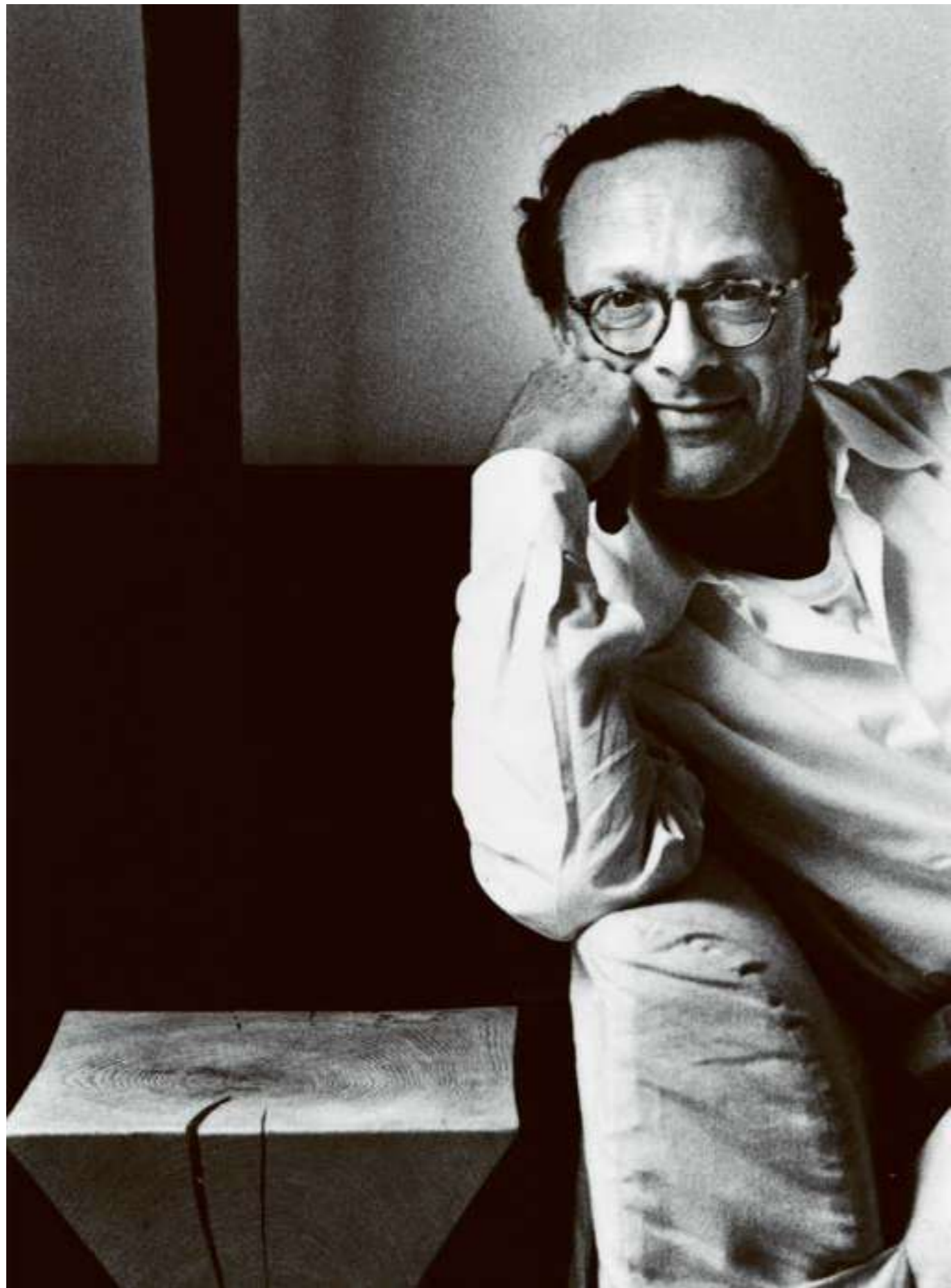


LIAIGRE



THE BEGINNING, CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE

When he opened his first showroom on rue de Varenne in the mid-1980s, Christian Liaigre surprised everyone with his restrained and clean aesthetic vocabulary which impressed with its modernity and originality. At a time when catching the eye was the trend, his luxurious no-frill designs impressed a demanding international clientele on a quest for authenticity. His origins (he was born in La Rochelle), his background (he studied at the Beaux Arts and then at the Arts Décoratifs), and his passion for riding horses and the equestrian world were shown through a simple and fluid design style enhanced by the high quality of his favorite materials: wood, leather and bronze.

