Stool
Ulmer Hocker

Max Bill
1954

Ulmer Hocker, 1954 (handsigniert 1988)
Entwurf: Max Bill, Hans Gugelot, Paul Hildinger
Herstellung: Schreinerei Ph. Oswald, Oberglatt, CH
Material/Technik: Fichte, Buche, massiv
45 × 40 × 30 cm
Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

The multifunctional *Ulm Stool* exemplarily embodies what Max Bill (1908–1994) propagated in the 1950s as an architect, a designer, and as a teacher at the Hochschule für Gestaltung Ulm: combining economy of materials with structural aesthetics.

When the challenge was to achieve maximum functionality and spatial impact with minimal means, Max Bill (1908–1994) was in his element. No wonder he managed to make the most of the financial malaise that prevailed during the building of the Hochschule für Gestaltung Ulm—as architect, designer, and teacher. The *Ulm Stool*, made for the school out of donated fir boards and broom handles, paradigmatically embodies the added value Bill believed could be derived from the combination of an extremely prudent use of material and an aesthetically pleasing structure. Although the stool is not the result of a teacher-student relationship but rather emerged from the collaboration of Bill with the lecturer Hans Gugelot and the workshop master Paul Hildinger, it played a central role in instruction as a model multifunctional utilitarian object. Photographs document its use as a lectern; as seating in the dining hall, lecture hall, workshop, or student apartment; as a box for transporting books; and even as a nightstand. Whether Bill's "Platonic idea of a chair" (Bernhard Rübenach) had to be made of a specific set of materials—meticulously dovetailed fir boards and flush beech runners—was a question that was raised by Wohnhilfe in Zurich with a radically simplified 1962 particle-board version (also equipped with a drawer). Zanotta produced a birch plywood version in 1975, before the original version—by then an icon of minimalist design—was successfully revived by Wohnbedarf AG in Zurich in 1992. (Arthur Rüegg)

https://www.eguide.ch/en/objekt/ulmer-hocker/