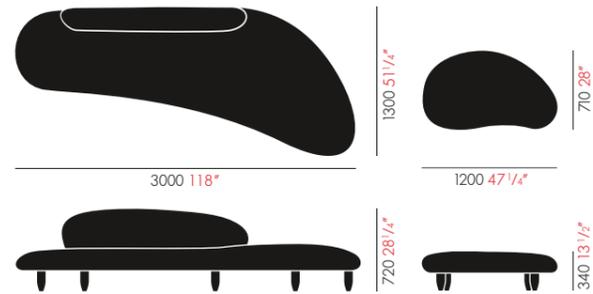


Programme features

Freeform Sofa and Ottoman

Re-edition Vitra Design Museum. Solid wood frame, upholstered. Removable cover in Soft fabric. Legs are available optionally in maple, natural finish or walnut stain, depending on colour of upholstery fabric.

All measurements in millimetres and inches



Freeform Sofa

Soft



Deviations in colour are possible due to the printing process.

Coffee Table

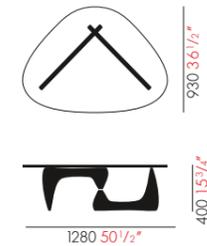
Vitra Design Museum re-edition. Frame of solid black ash, walnut or maple. Table top made of 19 mm thick glass with etched signature, rounded edges.

Dining Table

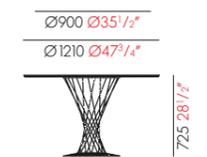
Table top laminated wood with hard surface, edge impregnated black, foot cast iron lacquered black, chromed steel wire.

Prismatic Table

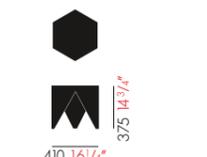
Re-edition Vitra Design Museum. Aluminium corpus, powder-coated finish in black or white. Also suitable for outdoor use.



Coffee Table



Dining Table



Prismatic Table





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