

ames

vibrant living



DESIGN CRAFTED FOR
CONTEMPORARY LIVING.

INCREDIBLE NATURE,
A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE
AND GENEROUS PEOPLE:
AMES WAS BORN OUT OF A DEEP
LOVE FOR COLOMBIA.

BY CONNECTING LEADING
CONTEMPORARY DESIGNERS
WITH THE COUNTRY'S
ARTISAN COMMUNITY, AMES HAS
CREATED A VIBRANT
COLLECTION OF HANDMADE
FURNITURE AND
LIFESTYLE PRODUCTS.



Every new season, a fresh chapter begins for ames when we present our latest creations. For us, it means months, sometimes years, of intense creative collaboration have come to an end. From the designer's first sketch to the first production samples and final finishing touches by our craftspeople – our collection is a true labour of love at every step of the way.

I invite you to discover our latest collaborations and creations, reviving ancient Andean manual production methods in the context of modern living. Invigorated by the daring designs of our creative partners, the

master artesanos even often find new ways of pushing the old crafts even further. Most recently, this happened with our Ojitos wall decorations and Choco vases. Both are made using fine palm fibres, where the artisans developed new techniques to weave the colour-blocking pattern.

I am proud that our products contribute to keeping this ancient knowledge alive while enriching interiors worldwide with the unique spirit of Colombia – vibrant, diverse and simply beautiful.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF AMES

ana Maria Calderón Kasep

Seeing Colombia in its beauty – with this vision, ames has developed a unique collection of furniture and home decor handmade in Colombia. Inspired by the country's incredible nature, rich cultural heritage and diverse communities, all ames creations capture a different side of Colombia. From buzzing cities like Bogota and Cartagena to lush rainforests, vast deserts and remote Andean valleys, the ames collection reflects the country's diversity and beauty, translated into modern pieces that will enrich interiors with their striking shapes, lively patterns and attractive textures.

Our pieces come to life through a creative process that stretches over several months and sometimes even years. Working with Sebastian Herkner,

Cristina Celestino, Mae Engelgeer and Pauline Deltour, Ana Maria introduces the creatives to Colombia's many crafts so that they can immerse themselves in these new techniques and develop a deeper understanding of the country.

All ames products are developed and made in true partnership with local artesanos and artesanas, the Colombian craftspeople. Their skills, care and know-how ensure that every ames product is finished to exceptional quality. We collaborate with small, family-owned ateliers, where the makers craft every product carefully by hand. We also work with our local partners to minimise our environmental impact: many of our materials are sourced domestically, and we use recycled materials whenever we can.

CRAFTED FOR MODERN LIFE

Victorias Coffee Table, Cartagenas Lounge Chair,
Cartagenas Reina Chair, Chumbes Cushion, Muyska Rug

Caribe Chic Basket, Maraca Cushion, Victorias Coffee Table,
Cartagenas Lounge Chair, Cartagenas Side Table



Ames is a family-run brand founded by Ana Maria Calderón Kayser with her husband Karl-Heinz in 2006. Ana Maria was born and raised in Colombia and has long been a passionate collector of objects made using traditional crafts. As a teenager, she lived for one year with a family that owned a furniture factory in Germany, which sparked her curiosity in how the masterful combination of form and function can make truly beautiful design pieces.

She started ames with the vision to create products that spread Colombian joie de vivre around the world, inspiring curiosity in the traditions of her

motherland and, by using them to create modern living collection, attracting new generations to learn the centuries-old crafts.

In 2015, ames launched the first designs by Sebastian Herkner. Over the last years, Mae Engelgeer, Pauline Deltour and Cristina Celestino joined the ames family as collaborators. Every one of them introduced their personal interpretation of the ames ethos, finding inspiration in one of the many facets of Colombia's heritage and nature while studying the extraordinary craftsmanship.

A CELEBRATION OF COLOMBIA

Some of the ames partner ateliers are located in towns in the Andes mountains of the Narino region.



Caribe Chairs, Nobsa Rugs



Cielo Daybed, Caribe Chic Basket Table, Caribe Chic Tall Side Table

The attention to detail that goes into every ames product starts with choosing the materials. Many of the natural materials we source locally are not commonly used in contemporary design. However, by including the artisans in the design process, we can find new ways to work with materials that Colombian craftspeople have used for generations.

