by Sophie Tasma-Anargyros

Andrée Putman, an interior designer known for her reissue of early 20th-century furniture and her avant-garde approach to design, died in Paris on January 19, 2013. She was 87 years old.

Putman was born in Paris on December 23, 1925, into a family of bankers and notables. She began her career in 1954 as an interior designer, working initially with her mother, pianist Andrée Christine Aynard, and her father, banker André Aynard. Putman's work was characterized by its simplicity and elegance, often incorporating elements of the French modernist movement.

Putman's career spanned over four decades and was marked by several milestones. She was the first woman to design a hotel, the Morgan, in 1983, and her work was featured in numerous exhibitions worldwide. Her collection of furniture designs, including the iconic “Papillon” chair, became iconic and are still highly sought after today.

Putman's legacy is not only in her furniture designs, but also in her dedication to preserving the history of French design. She worked closely with the Mobilier National, the national furniture collection of France, and was instrumental in the rediscovery and reissuance of early Modernist French furniture.

Putman's impact on the world of interior design is immeasurable. She was a pioneer in the field, and her work continues to inspire designers around the world. Her influence can be seen in the work of many contemporary designers who continue to embrace the principles of simplicity and elegance that defined Putman's approach to design.

Andrée Putman was a true visionary who dedicated her life to the pursuit of beauty and simplicity in design. Her legacy will continue to inspire and influence for generations to come.