

# Material Breakdown

# Ostrich Eggshell

The central element of OVO is a reclaimed ostrich eggshell — a natural byproduct of ostrich farming. After the edible contents are harvested for the food industry, the shell is often discarded or used as simple decor. OVO reclaims this overlooked material and gives it both function and visibility. What's remarkable is that the eggshell shares key physical qualities with materials commonly used in lighting design — like plastic or porcelain — but unlike them, it is naturally occurring and requires no industrial processing or high energy input to create. In many ways, it can be considered “natural porcelain” — smooth, strong, translucent — yet it comes from the earth and not from a factory. This makes it not only beautiful but deeply sustainable. At the end of its life, the shell can be returned to the ground, where its calcium content supports healthy soil regeneration.



## Recycled Aluminum

OVO's structural elements are made from recycled aluminum, laser-cut and assembled without adhesives or welding. Instead, the components connect through a system of interlocking slots, tabs, and small aluminum pins — allowing the lamp to be flat-packed, easily repaired, and fully disassembled. Aluminum was chosen for its closed-loop recyclability, lightness, and strength. Because it's used in its raw, untreated form, the production avoids added energy and chemicals. Every piece can be reinserted into the recycling stream at end-of-life with no extra effort from the user.



## LED Lighting

OVO uses energy-efficient LEDs to provide long-lasting, low-heat illumination. These bulbs consume significantly less electricity than conventional lighting and have an extended lifespan — meaning less waste and fewer replacements. Their low-heat output is also ideal for preserving the integrity of the organic eggshell.

## Material Rationale

Each material in OVO was chosen to balance performance, sustainability, and beauty. The project prioritizes circularity and material honesty — repurposing natural waste, minimizing energy usage, and designing for full disassembly. The simplicity of the material palette — just shell, aluminum, and light — reflects a commitment to thoughtful, low-impact design.

## Design Philosophy

Rather than following the logic of mass production, OVO was designed around repair, reuse, and emotional longevity. Its slot-and-tab construction allows users to easily assemble, repair, and disassemble the lamp without tools or special skills. It's not just sustainable in form — it's sustainable in mindset. By working with tactile, reclaimed, and recyclable materials, OVO encourages people to slow down, notice, and reconnect with the objects in their space.