ROWE CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

The limited return of the Gondola

THE STORY

Originally introduced in 1966, the Gondola is returning for Rowe's 80th anniversary in a strictly limited edition of just 25 individually numbered sofas.

Its architectural silhouette, sweeping arms and sculptural exposed wood frame have earned a devoted following among vintage furniture collectors.



The Gondola | Originally introduced in 1966 | 25 anniversary editions

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

THE 1966 ORIGINAL	The anniversary edition preserves the low profile, upswept arms and distinctive sculptural form.
ONLY 25 PIECES	Individually numbered 01–25; production ends once No. 25 is completed.
AMERICAN WALNUT	Exposed wood frame locally milled in High Point to Rowe's specifications and individually hand-finished.
ATELIER + ARCHIVE	Two curated compositions: contemporary Kravet Couture textile and heritage-inspired wool-blend with plaid.
SIGNED PROVENANCE	Craftsmen sign the vintage-inspired anniversary deck label; each sofa includes a Certificate of Authenticity.

"An original Gondola should always remain an original. The anniversary piece needed to honor that history while being unmistakably its own."

— Bobby Robinson, President of Rowe Furniture

EDITORIAL ANGLES

1966 design heritage • Limited-edition collectibility • American craftsmanship • Textile design

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Rowe Celebrates 80 Years with the Limited Return of the Gondola

The iconic 1966 design returns in a limited 80th Anniversary Edition of just 25 individually numbered pieces.

As **Rowe Furniture** celebrates its 80th anniversary, the company is returning to one of the most distinctive designs in its archive: the **Gondola sofa, introduced in 1966**.

Defined by its low architectural profile, sweeping arms and sculptural exposed wood frame, the Gondola has endured well beyond its original production, developing a devoted following among vintage furniture collectors.

For its anniversary, Rowe chose not to put the design back into regular production. Instead, the company will make **just 25 individually numbered 80th Anniversary Gondolas**.

“The Gondola has become an important part of Rowe’s history, and it’s been rewarding to see the appreciation it has developed in the vintage community,” says **Bobby Robinson, President of Rowe Furniture**. “For our 80th anniversary, we wanted to honor that history thoughtfully. We’re making just 25, and each one will have its own provenance.”

The anniversary Gondola retains the unmistakable silhouette of the original while reinterpreting its exposed wood frame in **American walnut, locally milled in High Point, North Carolina, to Rowe’s specifications and individually hand-finished**. The walnut traces the sweeping lower frame and arms and continues across the exposed top rail, reinforcing the sculptural character of the design.

The 25 pieces will be offered in **two curated textile compositions**, each expressing a different perspective on the Gondola’s history.

Atelier

The **Atelier** composition takes the Gondola in a more contemporary direction, pairing the walnut frame with a richly dimensional textile from **Kravet Couture**.

The nuanced neutral weave reveals greater complexity up close while remaining quiet enough to let the Gondola’s silhouette and exposed walnut take the lead.

“We wanted the textile to have enough dimension to hold its own against such a strong silhouette without competing with it,” says **Laura Mabe, VP of Creative at Rowe Furniture**. “The **Kravet Couture** fabric has a beautiful complexity when you see it up close, but from across the room it feels incredibly refined. That balance felt exactly right for the Gondola.”

Archive

The **Archive** composition looks more directly to the Gondola’s past, revisiting the two-tone upholstery associated with the original design.

A warm wool-blend solid covers the body, contrasted by a softly colored plaid across the seat cushion and button-tufted back. The combination references the period without attempting to recreate it.

“The plaid gave us a natural connection to the period, but we didn’t want the piece to feel nostalgic or overly literal,” Mabe says. “Pairing it with the quieter wool-blend body gave us that reference to the past while still making the combination feel relevant today.”

Built and Signed by Rowe Craftsmen

For the anniversary production, Rowe is entrusting the Gondola to **some of its finest and most tenured craftspeople**, creating a direct connection between each sofa and the people who built it.

Each piece will carry a **vintage-inspired deck label featuring Rowe's 1960s logo and the designation "80th Anniversary Edition."** The craftsmen who build each Gondola will sign its label, and every sofa will be individually numbered from **01 through 25** and accompanied by a **Certificate of Authenticity**.

The details establish clear provenance for the anniversary pieces while deliberately distinguishing them from surviving vintage originals.

"We have tremendous respect for the people who discovered these pieces, restored them and kept the Gondola relevant decades after it was first made," Robinson says. "An original Gondola should always remain an original. The anniversary piece needed to honor that history while being unmistakably its own."

Once **No. 25** is completed, production of the 80th Anniversary Gondola will end.

About Rowe Furniture

Founded in 1946, **Rowe Furniture** is an American upholstery manufacturer known for thoughtfully designed, made-to-order sofas, sectionals, chairs and more. From its manufacturing facility in Elliston, Virginia, Rowe combines skilled American craftsmanship with an extensive selection of fabrics, leathers and custom options.

Celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2026, Rowe continues to evolve its collections while remaining rooted in the people, craftsmanship and communities that have shaped the company for eight decades.

RoweFurniture.com