

‘Shiro Kuramata’ by Deyan Sudjic

By JULIE LASKY Published: June 19, 2013

The Japanese designer Shiro Kuramata died in 1991, when he was just 56, and virtually all of his renowned interiors, for clients like Issey Miyake and Esprit, have vanished. Among his groundbreaking household objects, including an acrylic chair embedded with artificial roses and an armchair made of glued glass pieces, many are confined to museums and private collections.



Still, Mr. Kuramata is very much with us. “He is one of those designers whose reputation and stature grow with time passing,” said Deyan Sudjic, director of the Design Museum in London and the main contributor to “Shiro Kuramata,” a two-volume monograph coming from Phaidon next week (\$150). In the first book, Mr. Sudjic arrestingly presents Mr. Kuramata in the 20th-century context of Japan’s disastrous militarism and bubble economy. The second, compiled by Keiko Hashimoto, is an illustrated catalog of the designer’s 600-plus projects from 1958 to 1991. The volumes are boxed in his signature material, acrylic.

Lasky, Julie. “‘Shiro Kuramata’ by Deyan Sudjic,” *New York Times*. June 19, 2013.