



CHAIRS



BY ARCHITECTS



Thames & Hudson

AGATA TOROMANOFF

SATOSHI OKADA b. 1962

The Titanium lounge chair, designed in 2007, was produced in collaboration with Japanese furniture company Arti and was the first chair design to be made entirely from titanium. The material, Okada notes, is very demanding and requires high-tech craftsmanship. The construction of the chair consists of a single, 3mm ($\frac{1}{10}$ in.) plate, bent to form the seat and back, covered in black leather, and two supporting legs made from a flat bar.

Titanium as a construction material is extremely strong and elastic, but is also very heavy. The strength of the titanium plate enabled the total weight of the chair to be reduced to only 15 kg (33 lbs), although it can support up to 250 kg (551 lbs), despite its delicate construction. The silhouette of the chair is linear, elegant and visibly flexible. 'The movement in sitting is unique,' notes Okada. 'The plate accepts your body sitting down with a moderate resilience. When your legs are free from the ground, you can enjoy the comfortable swinging, as if you were sitting in the air.'

Located in the prestigious neighbourhood of Shibuya, a district of Tokyo, the 430m² (4,628 sq ft) House U was built from reinforced concrete and steel, with large glass panels. The house, positioned on a site 12m (39 ft) wide and 24m (79 ft) deep, is surrounded by reinforced concrete walls, three storeys high, to protect it from damage caused by earthquakes or other natural disasters. The structure is formed from concrete beams and a grid system of slender steel supports for the transparent glass walls. The interior is spacious and comfortable, and the façades elegant. Both the chair and the house offer an aesthetically simple but refined design, where the proportions of the construction and the strength of the materials unite with the beauty and simplicity of linear clarity.



Titanium 2007



In 1989 Satoshi Okada graduated from Columbia University, in New York; six years later, he established his studio in Tokyo. Together with a team of architects that share his sensitivity and spirit for design, Okada works on projects around the world, and his award-winning buildings, from small residences to large complexes, have been published in numerous books and magazines. His design philosophy is rooted in simplicity, with a focus on rich materials and delicate details.

House U Tokyo, Japan 2013