



We produce special tiles for special customers







*Ceramica Blu was founded in 1981 in Strada in Chianti, immersed in the green hills surrounding Florence. We first started our production using white clay, finely hand-decorated tiles, inspired by the traditional manufacturing of the second half of the XIX century. Taking inspiration from the traditional terra-cotta producers we learned how to master the wire drawing technique, giving a new touch to all of our products. The high quality of our merchandises is guaranteed by the constant control during the phases of creation and composition of the final work. Currently active in the plant of Pieve di Compito, near Lucca, we chase our passion for ceramics in an everlasting artistic research, creating harmonious colours and decorations. That is what makes Ceramica Blu a highly specialized company in the creation of high-quality bathroom and kitchen tiles. The vast production is enriched by a large selection of accessories that offers the possibility to create unique and personalized designs.*

# Techniques

## THE FIRST PRODUCTION PHASE OF A FRAME



**RAW MATERIAL.** For the processing of our products, we chose the Kaolin, a type of finest clay, whose formula contains fewer impurities than commonly used clays. Once cooked, it is white in colour because it is free of iron oxide.

**PIECES FORMATURA.** The clay, purchased wet, undergoes various types of processing: the die cutting, for the production of all the background tiles of various sizes; drawing, for finishing strips such as frames and skirting boards; pressing, for all articles with special low reliefs and angles.

**DRYING.** All the pieces made with the various production systems mentioned above must stand in drying cells. In this phase, part of the water contained in the clay is lost, gaining strength and undergoing a reduction in size (5% - 6%) due to the evaporation of water.

4

1. PIECES FORMATURA

2. DRYING

3. CALIBRATION

4. RAW FINISH

5. OVEN LOADING AND

FIRST COOKING



**CALIBRATION.** Immediately after the drying process, each item is calibrated and brought to the desired size.

**RAW FINISH.** The pieces are finished by hand with a damp sponge to eliminate any burrs and to clean them from the dust created in the calibration process.

**OVEN LOADING AND FIRST COOKING.** The finished items are placed in special supports to undergo the first firing around 1020 ° C (1868 ° F). This phase of the ceramic process is called "biscottatura" where the Kaolin acquires the characteristic white colour and a further small withdrawal.



# Techniques

## THE SECOND PHASE OF PRODUCTION OF A FRAME



6. APPLICATION OF THE ENAMEL



7. DECORATION

8. SECOND COOKING

9. PACKAGING

10. FINISHED PRODUCT



**SECOND COOKING.** It is considered as the last phase, where the applied glazes subjected to a temperature ranging from 940 ° - 970 °, will undergo the fusion, obtaining, therefore, the vitrification of the glazes and of any applied colours.

**PACKAGING.** After adequate cooling of the cooking chamber, each item is carefully boxed and packaged.  
**FINISHED PRODUCT.** At this stage, the product will be subjected to further quality control.

**APPLICATION OF THE ENAMEL.** This processing phase is the most important and delicate of the whole production process. It requires a lot of attention to the choice of glazes that are continually tested. The application can be carried out by spraying with an airbrush or by dropping through a die. Each piece before receiving the enamel is checked, moistened and then enamelled. Once cleaned of excess glaze, it is placed again in the supports waiting to undergo the second firing.

**DECORATION.** Some items require a decoration that is done by hand, after glazing and before the second firing.





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“Antique” Collection

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## “Large Sizes” Collection

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24

















































































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## “Metro” Collection

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“Classic” Collection

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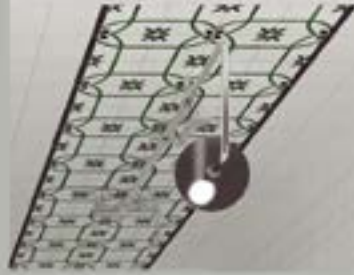




















































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“Kitchens”

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“Finishing Details”

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114





















