

# SIDE GALLERY

PIERRE PAULIN (1927 - 2009)



## Sofa 3 Seater model "ABCD"

Manufactured by Artifort  
Holland, 1960s  
Kvadrat Fabric, Steel,  
Polyethylene/Styrofoam

### Measurements

245 cm x 76 cm x 64h cm  
96,4 in x 29,9 in x 25,1h in

### Literature

Pierre Paulin, Archibooks, p.222/223

## Biography

Pierre Paulin (born July 1927, Paris–died June 2009, Montpellier) was a French interior and furniture designer. After failing in his studies at the Baccalauréat, Pierre trained as a ceramist in the city of Vallauris, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and then as a stone carver in Burgundy, but he injured his right arm in a fight and was forced to end his career as a sculptor, and decided to attend the École Camondo in Paris afterward. Because of his relationship with the Gascoïn company, he became familiar and interested in Scandinavian and Japanese design, a fact that would influence his works later in his career. Pierre Paulin had his debut exhibition at the Salon Des Arts Ménagers in 1953, and he appeared on the cover of the French magazine *La Maison Française*. A year later, he got hired by the Thonet Company and began experimenting by including stretch swimwear fabrics over otherwise traditionally made chairs. About four years later, Paulin joined the Dutch furniture manufacturer Artifort. While at Artifort, he became a prominent designer thanks to the immediate success and popularity of the Mushroom chair, which he designed in 1960. Much later on, in 2008, while working for Artifort, Paulin said, "It represents the first full expression of my abilities. I considered the manufacture of chairs to be rather primitive and I was trying to think up new processes." During his career, Paulin worked with foams and rubbers from Italy, which he would stretch around a light metallic frame. The combination of these materials made his chair designs rounder, and look comfortable and inviting.