Prajakta s. Bamanikar. IDC, IIT Bombay

Pottery

summer training report

Why pottery…..?

Reason behind selecting pottery as a project 1 was tremendous interest in knowing a material and a process of feeling a form. Clay is a material which is abundantly available in nature and we can adapt various states according to need.

I was very much fascinated with the transformation of clay in to a useful form. So I wanted to explore how do these people easily transfer the lump of clay in to a vassal. Though after knowing all the processes I came to know its not that easy task. It needs concentration and practice.

Magic Cera...

It's a small scale production unit run by Mr. Naresh Kesharwani, who have done MFA in pottery and ceramics design from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. They cater mainly to the decorative pottery and basins market rather than the traditional pottery. It employs 2 people in which one is a student of pottery who have done his BFA from Ghadhinglaj. Working under such a dedicative potter was a nice experience . He is not only a good potter but a good philosopher also. Every work he do has a meaning . according to him nothing is hideous in pottery, everything is beautiful.

Material information:

Types of clay bodies:

Normal clay: this clay is generally available in local areas.

Stone ware clay: this clay has grayish shade. We can give a coat of glaze and make the surfaces look smooth and shiny.

Porcelain clay: it has maximum ingredients of glass. This clay after furnace becomes transparent and it gives glass effect. But temperature requirement is very high.

Stone ware clay:

Stone ware:

Compositions: china clay + silica + feldspar

70% + 15% + 15%

China clay: 1. Available in lumps (purity level is very high) or

2. Available in powder form (more impurities are possible)

Clays are of three types: china clay, ball clay, fire clay.

Type of clay Melting point in °Cchina clay1400-1600ball clay1300-1400Fire clay. 1200-1300

How to make a mixture:

All ingredients in liquid form are mixed together in required quantity and then it is again mixed with water. The formation of liquid state of a mixture is then called ‘slip.’ This slip is then poured in POP molds, which absorbs excess water and then dried in sunlight. After drying in sunlight the clay becomes semisolid.

How do they make…

- Wedging:

Prior to most shaping processes, air trapped within the clay body needs to be removed.

This is called de-airing and can be accomplished by a machine called a vacuum pug, or manually by wedging.

Wedging can also help to ensure an even moisture content throughout the body. Once clay body has been de-aired or wedged, it is shaped by a variety of techniques.

❖ Throwing and Centering:

Take the kneaded clay which is free from lumps and air bubbles and throw it on a wheel moving at a slow speed.

Using both hands hold the lump of clay tightly and try to bring it to the centre of wheel so that there is no wobbling. Remember to wet your hands if they offer resistance. Take the kneaded clay which is free from lumps and air bubbles and throw it on a wheel moving at a slow speed.

Holding the lump of clay between both hands try to bring it up like a frustum of a cone. Check for any wobbling

- making a wall:

Make a hole in the middle of the cone with your right thumb while holding the clay with your left hand. Using both thumbs make the hole bigger by pulling it to the sides gently.

❖ Raising a wall:

Try to raise the wall slowly with the thumbs inside the wall and by pinching the wall with the help of thumb, index and middle finger . This is the *Indian* way of raising the wall. Use the other fingers to support the wall. Or this could be done by using thumb and index finger for pinching and the middle finger for supporting. This however is effective for smaller objects.

- Shaping a pot:

Shape the object accordingly by slowly thinning the wall and giving shape to it using your index finger and thumb. Finally thin the wall and make it even using a bamboo tool.

Form the edge using the index finger of right hand and by pinching with thumb and index finger of left hand.

❖ Cutting the pot:

Keep a thread horizontally and hold one end tightly in one hand and let the other end wrap itself around the clay in exactly the place where you want to cut.

Carefully remove the pot using your left hand while the wheel is still moving. The movement of the wheel provides a momentum that makes it easier to remove the pot. Carefully place the pot on a stable wooden surface.

Do not worry if its slightly deformed while removing or placing, it can always be corrected once the clay dries and become leather hard.

after 30 days of practice on wheel.....

