

MODERN DESIGN



Auction

03 October 2004
noon ct

Wright

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GEORGE NAKASHIMA

special order Frenchman's Cove dining table

USA, 1987 | American black walnut

28½ h × 63 w × 52 d in (72 × 160 × 132 cm)

Signed, dated and inscribed on bottom: [Altar for Peace stock George Nakashima Aug 31 1987].

This tabletop was taken from the same tree as Nakashima's first Peace Altar, built from a 125-foot, 300 year-old American Black Walnut tree found on Long Island. The altar was imagined and designed by George Nakashima in 1986 and resides in the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City. Nakashima dreamed of offering an altar to every continent as a symbol of peace. He stated, "It will be a symbol, a token of man's aspirations for a creative and beautiful peace, free of political overtones; an expression of love for his fellow man." Nakashima greatly valued the nature of his materials, a guiding principle manifest in the uneven edges and organic patterns of his surfaces that expose the essence of the wood. The board selected for this table is from the heart of the tree and has exceptional figuring and a natural symmetry.

Provenance: Fritz Woehle, F.A.I.A., Birmingham, Alabama

Estimate: \$20,000–30,000

Result: \$27,600

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