

# barro pendant

Press Kit 2024



**Designer**  
Caterina Moretti

**Materials**  
Ceramic  
Glass



Seattle and Amsterdam-based design Studio [Graypants](#) is proud to share **Barro**, a pendant fixture by Caterina Moretti. The partnership between Graypants and Caterina was born of their friendship, kindred design spirit, and a curiosity to explore working with wholly natural materials; Barro is made from clay pulled directly from the earth of Oaxaca, handcrafted, and finished with only the power of heat and smoke.

The Barro pendant lamps represent the conjunction of craft and innovation, using traditional techniques to create a modern, unique shape. Incredibly versatile, Barro integrates easily to elevate its surroundings – over a dining table or kitchen island, dotted over a bar in a restaurant or welcoming you in a lobby space.



Barro is created using an ancient, region-specific process. It begins with gathering earth from the surrounding areas to make the clay. Water is added to slake the clay and create slip, which is then poured into handmade plaster molds. The clay pieces are each hand burnished before firing with the help of a smooth stone, to achieve an iridescent color and smooth feel.

Once the pieces are ready to be fired, they are placed in a special two-vent kiln stoked continuously for nine hours. Here, a process known as reduction of atmosphere takes place: during firing, at a specific moment, the vents are closed to reduce oxygen, generating a chemical reaction that infuses a deep black color in the natural color of the clay, creating the Charcoal Clay finish. The clay technique dates back to pre-Hispanic times in Mexico and tells the story of the empirical knowledge of those who came before, and their journey exploring and communicating with nature. The Natural Clay finish is created using the same technique, only it is fired for a shorter time and the oxygen reduction technique is not applied.

To highlight the ceramic structure and the markings made by the fire in it, we added a blown glass dome that envelops and protects it in a symbolic and metaphoric manner, as a display case of sorts, exhibiting the treasures within it. It also connects the earth from which the clay is pulled to light in the transparency of the glass, a connection which is essential in life.

Caterina chose to work with local artisan Amando Pedro in the production of the pendants because of his high level of expertise, and his sensitivity to using traditional techniques to achieve modern, unexpected shapes. In creating the pendant, Caterina took into account the history it can show, paying tribute to the Oaxaca black clay tradition in San Bartolo Coyotepec, while also imprinting it with a distinct style, expertise and contemporary vision. This is how tradition and innovative design are brought together in Barro.

















**Available colors** Charcoal, Natural

**Material** Clay, glass

**Size** Ø 16.8cm, H 34.9 (cm)

**Light Source** Standard E27 socket - 15 watt max LED lamp recommended

### **About Graypants**

Anchored in Seattle and Amsterdam, award-winning creative studio Graypants was founded as an opportunity to apply an architectural mindset to product design and art—enhancing space and enriching experiences. Graypants' work, rooted in light-minded design, includes architecture, product design, art installation and exhibition. Follow along on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Vimeo](#), [Pinterest](#), or via their [website](#).

### **About Peca**

Since 2007, Caterina Moretti has been the head designer and studio director of Peca, a design studio based in Guadalajara, Mexico. She is inspired by nature, raw materials with endless possibilities of shape and texture, and their capacity to be transformed into everyday objects, Caterina's zeal for texture and contrast has translated into a wide arrange of objects that invite contemplation and infuse the organic and subtle with an original point of view. Collaborations with local artisans and invited designers have contributed to the spirit of Peca, resulting in a catalog that is rich in both tradition and innovation.





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