Discrete, Christian Liaigre preferred let his designs speak for themselves: he created furniture and objects that reflected his dedication to beauty, a search for balance, an accuracy for proportions and perfection in the detail. From the creation of his first furniture pieces, he quickly moved onto interior design, reconnecting with the French tradition of the designer decorator. Surrounded by the best craftsmen, he imagined and delivered spaces that expressed simplicity, sincerity, a modern and timeless style, alongside a natural attention to wellbeing. After working with significant private clients, his rare public projects during the 1990s such as the Montalembert Hotel (1990) in Paris and the Mercer Hotel in New York (1997) contributed to his fame on both sides of the Atlantic. Surrounded by his team, Christian Liaigre conceived and designed projects throughout the world; from apartments to holiday homes, from offices to the cabins of private jets or yachts. In the space of three decades he led a spectacular career, cultivating luxury made in France and founded on exceptional craftsmanship. He achieved this with the support of a talented team all dedicated to prestigious projects and triggering growth based on the unique strength of a style which has become a coveted signature. In 2014, concerned about the continuation of his heritage, Liaigre promoted the new creative direction within his historical team. He left the company in 2016.

Christian Liaigre dies in September 2020.



THE ANCHORAGES
OF A STYLE

French 18TH century

In the mid-1980s Christian Liaigre exhibited his first furniture pieces in his showroom on the left bank, laying the foundations of an aesthetic vocabulary that aims to last. Without yielding to the seductions of fashion, his furniture praises an apparent simplicity, imposing clean lines and classicism nourished by a solid culture, as a form of minimalism that contrasts with some of the trends of the time.

For any French decorator, the knowledge of the 18th Century art of living is a fundamental cultural background. At Liaigre this inspiration passes through the filter of the great decorators of the early 20th century, previously mentioned. There is an obvious link between the late 18th Century Louis XVI furniture, the great Modernist designs of the 1920s-30s and the refined style developed by Christian Liaigre and his studio since the mid-1980s. Once again, Liaigre follows in the footsteps of tradition and a state of mind, but not as an imitator seeking to perpetrate well-identified forms. What draws Liaigre's attention to the French 18th Century is primarily "efficiency". Careful thought has to be given to utility and being functional. Consequently, ergonomics is fully analyzed to ensure comfort and freedom of movement.

How can we avoid speaking about the way of associating sober lines with noble materials and sophisticated finishes, to reveal artisans that owe everything to a tradition strongly anchored in the 18th Century, enriched with time, and innovation. The dialogue between precision and luxury is synonymous with elegance. The Liaigre style likes to define itself more as an art of living in a broad sense, than as a style. Its demands and precision make it necessary to consider the design of a space to the slightest detail. This includes the continuation of a quest for beauty, expressed by the greatest designers of the 18th Century.





Modernism

With the simplicity of its shapes, the sophistication of its refined materials (wood, bronze, lacquer), and modernity at its most timeless, the Liaigre style quickly appeared as an extension of a school of thought echoing certain modernist architects and decorators of the 20s, such as Jean-Michel Frank, Pierre Chareau or Paul Dupré Lafon. These interior designers knew how to think up rooms by imagining spaces, furniture and lighting that had to fit in but also add all the luxuriousness of architectural details that made daily life effortless. It was a way of creating architecture and design that left nothing to chance and which resulted in an immediate well being.



THE ANCHORAGES
OF A STYLE



Minimalism

If undeniably Liaigre's style is given the Minimalist inflection, firstly we cross vocabulary often used by those who wrote and commented on the projects and creations of the House. Sober, reserved, simple...are some of the words most often used to describe Liaigre's style. We need to state that none of these adjectives is false, or betrays the spirit developed by Christian Liaigre since the very beginning, which continues in the creative studio today. It is also referred to as a "style without the impact of style" a formula which means that there is no excess of writing or gesticulation in Liaigre's vocabulary. Everything is thought out and drawn with a view to correctness by always reconciling notions of harmony and ergonomics. These delightful aesthetics, are dictated more by imperatives than minimalism (excess is the opposite of what the House has been developing for 40 years), but above all by a reflection whose central point is the human factor (functionality, feeling of well being, comfort, softness).



The style

Pioneer of a modernity founded on the basis of furniture history, Liaigre gave prominence to high quality craftsmanship: cabinet making, saddlery, bronze making, lacquering... For the benefit of a «no frills style» with clean lines and perfect proportions.

Natural materials were echoed by a palette of nature-driven tonalities – a complete range of whites, beiges, grays, taupe and browns, intense blacks revived by deep or very bold colors. These generous creations were concerned with wellbeing. Liaigre offered more than just furniture, it offered a way of living in one's time. In this context, both the interior architecture and the concept of space evolved from the first furniture and lighting editions. A clear design: the same simple style and absence of anything superfluous. It is an aesthetic that cultivates simplicity with a taste for detail pushed to an extreme and then adapted to the lifestyle of each client. This luxurious simplicity would go on to attract some of the world's most demanding clients. Over the last thirty five years, the highly sought after Liaigre style has become one of the world's most unique brands.





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