

REMEMBERING WILLY RIZZO

Paying tribute to the photographer and designer



By [AMY PREISER](#) MAR 4, 2013



[Willy Rizzo](#), the ever inspiring and versatile Italian photographer and furniture designer, passed away on February 25, 2013, at the age of 84. Rizzo's photographs of such icons as Coco Chanel and Pablo Picasso brought him worldwide acclaim, though he was especially revered in the design world for his sleek and inventive line of furniture. His rotating cocktail table, with a built-in Champagne bucket, is a sly nod to *la dolce vita* that he captured on film, but in truth his collection was born from necessity. "I wanted to decorate [my Roman pied à terre] in a modern style, so I created things for it," he told ELLE DECOR in 2010, in a story about his [eponymous Parisian shop](#). Through the years, Rizzo's pieces have appeared in the some of the most glamorous and worldly homes of ELLE DECOR—his leather-and-chrome dining table holds court in Giambattista Valli's [Roman dining room](#); Aerin Lauder has his gleaming brass-and-walnut cocktail table in her [East Hampton living room](#); nearly all the pieces in [John Demsey's dining room](#) are by Rizzo. While friends and admirers mourn the artist, his legacy lives on in his photographs and furniture—and will likely inspire a new generation of creatives in years to come.

Learn more about Rizzo—and see a selection of his pieces—in our [2010 piece about his studio](#).