

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Japanese designer Hanae Mori dies at 96

August 19, 2022



*The designer is survived by her children and grandchildren. Image credit: Hanae Mori*

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By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Renowned Japanese fashion designer and the first Asian woman to be considered an official haute couture designer, Hanae Mori, has passed away.

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Born in Shimane, Japan in 1926, the designer opened her fashion house in Tokyo in 1951, which blossomed into an astoundingly successful international business in 40 years. At the start of her career, she was known for designing costumes for film, but ultimately became one of only two Asian women to show her collection at Paris and New York fashion weeks.

### Lasting legacy

Alongside her husband and business partner, Ken, Ms. Mori took her brand beyond Japan and opened showrooms in New York and Paris.

She became the first Asian designer to be accepted by the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne, granting her permission to use the term "haute couture" to describe her handmade pieces.

Throughout her career and life, her designs were worn by major celebrities and notable figures, such as Grace Kelly, Hillary Clinton and Nancy Reagan.



*She was known for her butterfly motif. Image credit: Hanae Mori*

Fashion lost another legend earlier this month.

Renowned Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake, who was best known for his avant-garde designs and recognizable pleated style, lost his battle with cancer on Aug. 5, 2022.

The designer worked alongside fashion icons such as Guy Laroche and Hubert de Givenchy before making a name for himself throughout the 1980s and 1990s with his iconic pleated material.

Born in Hiroshima in 1938, Mr. Miyake suffered from both physical and psychological trauma from the nuclear bomb that was dropped on the city in 1945 during World War II, however, he did not mention his experiences until the last 13 years of his life ([see story](#)).

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