My search [for the essence of sculpture] has been influenced by [...] how it fits into nature and how it relates to human beings.

- Isamu Noguchi
The proposed akari showroom is a celebration of simple geometry - the most basic shapes that were frequently employed by Isamu Noguchi in his works, especially his akari light sculptures. The showroom invites viewers to journey between clusters of light to witness the evolution and spectrum of akari morphology that lies between the most basic shapes.

To enhance viewers’ understanding, the display system ensures each sculpture’s applicable position, visibility and reachability. Richlite panels, which share the akari sculptures’ warmth and paper microtexture, are the main component of the display system, thereby magnifying the sculptures’ tactile qualities.

As building blocks, right triangle and square Richlite panels were selected for their economical use of material. The panels’ infinite combinations, multiple applications, and disassemblability unify and diversify the usage of the space.
SITE ANALYSIS

Commonalities:
- Low-rise
- Material: brick, steel
- Colours: brick red, beige/grey, metallic
- Clerestory windows

This multi-axis movable, rotatable, lockable partition system was a collaboration between Buckminster Fuller, Edward Prince, and Noguchi.

Motion capacity of partition system

Outdoor:
- No heat insulation

Wooden walls & large skylight:
- Poor heat insulation

CMU & brick wall:
- Best heat insulation
Zazen


CONCEPT DRIVERS

AKARI YP1

GEOMETRY OF AKARI


Rotation for Revelation

Noguchi’s Playgrounds
DESIGN LANGUAGE

Individual shelves

Massing

Accommodating
Table akari

Accommodating
Floor akari

Diversifying
Circulation path

Accommodating
different programs

Ceiling akari

Table akari

Floor akari

Books

Accommodating ceiling akari
DESIGN LANGUAGE - APPLIED
0.5” peg that fits through pre-drilled hole to support Richlite panel above

1.5” reclaimed steel tubes with pre-drilled holes for pegs and cables

Concealed akari cable

0.5” dark green unpolished Richlite panel with pre-drilled corner holes

Mechanism mockup

Individual panel shapes

Individual panel dimensions

Clustering through overlapping

Thickness variation

Steel tube variety
AKARI GROUPING BY FORM
A JOURNEY OF FORM

RCP showing added pre-punched beams
Distribution of ceiling akari (in RCP)
Distribution of floor & table akari (in plan)
Distribution of all akari in site

Distribution of all akari by form
- Mixed
- Predominantly sphere
- Sphere
- Sphere hybrid
- Cube
- Cubic hybrid
- Outliers

Ceiling akari
Table akari
Floor akari
The **full catalog** of akari is projected onto existing CMU wall, and is visible both upon entrance and at the main showroom exit. Projection is used (instead of touch screen) for **community health** purpose.
Section C: Indoor cafe seating

Section D: Outdoor cafe seating
AKARI SHOWROOM

To emphasise the morphology transformation, motion graphics based on the basic akari shapes will be commissioned. They will be combined with bite-size, yet important pieces of information about or descriptors of akari. They will then be projected onto CMU walls or movable partitions. The graphics at each projection station will vary depending on the morphological transformation taking place near it.

To tie in with the abstract nature of the concept of morphology transformation, as well as the motion graphics, the sounds used to fill space would also be on the abstract side. Soundclips that exemplify this are “Postcards II Akari” and “Itinerant: In Memory of Isamu Noguchi,” both available on the Noguchi Museum’s Youtube channel.
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

MINIMIZING CLIMATE CONTROLLED AREA

Heat retention capacity by zone

MINIMIZING MATERIAL WASTE

All programs requiring climate control are concentrated in zone with best heat insulation capacity

MINIMIZING MATERIAL WASTE

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Richlite panels
- Composed of recycled paper & phenol resin
- Comes in a variety of colours and thickness
- Provides colour contrast with white akari sculpture
- Warm
- Retains paper texture
- Machinable
- Durable
- Manufactured in the US,
- Heat loss during manufacturing process is recaptured and recycled

Reclaimed steel tubes
- Structurally strong
- Can be refinshed to meet retail display quality
- Can be pre-cut, pre-punched
- Available through many stockists

Within the display system, all square panels are 25” x 25”, and all right triangle panels are half the size of square panels. As all orthogonal dimensions are 25”, there will be minimal waste generated during the cutting process.

Sample panel cutting template

Panel shape
ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Showroom transformed into banquet hall, and outdoor space transformed into buffet area

Showroom transformed into lecture hall

Distribution of ceiling akari (in RCP)