

Kenji Ekuan Chairman, GK Design Group

Brief History	
Sept. 11, 1929	Born of father Tetsunen Ekuan (a priest of Eikyu-ji, Hiroshima), mother Katsuko (Tokyo Women's Vocational College) as oldest son, at Takinogawa, Nishi-sugamo, Toshima-gun, Tokyo Prefecture.
1930	Tetsunen became a Jodo Sect Buddhism missionary of Hawaii parish: Whole family moved to Hawaii.
1937	Came back to Japan. Admitted to the second grade of Daiichi Jinjo Elementary School, Nishi-sugamo, Tokyo.
1942	Admitted to the Fifth Prefectural Junior High School of Tokyo (present Koishikawa junior/senior high school).
1945	Admitted to the Naval Cadet Academy in Etajima. Came to know Japan's defeat of the war. Discharged from the navy. Admitted to Fukuyama Seishikan Junior High School (present Fukuyama Seishikan High School).
1947	Succeeded father Tetsunen, killed by the atomic bomb, admitted to Vocational School of Jodo Sect in Kyoto (present Bukkyo University). Boarded at Keishi Dormitory of Kyoto Chion-in.
1950	Admitted to the Design Course in the Department of Crafts at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music (present Tokyo University of the Arts).
1955	Graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music.
1956	Studied at the Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles, US, for one year as a member sent by Japan External Trade Organization.
1957	Established GK Industrial Design Associates and took on the role of the head of the office.
1970	President of Japan Industrial Designers' Association
1973	Executive Chairperson of the 8th World Industrial Design Congress (ICSID '73 Kyoto)
1975	President of International Council of Societies of Industrial Design
1976	A committee member of Japan Institute of Design Promotion of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
1987	Rector of Kuwasawa Design School
1989	General producer of World Design Expo Chairperson of Metropolitan Tokyo Design Up Committee
1995	Established Japan Institute of Design. Appointed to the chairperson.
1996	Established Forum Douguology. Appointed to the chairperson.

1998	Established Design for the World headquartered at Barcelona, Spain and appointed to the chairperson.
1999	Established Japan Finland Design Association and appointed to the chairperson.
2005	Established the association of building Dougu Temple / Dougu Village.
Awards	
1979	ICSID Colin King Grand Prix
1988	WORLDESIGN Award (USA)
1992	Design Lifetime Achievement Award. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Medal with Blue Ribbon (Japan)
1993	JIDA Grand Prix (Japan)
1995	Sir Misha Black Medal (UK)
1997	Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Letters (France)
2000	The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette (Japan)
2004	The Insignia of Commander in the Order of the Lion of Finland (Finland) The International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Award of the People's Republic of China (China)
2014	The 23rd ADI International Compasso d'Oro Award for International Lifetime Achievement (Italy)

Publications	
1969	Dougu Ko: Kajima Publishing Co., Ltd. (historical and philosophical analysis of the roles of "tools" in human life)
1980	Makunouchi Bento no Bigaku: Goma Shobo Publishing Co., Ltd. (the Aesthetics of the Makunouchi Lunchbox)
1994	Material Things and Japanese: Tokyo Shoseki Co., Ltd.
1998	The Aesthetics of the Japanese Lunchbox: MIT Press, USA
2000	The Discourses of Dougu: Kajima Publishing Co., Ltd.
2009	Putting all My Life into Design: Shunjusha Publishing Company