All the natural materials used in our collections are prepared in a labour-intensive process before the artesanos begin making the final product. In Tolima, our ceramic products are moulded using air-dried clay, and it takes the experts days to produce the plant fibres and wicker materials from the leaves of local plants like fique and bejuco.

By sourcing many materials locally, ames contributes to keeping these old ways of making alive while supporting small family workshops in Colombia's remote regions.

When we work with materials from outside Colombia, ames only selects materials of credible and transparent origin. All the coloured PVC strings for our outdoor collections like Caribe, Cielo and Cartagenas have been made from recycled plastic, while the wool for our rugs comes from trusted suppliers in Cundinamarca.

SOURCED WITH THE GREATEST CARE

All ames rugs are made with fine virgin wool spun in Colombia.





Ames ceramics are burnt in traditional fire ovens.



All fibres used in ames products are prepared and dyed by hand.

LABOUR OF LOVE

All ames products are developed and made in true partnership with local artesanos and artesanas, the Colombian craftspeople. Their skills, care and knowledge ensure that every ames product is finished with exceptional quality. Even in Colombia, some of these traditional handcrafting techniques have become uncommon. We are proud that our work contributes that now a new generation can build a future by learning them.

We consult with master artesanos and artesanas, the most experienced and skilled craftspeople, as only they can help us turn the drawings of the designers into real products. The methods they know have been used by people living in what is today Colombia before the first Spanish expeditions arrived.

We only manufacture in small, family-owned ateliers based all around the country. The weaving technique the artesanos and artesanas use to create most of our furniture collections is called “momposino”. It’s a tradition especially popular in the Santa Marta region on the Caribbean coast, and that is now applied in our workshops in Bogota.

For our ceramic collection, we have partnered with two manufacturers in Tolima. Their workshops employ more than 70 people, many of them are family members, with specialists for each production stage – from clay digging to kiln firing to polishing.

All over Colombia, craftspeople have historically used the leaves and fibres of palm trees and grasses to make hats, baskets and jewellery. At ames, we adapt these old skills for our collections. The La Che baskets, for example, are made by hand in ateliers located in Boyacá, an Andes region, applying a technique originally developed by the indigenous Laches people. The fibre derives from dried Figue leaves, an Agave plant that grows in Colombia’s tropical regions.

All our rugs are woven by hand on traditional looms in ateliers located in the provinces of Santander and Boyacá. The artesanos and artesanas work with natural or dyed yarns spun from soft virgin sheep wool, which in some rug collections are combined with metallic threads or palm fibres. In these workshops, the craftspeople still know a broad range of historic knotting and weaving techniques.

The Colombian artisans weave ames rugs on traditional vertical looms.

