



# RE — CREATE ME

Goodbye waste, hello re-use. Giving existing materials a brand-new future is the way onwards and upwards. Here is our top five when it comes to upcycling.

# 5

Bespoke Lighting  
by PSLAB



A highly welcome aspect of upcycling is the contrast you can create between the original and the new use of a product. Lighting experts PSLAB did this by choosing old car headlights in different sizes and shapes for their bespoke lighting installation at the new offices of

London-based DOS architects. The wall-mounted system consists of headlights equipped with incandescent lamps, thick red wires connecting one to the other. A great statement in an office environment: bold with a cheeky wink. [pslab.net](http://pslab.net)

# 4



Connect  
by Carolina Fontoura Alzaga

A showpiece that reveals how stark and industrial can become refined and residential. Connect is a series of truly stunning chandeliers created by LA-based artist Carolina Fontoura Alzaga. The artist's bespoke pieces consist of resilient materials such as bicycle chains and cassettes, which she combines with technical precision and craftsmanship. In her hands, features of the Bike punk

culture flawlessly merge with aesthetics from the Victorian era into a contemporary piece of design art.

[facaro.com](http://facaro.com)

function

# 3

Pull-tab Beatrice Shopper  
by Escama Studio



Purely functional products seem made for upcycling, the added value being their transformation into something usable *and* beautiful.

Take this Beatrice shopping bag by Escama Studio, who saw a new function for used aluminium pull-tabs. Hand-crocheted from more than 1,600 recycled pull-tabs, its construction incorporates leather gussets and a leather bottom for

added support and structure. The artists who create the designs for Escama Studio work in cooperatives located near Brasilia. This approach offers women and men in the communities a means to earn a living through handicrafts, and it provides a setting where friends are made and self-esteem is regained.

[escamastudio.com](http://escamastudio.com)

feeling



# 2

Newspaper Wood  
by Mieke Meijer / Vij5  
Sample series by rENs

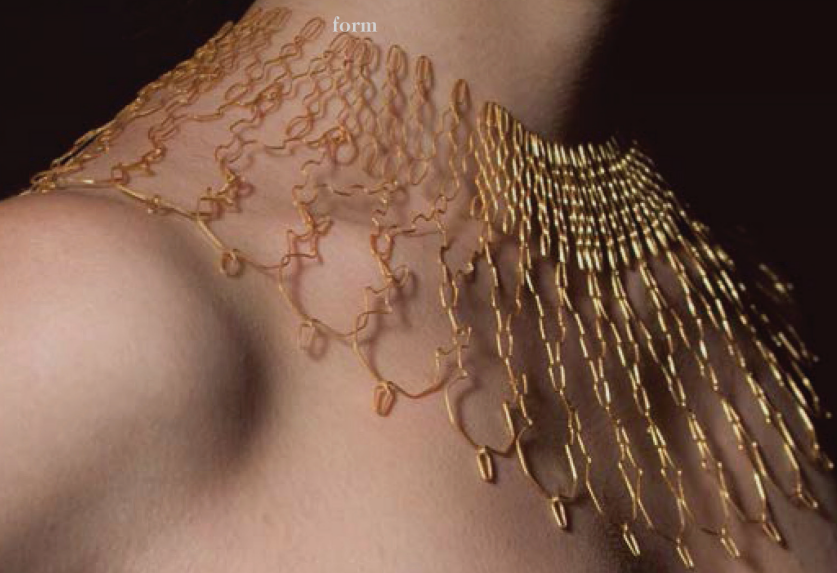
We always like it when things are taken to the next level. The conceptual thinking behind this re-use of plain newspapers is brilliant. Instead of regarding wood as a source material and paper as a product, Mieke Meijer reversed the process by creating a wood-like material from paper.

NewspaperWood, which was developed in collaboration with design label Vij5,

is formed by layers of paper that look like a wood grain or rings of a tree. The upcycling here is not so much a replacement for wood, but is primarily a new way to use paper, reshaping it to create new textures, forms and furniture products.

[miekemeijer.nl](http://miekemeijer.nl) / [vij5.nl](http://vij5.nl) / [madebyrens.nl](http://madebyrens.nl)

form



# 1

Plastic Gold  
by Florie Salnot

Our favourite sustainable pick, empowering nature as well as the economic and cultural outlook of the local communities working on the project. A jewellery project, Plastic Gold is based on a technique specifically designed to transform discarded plastic bottles. That alone gains our respect, but it has been achieved with the severely limited resources available at Saharawi refugee

camp in the Sahara desert. Relying on little more than hot sand, simple hand-tools and some paint, first a plastic bottle is painted, then it is cut into thread-like strips and these coloured strands are transformed into sculptural jewellery. By placing the structure in hot sand, a shrinking process dictates the final form.

[floriesalnot.com](http://floriesalnot.com)