



## The Brand

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PET Lamp is a design project born in 2011 from a simple yet powerful question: what happens when you bring a discarded plastic bottle into the hands of a master weaver? Founded by Spanish designer Álvaro Catalán de Ocón, PET Lamp travels the world to collaborate with indigenous and traditional craft communities — from the Colombian rainforest to the highlands of Ethiopia, from the bamboo workshops of Kyoto to the basketweavers of northern Ghana. In each place, the team arrives not with a finished product, but with an open process: weeks of workshops, shared learning, and co-creation. The result is a lighting collection where each lampshade is handwoven around a recycled PET bottle, using the bottle's structure as a base for ancient weaving techniques. The bottle — a symbol of waste and globalization — is transformed into something extraordinary, without erasing where it came from or who made it. Since its first collection in Colombia in 2012, PET Lamp has developed eight distinct collections across seven countries, always guided by the same principles: respect for craft knowledge, fair and long-term partnerships with artisans, and the belief that good design can be a tool for both cultural preservation and social change. PET Lamp is a certified B Corporation. Every lamp sold is a lamp made by hand, in community, with intention.

## The Collections

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### Eperara Siapidara — Colombia, 2012

Material: PET bottle strips + natural fibres · Technique: Eperara-Siapidara weaving

The first PET Lamp collection was born in Colombia, in collaboration with the Eperara-Siapidara indigenous community — weavers who had been displaced from the Cauca region to the outskirts of Bogotá. Their weaving tradition, rich in colour and geometry, became the foundation for a collection that is as much a social gesture as a design object. Each lamp carries the patterns and knowledge of a community fighting to preserve its identity far from home.

### Chimbarongo — Chile, 2013

Material: PET bottle strips + wicker · Technique: Traditional Chilean wickerwork

150 kilometres south of Santiago lies Chimbarongo — the wicker capital of Chile. Spanish colonists introduced the craft; generations of local artisans perfected it. The PET Lamp Chimbarongo collection reflects the austere, honest beauty of wicker: clean lines, geometric precision, a material that asks for nothing decorative because it needs nothing more. A study in restraint.

### Abyssinia — Ethiopia, 2015

Material: PET bottle strips + natural fibres · Technique: Ethiopian basketry

Ethiopia holds the most UNESCO World Heritage sites in Africa. Its baskets are not merely functional — they are sacred objects, decorative statements, and cultural markers woven into the fabric of daily life. The Abyssinia collection was developed with Salem Kasshun and her group of Addis Abeba weavers, whose mastery and flexibility opened a new chapter in the PET Lamp story. The result is a collection shaped by centuries of Ethiopian craft tradition, reimagined through the lens of contemporary lighting design.

## Pikul — Thailand, 2016

Material: PET bottle strips + bamboo · Technique: Traditional Thai bamboo basketry

In Thailand, bamboo basketry is defined by calm — by the precision and patience of craftspeople who work with a material that demands complete mastery. The Pikul collection was developed with the Traditional Bamboo Handicraft Center, a foundation supported by Queen Sirikit, in a process that required three different artisans for three different stages of each lamp. The collection takes its name from the Pikul flower — the *Mimusops Elengi*, or Spanish Cherry — whose geometric growth pattern is echoed in the lamp's weave.

## Mapuche — Chile, 2016

Material: PET bottle strips + Ñocha grass · Technique: Mapuche weaving

The Mapuche women of Huentelolen, in the Araucanía region of southern Chile, have passed down a 500 year old weaving tradition from generation to generation — a tradition that uses Ñocha, a resilient grass that thrives in the well-irrigated soil of the region. The collaboration proved that PET Lamp could take root even in territories marked by conflict, and produced a collection that is grand and striking: a testament to the strength of knowledge carried by women, across centuries.

## Bolgatanga — Ghana, 2019 & 2022

Material: PET bottle strips + elephant grass · Technique: Bolgatanga basketry

Bolgatanga is known as the city of baskets. Located in the remote Upper East Region of Ghana, just kilometres from the Burkina Faso border, it is a place where basket weaving is not a hobby or a tradition preserved in museums — it is the backbone of the local economy and a living expression of community values. PET Lamp developed two Bolgatanga collections (2019 and 2022) in collaboration with local weavers, integrating PET bottles into a craft language that already understood structure, rhythm and beauty better than most.

## Gurunsi — Ghana, 2023

Material: PET bottle strips + elephant grass · Technique: Frafra basketry, inspired by Gurunsi architecture

The PET Lamp Gurunsi collection looks upward — and outward. It is inspired by the circular adobe compounds of the Frafra communities in northern Ghana: architecture shaped by collective life, where the form of the home reflects the values of the people who build it. Working with the master weavers of The Baba Tree, PET Lamp translated the curves, openings and spatial logic of these structures into large-format lampshades that, when lit, cast the same shifting patterns of light and shadow as sunlight moving through woven walls. In 2026, the Gurunsi project was recognised as a finalist for the LOEWE FOUNDATION Craft Prize — one of the most prestigious international awards for contemporary craft — with the tapestry work that shares its origin with this collection.

## Ibisi — Rwanda, 2024 & 2025

Material: PET bottle strips + bamboo structure + papyrus · Technique: Uruhindu basketry

The Ibisi collection marks a new chapter for PET Lamp — and a new continent, a new material, a new visual language. Developed in collaboration with local artisans and MASS.Made in Rwanda, Ibisi draws on the Uruhindu basketry tradition: a technique that uses a bamboo skeleton covered in a delicate skin of papyrus, adorned with personal and powerful motifs. The PET bottle here is sliced into strips that support both the internal structure and the outer papyrus layer. The result is elongated, almost totemic — lamps that rise like obelisks or cypress trees, unlike anything in the collection before.