

Presented by the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan
and the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC



DESIGN JAPAN

Thursday, June 11 @ 6:30 pm

Professor Kazuo Kawasaki, who has earned international acclaim for his award-winning industrial designs, sees his work as a medium for progressive change. By harnessing the power of art and design to face contemporary global challenges, his efforts prove that designers can make a real impact in resolving humanitarian and health problems around the world.

Prof. Kawasaki began his career working as an industrial designer for Toshiba. When he was paralyzed in a traffic accident at the age of 28, he transformed his personal tragedy into the inspiration behind one of his most celebrated designs. His award-winning Carina wheelchair is now part of the permanent display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and his line of rimless eyeglass frames became an international fashion sensation when Governor Sarah Palin wore them during the 2008 Presidential campaign. They are also worn by Whoopi Goldberg and former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Having served as Design Director at such companies as Apple, Canon, and Sony, Prof. Kawasaki has designed everything from knives and computer hardware, to nuclear power systems and artificial organs. More recently he has dedicated himself, as both a researcher and an educator, to the integration of science, technology, medicine and art. He also founded Peace-Keeping Design (PKD), a nongovernmental organization which aims to contribute to the resolution of humanitarian issues through creative design. The PKD's simple, innovative concept for a vaccine injection kit could be dropped into areas cut off from other forms of humanitarian aid, allowing those in need to treat themselves safely and effectively.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis. Reservations required. Please send your name, affiliation, the number in your party, and the names of your guests, to: Jiccsvpsummer09@embjapan.org

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