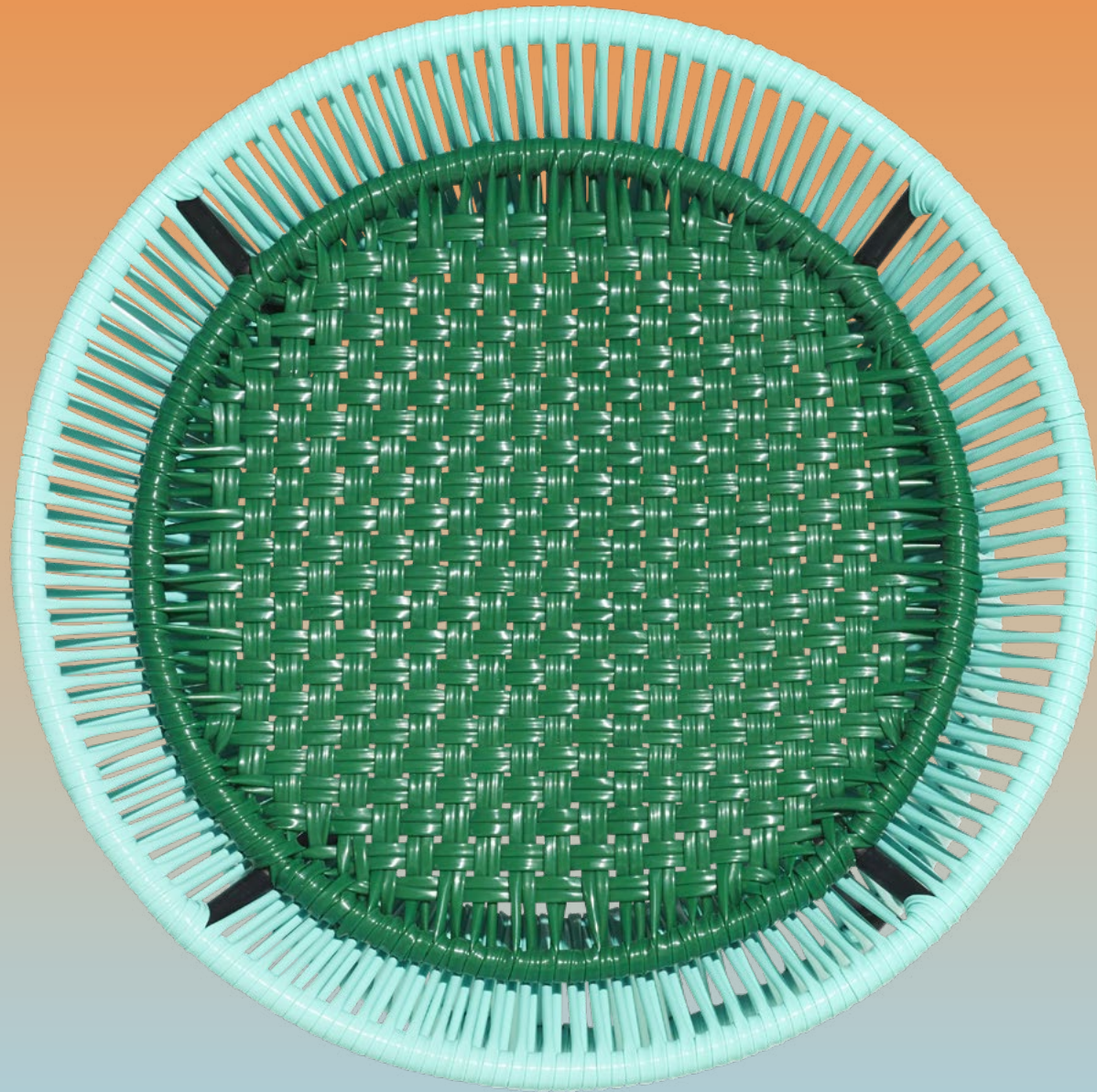


To create the colourful patterns of the ames outdoor furniture collections, the artisans use a weaving technique called 'momposino'.



For the moulding of ames ceramics, the makers work mostly with their hands, using only very few tools.

LIVE LIFE IN COLOUR



The webbing of all ames outdoor collections is woven with hard wearing PVC strings, which are made from recycled plastic. Artfully woven in workshops in Bogota, Colombia's capital, these chairs and tables add vibrancy to any garden, terrace or pool area.



