

# SIDE GALLERY

JEAN GILLON



## Large Office Desk

Manufactured by Italma Wood Art  
Brazil, 1960  
Solid and Veneered Jacaranda, Wood

## Measurements

195,5 × 101,5 × 74 cm  
77 × 40 × 29,1h in

## Details

Three drawers on each side with cubic handles  
Manufacturer's label

## Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

## Bibliography

Latorraca, Giancarlo; Sacramento, Enoch; Bueno, Graça (Org.). Jean Gillon: Artista-Designer. São Paulo: Olhares, 2021. p.222.

## About

This large office desk by Jean Gillon, executed by Italma in São Paulo around 1960, exemplifies the Brazilian modernist approach to functional furniture design. Constructed from solid jacaranda and laminated wood, the desk combines durability with refined visual elegance.

The design features six drawers—three on each side—with simple cubic handles, reflecting Gillon's preference for geometric clarity and understated sophistication. The preserved manufacturer's label attests to its authenticity and provenance.

The desk represents Gillon's synthesis of practicality and artistry: robust construction, harmonious proportions, and meticulous attention to material quality. As a centerpiece of a workspace, it demonstrates the designer's ability to merge architectural precision with human-centered functionality, making it a significant example of mid-century Brazilian furniture design.

## Biography

**Jean Gillon** (1919–2007) was a designer and architect born in Iași, Romania, and later active in Brazil. Trained within European modernist principles, he emigrated to São Paulo in 1956, where he developed a distinctive body of work combining functional design with organic forms and artisanal techniques.

Gillon became a key figure in Brazilian modern design, known for his innovative use of materials such as wood, leather, and woven fibers, and for merging industrial production with craftsmanship through companies like Cidam and WoodArt. His most iconic piece, the Jangada armchair (1968), exemplifies his approach—light, structural, and ergonomically refined, inspired by traditional Brazilian fishing rafts.

Throughout his career, he gained international recognition for furniture that integrates architecture, landscape, and human comfort, leaving a lasting legacy in modern design.