



## Statement from Sir Terence Conran's family

12 September 2020

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"It is with great sadness we announce British designer, retailer and restaurateur Sir Terence Conran passed away peacefully today at his Barton Court home aged 88.

He was a visionary who enjoyed an extraordinary life and career that revolutionised the way we live in Britain. A proud patriot, Sir Terence promoted the best of British design, culture and the arts around the world and at the heart of everything he did was a very simple belief that good design improves the quality of people's lives.

From the late forties to the present day, his energy and creativity thrived in his shops, restaurants, bars, cafes and hotels and through his many design, architecture and furniture making businesses. Founding The Design Museum in London was one of his proudest moments and through its

endeavours he remained a relentless champion of the importance of education to young people in the creative industries.

Sir Terence enjoyed a remarkable life to the full and always maintained that his work never felt like a job - everything he did for business he would have done for pleasure.

In his private life he was adored by his family and friends and we will miss him dearly. It gives us great comfort to know that many of you will mourn with us but we ask that you celebrate Terence's extraordinary legacy and contribution to the country he loved so dearly."

– ENDS –

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### **Notes to Editor**

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

**1931** Born in Kingston upon Thames

**1948** Enrolled in Central School of Arts & Crafts

**1949** Shared a studio in London's East End with Eduardo Paolozzi. Began making furniture

**1950** On the advice of his tutor leaves course at Central to work for architect Dennis Lennon. In the evenings he works on window displays in Simpsons, Piccadilly

**1952** Opens Conran & Company from a basement in Notting Hill, selling furniture from a showroom in Piccadilly Arcade

**1953** Opens Soup Kitchen in Chandos Place, inspired by the elegant simplicity of affordable restaurants in France at the time. It housed the second Gaggia coffee machine in London

**1954** Opens Orrery restaurant on Kings Road

**1955** Started Conran Fabrics

- 1956** Set up Conran Design Group, designing among other things a store for Mary Quant in Knightsbridge
- 1963** Moved his operations to 40,000 square foot factory in Thetford, Norfolk, taking 80 staff and their families with him
- 1964** Habitat opens on Fulham Road in Chelsea with staff in uniforms by Mary Quant and hair styled by Vidal Sassoon
- 1965** Habitat opens second branch on Tottenham Court Road
- 1966** Habitat opens further branches in Manchester, Brighton and Glasgow
- 1968** Merges company to form Ryman Conran
- 1970** Neal Street Restaurant opens, which until its closure was run by Terence's sister Priscilla and her husband, Antonio Carluccio. Conran Associates replaces Conran Design Group
- 1973** Habitat's largest branch opens on Kings' Road and first branch of Conran shop opens on site of original Habitat store
- 1974** Publication of House Book by Mitchell Beazley
- 1976** Opens Habitat shop in Citicorp building in Manhattan under the name Conran
- 1980** Conran Foundation set up, dedicated to educating the public and British industry on the value of industrial design. Habitat becomes a public company.
- 1981** Boilerhouse (the initial incarnation of the Design Museum) opens at the V&A. As Chairman of Hepworths, uses his position on the board of a menswear chain to develop Next. Buys 11-acre site at Butlers Wharf for redevelopment
- 1982** Purchased Mothercare; launch of Habitat Basics so popular in Japan that Seibu (the department store that franchised the line) developed the 'no brand' formula to create MUJI.
- 1983** Receives his knighthood to become Sir Terence Conran
- 1985** Conran Octopus created with Paul Hamlyn to produce educational but inspiring books about interiors, gardening and cookery
- 1986** Boilerhouse closes at V&A to begin renovation of Shad Thames site; Habitat-Mothercare merges with British Home Stores and rebranding begins to become BhS. Benchmark furniture-making company set up in the grounds of his home in Berkshire.
- 1987** Buys the Michelin Building in Fulham Road and refurbishes it to become home for the Conran Shop, Octopus publishing and Bibendum restaurant
- 1989** Design Museum opens at Butlers Wharf
- 1990** Retires from Storehouse, sets up Conran Holdings from an apartment in Shad Thames, Butlers Wharf
- 1991** Conran Restaurants set up. Design company Conran Roche becomes CD partnership.
- 1994** Conran Shop opens in Shinjuku Park Tower in Tokyo

**1999** Conran Shop opens in New York underneath the 59th Street Bridge, along with the restaurant Guastavino's. Merges CD Partnership with Sebastian Conran Associates to form Conran & Partners, or C&P

**2000** Opening, in partnership with Wyndham International, of London's Great Eastern Hotel which became one of London's most successful hotels

**2003** Named Provost for the Royal College of Art. Starts developing the Conran Collections, a series of brand licensed products that reflect his lifelong philosophy to bring good quality, contemporary homewares to a wider audience. Ranges now include Bed by Conran, Light by Conran, Terence Conran by Royal Doulton, Content by Conran and Vision by Conran

**2004** Awarded Prince Philip Designer of the Year award for services to design. Conran & Partners complete work on Roppongi Hills, a new urban quarter in the heart of Tokyo, created by the Mori Building Company.

**2006** Conran restaurants renamed D&D London but Conran Holdings maintains a 51% stake in the business. Sells Great Eastern Hotel to Hyatt Hotels

**2007** Launches range of cookware for Royal Doulton. Becomes an honorary Doctor of Science at Southbank University.

**2012** Design Museum Exhibition: Terence Conran - The Way We Live Now from 16 November 2011 - 4 March 2012. Awarded The Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy which celebrates the impact of givers to the arts and won the Lifetime Achievement medal at the London Design Festival

**2016** Sir Terence Conran cuts the ribbon to open the new Design Museum in Kensington High Street on 24 November. Awarded the Order of the Companions of Honour in the Queen's Honours List.

**2017** the Design Museum welcomes 780,000 visitors in its opening year.

**2019** Opens the first and largest Conran Shop in Seoul, South Korea