❖ Initial pot:

initially I practice making table weights. After doing lots of it and getting the idea how to get centre I practice doing cylinders of specific dimensions.

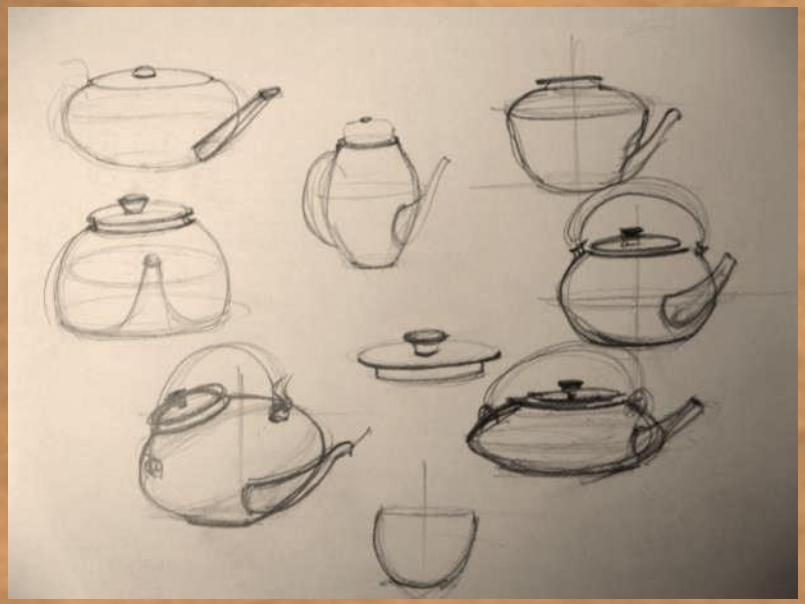
After practicing for getting equal thickness on all sides I tried making shapes.

These are few pots those I made at the very initial stages of evolving forms.






- Tea pot designing:



- Tea pot designing after attaching bamboo handle:

❖ Pottery with mold:

after wheel pottery I tried making ceramic pottery with molds.

Here we have to make slip out of clay. Slip is a semi solid form of mud.

In POP molds we have to fill slip and need to take observations which shows in what time how much thickness of wall is formed. According to the requirements we can set time and get the exact shape out of mold.

- Slip that they use for pouring

- Pouring slip in molds of POP

- POP molds filled with slip after keeping slip in a mold for few minutes.

