

Gilbert Rohde for Herman Miller

Executive Office Group - large two-sided open-back desk - early 1940s



REFERENCE IMAGE from the owner's archive. It illustrates the model/configuration and is not a current photograph of this desk.

At a glance

Designer	Gilbert Rohde (1894-1944)
Manufacturer	Herman Miller Furniture Co., Zeeland, Michigan
Series	Executive Office Group (EOG)
Period	Early 1940s; Herman Miller dates EOG to 1942
Configuration	Open-back, two-sided executive/secretary desk; opposing work access and pull-out surfaces
Reference size	Approx. 66.25 W x 36 D x 29.5 H in. (buyer to verify actual dimensions)
Current state	Later black finish; restoration project; stored wrapped and dry
Location	Phoenix / Scottsdale, Arizona; local inspection/pickup preferred

Authentication and surviving details

The desk retains a Herman Miller label identifying “Original Rohde Design / Gilbert Rohde Designer.” The owner’s photographs also show circular pulls, drawer interiors/dividers, pedestal/base components and open-back construction consistent with the archived model reference.



Surviving Herman Miller / Gilbert Rohde label.



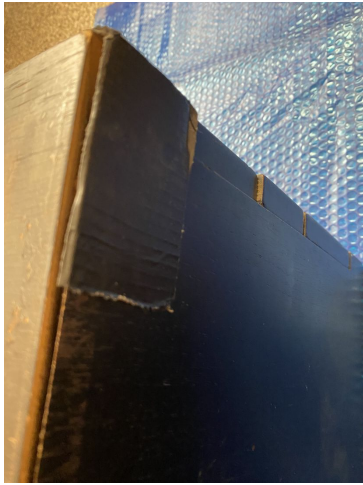
Drawer fronts/hardware and interior divider details.



Disassembled case/base components and construction details.

Condition - candidly stated

The desk was refinished previously and later received a black finish. The exterior now shows finish wear, scratches and localized veneer lifting/loss. It should be evaluated by a professional familiar with vintage veneer and early modern furniture before any sanding, stripping, gluing or refinishing.



Left: representative veneer/edge deterioration. Right: current black-finished desktop and surface wear.

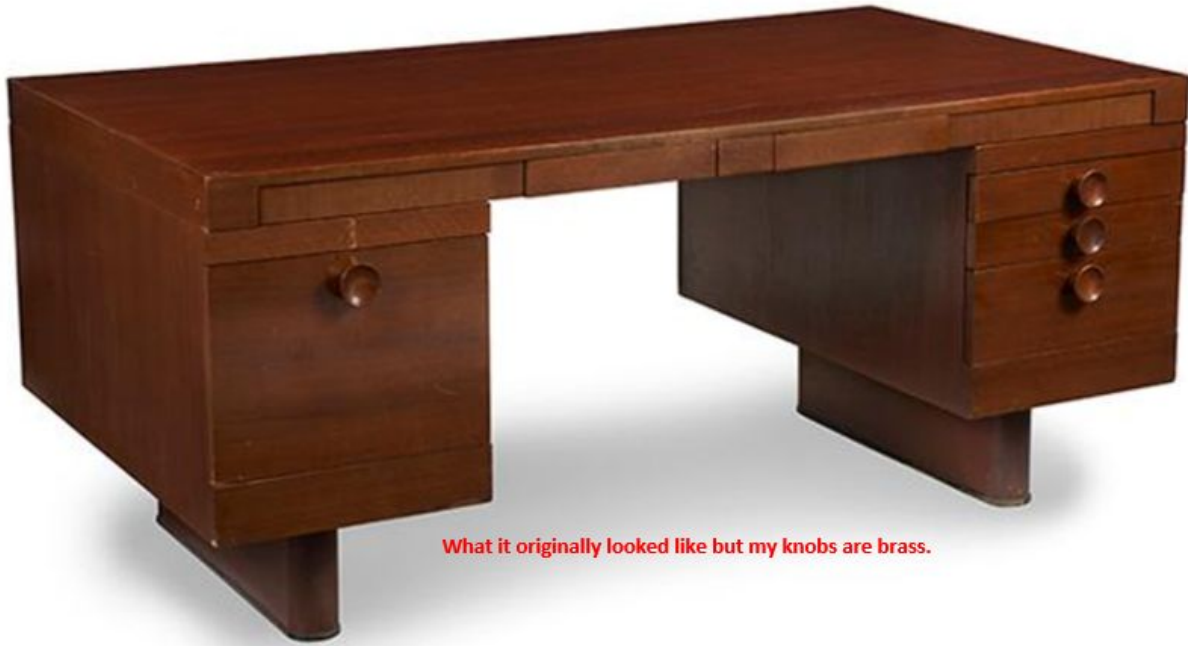


Current stored/disassembled condition on thick blue protective pool-cover material.

Storage: The owner reports the desk has been wrapped in this thick blue protective material and kept dry for years. It is currently wrapped and ready for a serious inspection or pickup.

A desk built for two sides

Unlike a conventional executive desk with a closed modesty panel, this open-back configuration can be approached from both sides. Its opposing pull-out work surfaces allow two people to sit face-to-face with usable leg room. Historically, that suited executive/secretary or visitor work. Today the same geometry could make a striking conversation, interview, podcast, studio or consultation desk.



What it originally looked like but my knobs are brass.

RESTORATION REFERENCE from the owner's archive. Not the current condition of this desk.

Sale approach

The owner is seeking a knowledgeable next custodian rather than undertaking restoration personally. The desk will be offered as-is. Serious buyers may arrange local inspection in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Local pickup is preferred.

Contact: SortOut4U@gmail.com | SortOut4U.com

Historical context and buyer verification

Herman Miller identifies Gilbert Rohde's Executive Office Group as a 1942 design and describes it as the company's entry into office furniture. The owner's archived Word document describes an open-back EOG desk, c. 1943, measuring 66.25 x 36 x 29.5 inches and cites Phyllis Ross, *Gilbert Rohde: Modern Design for Modern Living*, p. 224.

The desk's surviving label provides strong attribution evidence, but an interested buyer should independently verify the exact production date, actual dimensions, completeness and condition during inspection.

Proposed private-sale format

Opening price: \$3,500

Method: descending-price private sale

Planned reduction: \$250 per step, with timing controlled by seller

Reservation: \$250 good-faith deposit at the posted price; inspection window follows

Internal working floor: not published to buyers

Sources consulted

Herman Miller, "The Office Documented" and company history/timeline; owner photographs; owner's archived Gilbert Rohde/Herman Miller Word document and reference images.

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