

Crafting Your Everyday Life

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In the last year I've found myself drinking much more tea than before. While I've been separated from my partner by the pandemic, I've been content making tea just in a teacup for myself. With that separation ending however, I wanted to make a teapot that we could both use and that would complement the set of green uranium glass teacups that I gave her last year as a birthday gift.

Because of that, I wanted to make something that fit well with the slightly angular design of the depression glass. Additionally, I wanted it to complement the slightly radioactive, UV fluorescent nature of the uranium glass. While the perhaps obvious choice would have been a teapot glazed externally with uranium oxide like the classic radioactive fiesta ware, campus radiation safety policies and some degree of common sense lead me down a different path.

The resulting design was very angular teapot in the form of two flat topped pyramids joined at their bases. While I initially considered 3D printing the two sections like I had for my previous project, I instead decided on slab building. A template for the eight sections of the teapot and a base were drawn out and then the pieces were cut from a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch slab of paper clay and then allowed to dry slightly to stiffen up. The halves were then assembled separately before being joined together with slip.

The glaze was perhaps the most difficult part to figure out, I had found a glaze color I particularly liked earlier in the semester but it had been the result of two glazes dipped over each other. I was not able to precisely replicate it but I did arrive a dark green that I particularly liked after a number of tests.

Overall it was a very interesting challenge to build a teapot from a set of eight trapezoidal pieces of clay and I'm very happy with how the final version turned out.



Figure 1: One of the antique teacups this teapot will be used with.



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Figure 2: The two sections of the teapot during initial building, the front half has not yet been joined together fully.



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Figure 3: Teapot after the sections had been joined and the spout added.



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Figure 4: Final glazed teapot. There is some noticeable bowing in that occurred on the side