- they remove excess slip

- they keep the mold downwards

- Excess material flow out of the mold

- Excess material on the edges

- They remove the excess material with steel scale

- Cleaned edge

- Checkng after cleaning edge

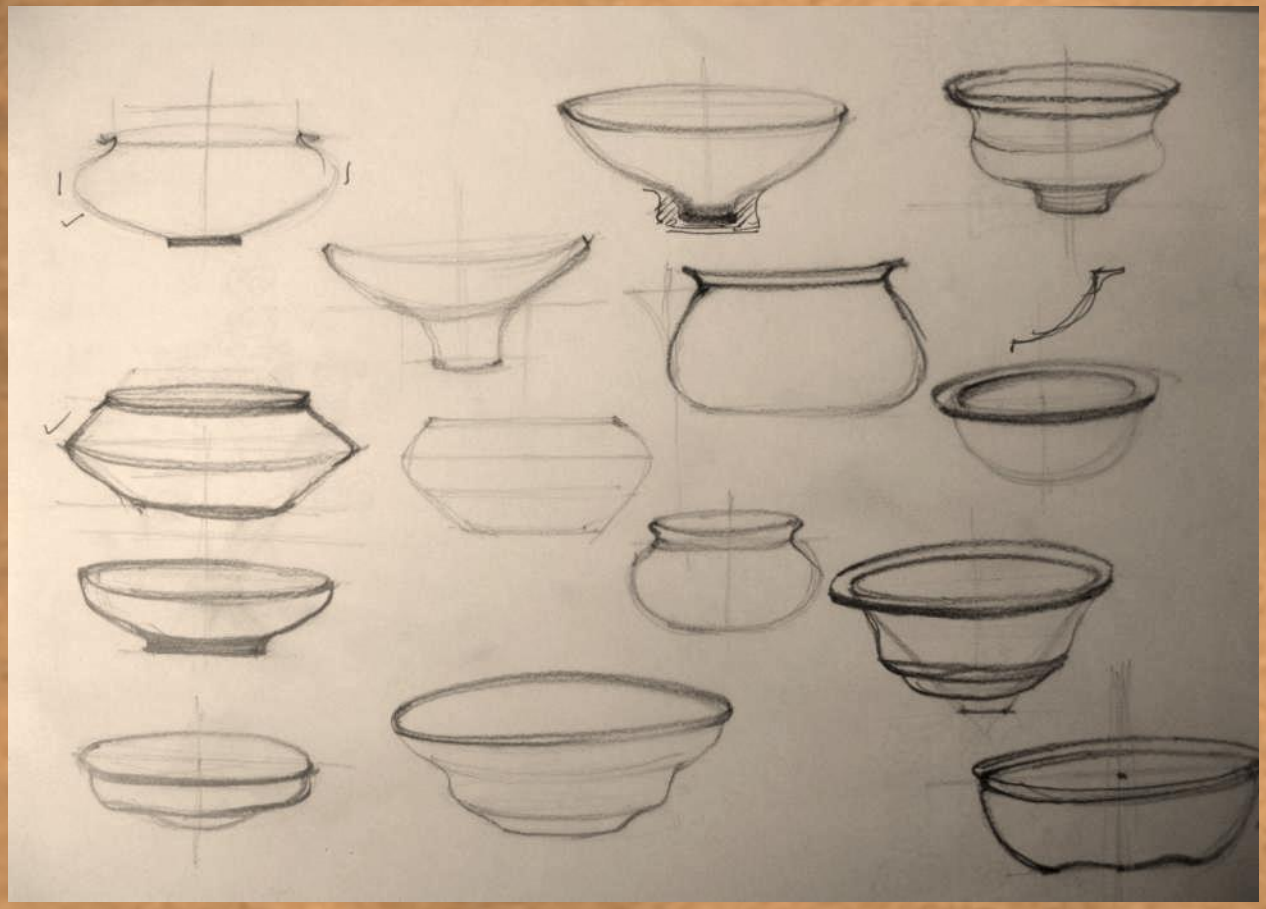
- Removal of mold

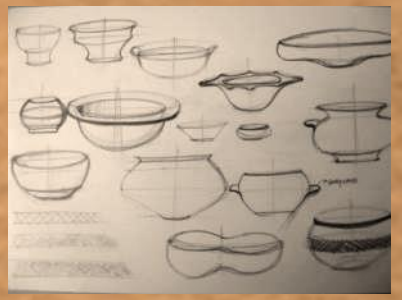
- Removal of pot inside

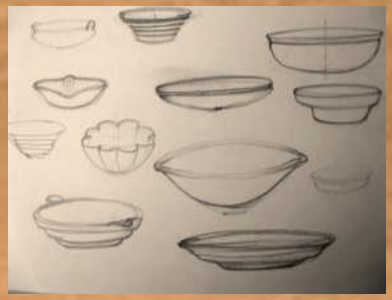
- Cleaning the joints

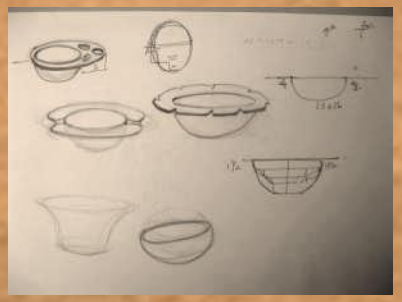
- Pottery with Hands:

- Basin sketches:









- Basins:

- Basin after sundried preparing for glazing :

Thank you all.

i am glad you survived till the end of ppt