ALEJANDRO LORA

ALEJANDRO LORA GARCÍA

Brand Designer | Portfolio

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ABOUT ME

Graphic and brand designer with over 6 years of experience across Spain, Australia and Iceland.

I have built and evolved hospitality and retail brands from the visual communication of a restaurant group by the Sydney Opera House to Burmet's brand system in Madrid and the Bondi Bike Shop rebrand, which I won against an agency.

I take brands across every channel (digital, print, packaging, merchandise and physical spaces), manage production end to end and build AI into my design workflow to produce faster and at scale.

I'm driven by detail, consistency and constant learning.

PROJECTS

01
BONDI BIKE SHOP
Rebrand and digital re-gaming with a single brand proposal.

02
BURMET
From pop-up to flourished restaurant in a chain with its own identity, keeping its symbol.

03
CIRCULAR QUAY
Brand identity design for a group of five restaurants with different audiences.

PROJECT #1 — ALORAGARDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

BONDI BIKE SHOP

BRAND DESIGN — STRATEGY — MASCOT

BONDI BIKE SHOP

Electric bike shop and workshop | Sydney, Australia

Rebrand of a brand I had created myself years earlier. I competed against a local agency with a single brand proposal and won the project.

1 VS 3
One brand direction against the agency's three concepts

1 MONTH
From concept to final, resident to the client approval

2023
Year of the release. The identity is still in service.

01 THE PROBLEM

A brand the business had outgrown

I had designed Bondi Bike Shop's first logo myself years earlier: a shark on a bike, wearing a helmet, in a playful style. The business grew, but the brand stayed behind. That childlike shark no longer reflected what the client had built: a serious business specialising in electric bikes, not just any local shop.

They needed an identity with the same personality but more visual weight and professionalism, without changing name or premises: just evolving.

02 THE CONTEXT

Competing against an agency as the outsider

I designed the original logo while living in Sydney and working closely with the business. When I moved back to Spain I lost that direct contact, and when the company decided to rebrand, they didn't think of me as first distance and the time difference made a local agency the logical choice.

Some time later, I wrote to the client with no commercial intention, just curious to know how the business was doing. That's when they told me they were in the middle of a rebrand with an agency and shared where the project stood.

03 THE DECISION

One brand direction, not three

Seeing another little agency's proposal was jarring. It was clear it didn't match what the client was really looking for, so I offered an alternative of my own. Instead of competing on the same formal (several options, more development time), I presented a single, carefully crafted visual direction, a clean, well-reasoned sketch with a defined palette and variations, and the original shark redesigned as a supporting mascot rather than the main logo.

I knew the visual references the client cared about, brands like Deus Ex Machina or Cafisell that build a visual culture beyond a logo, something the agency's proposal didn't capture. With that single direction, they gave me the project instead of the agency.

EXPLANATION

IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS LOGO

The logo needs to work with both light and dark backgrounds without the use of an outline, in order to maintain a clean and simple appearance.

There should be a distinct difference between the logo and the illustration. This is why there will be one version with the bike wheel and one without it. The bike wheel is a key element, along with a complementary art piece that embodies a style associated with BBS culture.

The logo should be clean, simple, and easy to read. It should prioritise giving more visibility to the bike rather than the shark, as BBS will be selling bikes—not sharks. (The logo should also clearly convey that BBS is focused on E-Bikes.

The logo should be versatile to accommodate potential changes in the name, location, or services (e.g., Manlyebike Bike Shop, Bondi Bike Rentals).

With these considerations in mind, here is the proposed design.

04 THE SYSTEM

Separating logo and mascot

The key structure decision was to split what used to be a single piece (the shark on a bike) into two elements with different roles: a clean, legible logo that works on its own, and a separate brand illustration, the mascot, more refined shark, as a personality asset for T-shirts, social media and merchandise.

After several review rounds with the client, we refined details such as the weight of the wheel, the clarity of the shark, the (some people read it as a mountain) and the balance between the original typeface and a bolder one, so the brand could evolve without losing what the client already recognised as their own.

Early design Q&A document, the brief, its refinement, the logo, typography and use of colour.

Manchege ABCDEFGHIJKLMN ÑOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmn opqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

Harmonia ABCDEFGHIJKLMN ÑOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmn opqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

05 WHY A SHARK

Local culture, not just any animal

The name "Bondi Bike Shop" was no accident. Bondi is a very touristy area of Sydney, and the name also worked as natural SEO. It was literally what people searched on Google when they needed a bike fixed nearby without going into the city.

That's where the shark comes from. It shows up often at that beach and causes a lot in local media, without really being dangerous to people. The shark and I argued that was (the water is its home, it isn't looking to attack), so the mascot brings that part of local culture in a friendly, non-threatening way.