Cartagenas Reina Chair, **Cartagenas** Side Table, **Cartagenas** Coffee Table

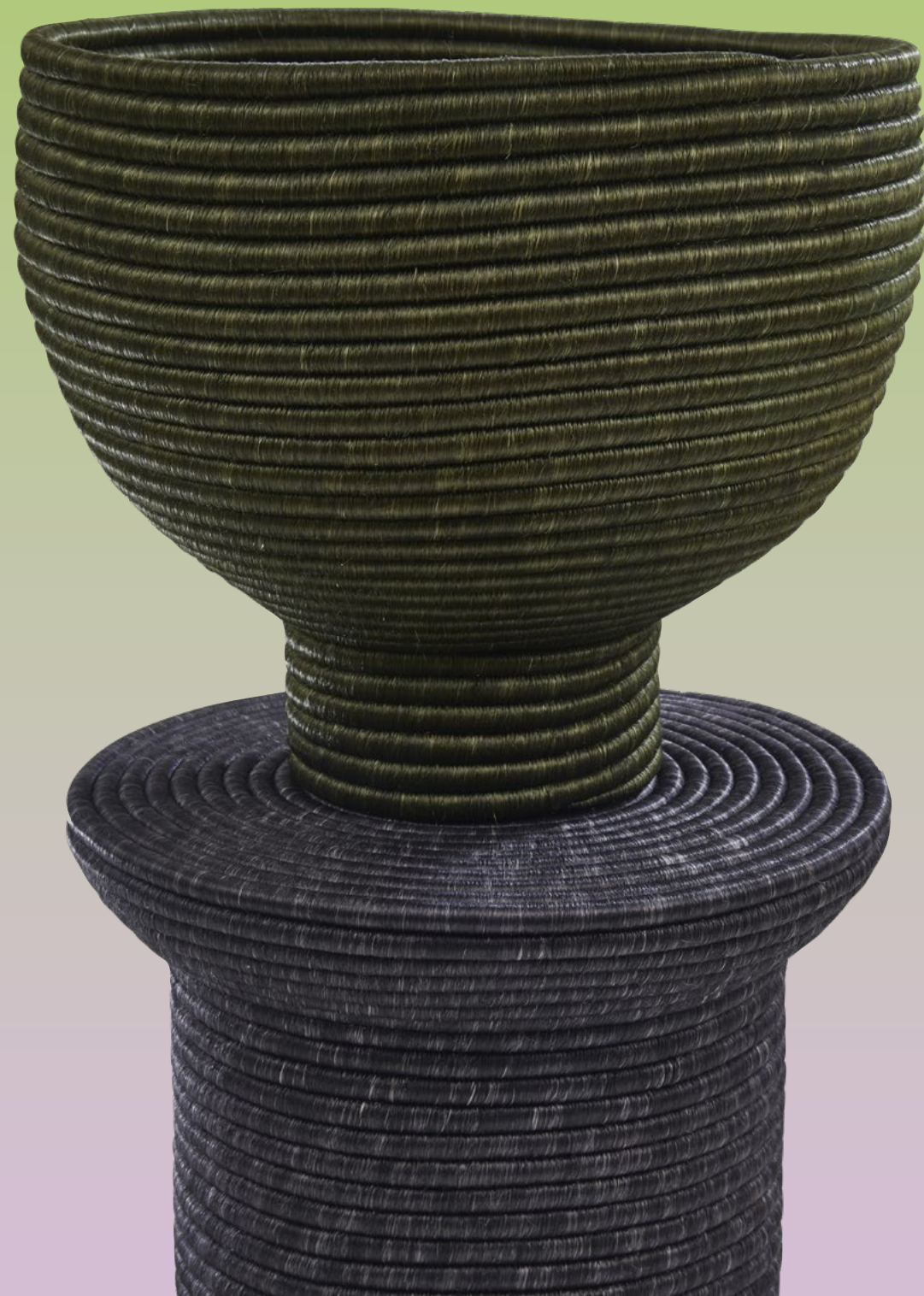


Cielo Lounge Chair High & Low, Caribe Chic Basket Table



Cartagenas Lounge Chair

AUTHENTIC MATERIALS FOR THE HOME



No other country has a wider variety of palm trees than Colombia, where people have long used these leaf fibres to make everyday objects. At ames, we've found new ways to create modern design pieces with these materials that will add rich textures to any interior.



Andinas Divider, **Caribe Natural** 2-Seater Bench,
Maraca Cushion, **Victorias** Coffee Table



Nudo Rug, Caribe Natural Lounge Chair, Killa Mirrors



Ojitos Wall Decoration

WOVEN ARTWORKS



From handwoven blankets and cushions to dramatic floral wall decorations and vases with charming colour blocking patterns: our range of striking accessories will liven up any space.



Muyska Rug, Chumbes Cushion, Chumbes Cylinder, Chumbes Layer, Dichas Basket, Dichas Side Table



Nobsa Rug, Nobsa Cushion, Circo Lounge Chair Leather



Par Raya Rug, Coyar Vase, Barro Tray 2



Zipa Rug, Victorias Coffee Table



Zenues Rug, Cartagenas Lounge Chair, Nuna Side Table, Caribe Chic Basket

STRONG SHAPES AND GORGEOUS GLAZES



Colombia's Tolima region has been a centre of black pottery production for centuries. Ames worked with designers Sebastian Herkner and Cristina Celestino to create sculptural, handmade vases, tableware and side tables.



Barro Pot Mini & Large



Barro Dining Plate, Barro Dining Bowl, Barro Tray Mini



Barro Pot 1, Barro Pot 2, Barro Tray 1, Barro Tray 2, Barro Vase

ALLURING OBJETS D'ART



From handwoven blankets and cushions, to dramatic floral wall decorations and vases with charming colour blocking patterns: our range of accessories offer the small touches that bring something special to any room.