06 THE RESULT

Adopted instantly, across every touchpoint

The client adopted the identity straight away: stationery, T-shirts, window displays and a large logo on the shopfront. They especially valued the new colour palette, far more refined than the previous one, and have relied on the mascot as the centrepiece of their social media ever since.

PROJECT #2 — ALORAGARDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

BURMET

BRAND DESIGN — SYSTEM — ILLUSTRATED UNIVERSE

BURMET

Flame-grilled burger restaurant | Madrid, Spain

A neighbourhood burger joint with a logo full of personality but no system. I turned it into a brand ready to grow, without touching what its customers already recognised.

1 + 3
Mascot exploration started working together

1
First brand created. Coaches by Burmet

2021
Start of a collaboration that continued today

01 THE STARTING POINT

A good restaurant with a neighbourhood image

The project came to me through a friend, from someone who had seen me go from waiter to designer for a restaurant group in Sydney. Burmet was then a single restaurant in the Prosperidad neighbourhood. It was doing well and had loyal customers, but its image was that of a local joint: a logo with personality, a smiling flame, but without careful proportions, usage rules or a system that would allow it to grow.

The owners knew exactly what they were: a casual premium burger restaurant, neither fast food nor fine dining, built on real flame grilling and honesty. What was missing was a brand to match.

The mission, vision and values came from the owners. My job was to organise them within the brand system and the dossier.

02 THE DECISION

Evolve, don't replace

The owners didn't want to give up their flame, and they were right: it was what their customers already recognised. Instead of proposing a new logo, I carried out a precision operation on the existing one.

I rebuilt the flame geometrically, using golden ratio circles and corrected the arrow, which looked too small next to the rest of the symbol. The result keeps everything the brand had already earned, with the solidity a symbol needs to appear on shopfronts, advertising and merchandise.

Rebuilding the symbol with golden ratio circles, and the relationship between flame and wordmark in vertical and horizontal versions.

03 THE SYSTEM

A brand as bold as its product

Burmet serves a burger with a bone in cut of meat inside and nachos with cheese poured at the table. The typography had to live up to that, so we chose a big, bold, eye-catching sans serif, paired with a clean secondary typeface for text.

Everything was gathered in a brand manual: logo and variations, proportions, clear space, palette, typefaces, tone of voice and photography guidelines. I also prepared a dossier explaining what Burmet is, designed to present the brand to third parties.

Tone of voice from the manual and cover of the brand dossier.

04 BRAND ARCHITECTURE

Crackles by Burmet

When the owners wanted to test a new format, takeaway food with just two tables, focused on smash burgers and pork products, we set up Crackles as an endorsed sub-brand with the "by Burmet" seal. The original built into the flame lines, it visually to the parent brand while letting it apart by product.

It was a format in a testing phase, so the endorsement made sense: it drew on Burmet's reputation without tying its future to it. The venue eventually closed due to licensing issues, and the main brand was unaffected, which is exactly what this architecture was meant to protect.

05 ILLUSTRATED UNIVERSE

A brand people collect, not just a logo

The client wanted more than a well-applied logo: yearly T-shirts and illustrations their customers could identify with, in a restaurant visited by many YouTubers and food content creators.

I developed a series of illustrations that turn the brand's character and dishes into pieces of their own: "Grey Nacho", a burger turned into a dumbbell for the gym crowd, "Crazy Nacho", the cheese-drenched nacho with a cult aesthetic and yearly T-shirts featuring their signature burgers.

From sketch to final piece: character exploration, brand illustrations and T-shirts.

06 ACTIVATION

The brand beyond the restaurant

The meta poster was placed at the Puerta de Toledo exit, the natural route for people heading to the Rastro market on Sundays a few minutes from one of the restaurants: the idea was to make Burmet their choice for lunch that day. The piece started as a pencil sketch before going digital.

At the ProComponentes collaboration, an event with large crowds and well-known faces, the Burmet stand sold out of burgers and not everyone got to try one.

Burmet stand at the ProComponentes event and takeaway bags.

07 THE RESULT

From neighbourhood joint to a chain with its own identity

Since we started working together, Burmet has grown from one to three restaurants, and the Brand no longer looks like a neighbourhood joint but works as a chain with its own identity.

The manual and the dossier have become working tools: the client uses them to land events and to introduce the brand to content creators, with a solid image that backs up what they were already doing well in the kitchen.

PROJECT #3 — ALORAGARDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

CIRCULAR QUAY

MULTI-BRAND — INITIATIVE — COMMUNICATION

CIRCULAR QUAY

Restaurant group | Sydney, Australia

I started out waiting tables and ended up running the visual communication of a restaurant group by the Sydney Opera House, with audiences as different as tourists, local families and weddings.

5
Restaurants in the group with places designed by me

4
Different audiences, from tourists to corporate events

2019–21
From waiter to designer for the whole group

Guylian — Appetito — Seasonal Kitchen — Seasonal Kitchen — Seasonal Kitchen