Coyar Vase, Choco Vase, Barro Mini, Mochila Bag, Nido Cushion, Mulera Blanket, Ruana Blanket and Jipi



Nudo Rug, Victorias Coffee Tables & Poufs,
Caribe Chic Lounge Chair, Macrahta Wall Decoration



Suncho Basket



Manta Blanket, Ruana Blanket



Chumbes Cushions, Chumbes Cylinder

CREATIVE MINDS MEET ANCIENT CRAFTS



Ames is proud to introduce leading contemporary designers to the craftspeople of Colombia. The result is an inspiring dialogue between creative minds and skillful makers, leading to products with a truly unique character, as each designer brings a unique point of view to ames.

Since 2015, Ana Maria has invited several designers to collaborate with ames. It started with Sebastian Herkner joining the ames team on a trip to Colombia, where Ana Maria showed him workshops across the country. He could see how the artisans work in person and gain a better understanding of the Colombian way of living. Inspired by this trip, the German designer came up with a series of rugs and accessories, followed by the Caribe furniture series one year later and many more exciting collections since then.

Over the years, more incredible talents started working with ames – each collaboration beginning in

an exploration of Colombian crafts and materials. Pauline Deltour accompanied Ana Maria Calderón Kayser on a trip to Colombia to visit different workshops and ateliers. The French designer got to see how the artisans work with the fibres of the fique plant to create beautiful objects.

Dutch textile designer Mae Engelgeer delved into Colombian weaving and techniques and applied them to create enticing rugs, cushions and blankets that feature multi-dimensional textures.

Cristina Celestino, one of the most prolific contemporary Italian designers, studied the traditional palm weave ornaments found in Atlántico, a region in northern Colombia. With her eye for modern, poetic shapes, she translated them into a series of original furniture and decorative objects.

To see all products a designer has made for ames, visit amesliving.de

Our creative collaborators clockwise from top-left: Sebastian Herkner, Cristina Celestino, Pauline Deltour, Mae Engelgeer.



OLD TRADITIONS HELP BUILD NEW PERSPECTIVES

From sourcing raw materials to making the final products, ames only works with small manufacturers and family businesses throughout the entire production chain. This commitment directly supports keeping the knowledge of the artesanos alive, enabling investment into necessary equipment and logistics infrastructure. 'Colombia's crafts are based on the traditional knowledge of the master artesanos', says Ana María. 'Thanks to the success of ames, young people in Colombia again show an interest in their grandmother's knowledge and begin to work in the workshops.'

Together with the designers and manufacturers, ames has established wide-ranging standards to make all production processes as environmentally friendly as possible. Most of the raw materials are sourced from Colombia. All PVC strings are made from recycled plastic, and ames uses natural pigments or dyes with low impact on the environment for our textiles.

Ames is proud to help keep old traditions alive while creating jobs with fair wages in Colombia. Many young people from provinces with political conflicts or high unemployment have moved to Bogotá. Ames can offer some of them the chance to build a foundation for a better life by teaching them the art of weaving in the traditional Mamposino style.

The increased demand for our furniture has enabled ames to offer short apprenticeships in our workshops where the colourful PVC-webbing of our furniture is woven. Children learn the basics of these techniques often in school. Our master artesanos teach the young adults taking part in the program how to create more refined patterns and perfect their finishes. After a few months of training, they can then take on more work as weavers and earn a decent living by producing furniture. The most talented apprentices will set up their own ateliers — and ames takes them on as suppliers, as the interest in our products continues to grow.

Impressum

Ames GmbH
Ferdinand-Nebel-Straße 1
56070 Koblenz
Germany

0049 261 1 333 77 91
info@amesliving.de
www.amesliving.de
@amesdesign

CEO
Ana Mariá Calderón Kayser
Karl-Heinz Kayser

Creative Director
Ana Mariá Calderón Kayser

Ames Collection
by Cristina Celestino
Pauline Deltour
Mae Engelgeer
Sebastian Herkner

Photography
Andres Valbuena

Concept & Text
Marius Thies

Concept & Design Print
bürobüro.eu

Cover
Cartagenas Lounge Chair

ROOTED IN
COLOMBIAN TRADITIONS,
REINVENTED
FOR MODERN LIFE.

DISCOVER AND SHOP ALL
AMES COLLECTIONS,
INCLUDING OUR LATEST
LAUNCHES,
ON [AMESLIVING.DE](https://amesliving.de)

AMES Vibrant Living © 2022

amesliving.de

