

Smink Studio

Relief tiles

First steps towards a custom design



Think of Smink Studio as a ceramic atelier.
We create unique tile installations for our clients.
Our handmade production process and made-to-order approach mean that every tile is unique and every installation is one-of-a-kind with minimal waste.

The first step to achieving a custom tile installation is to know what's possible. This explainer will help you to understand the process and possibilities.

A The Production process

B How to order samples

C The next steps

D Customisations

A The Production process

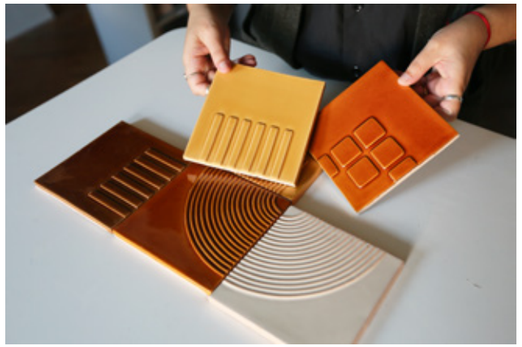
Handmaking tiles is a physically demanding process. The clay is pressed into moulds and pounded flat. The tiles are pushed out of the mould and while they are still pliable, they are mechanically pressed two-at-a-time to produce a 3D form on the surface of the tile.

When the tiles are completely dry (2-3 weeks), they are fired in a kiln. The raw, unglazed tiles that come out of the kiln are called ‘bisques’. A glaze is applied to the bisques on a glazing line.

Once the base glaze is dry, the final step is to fire the tiles a second time, so fusing the glaze to the tile body.









B How to order samples

There are endless possibilities with handmade tiles, so when we put together a sample pack for you, we choose from those tiles available in our studio and select the ones that best represent the image that inspires you or the design you prefer. A typical sample pack for Relief tiles contains two tiles and four colour samples. By combining the tiles and colour samples, you have the tools to imagine the possibilities.

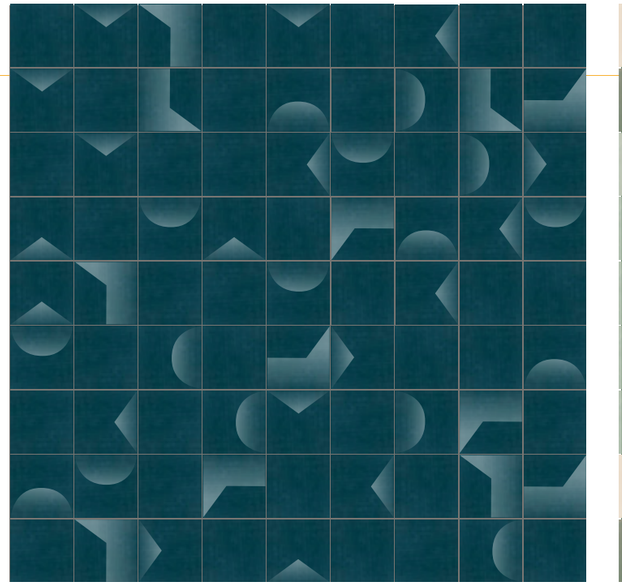
On the next two pages are the steps to ordering a Relief sample pack.

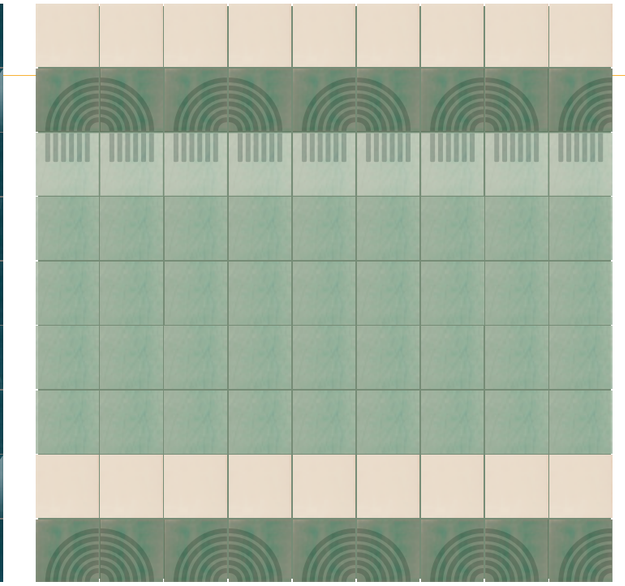
01

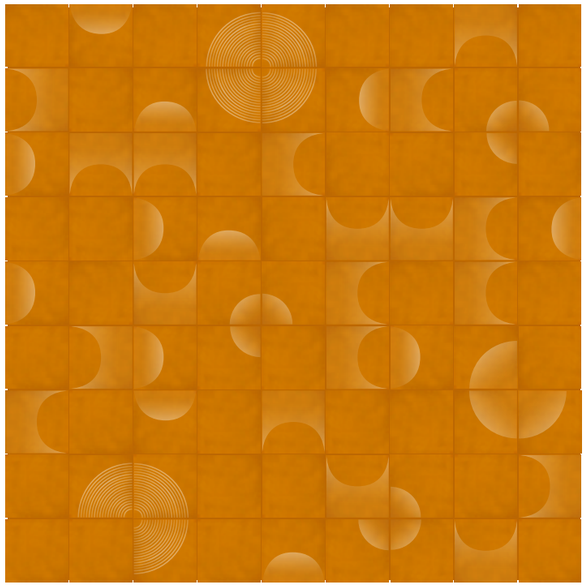
Choose your inspiration

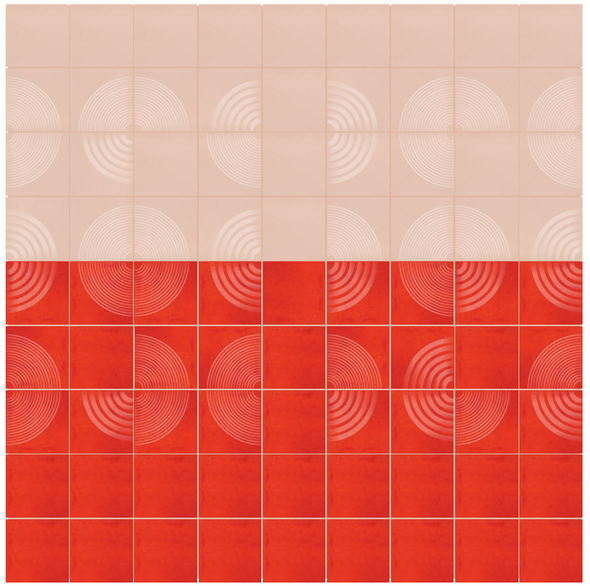
Which image speaks to you? Which image points in the direction that you want to go? Often this is a design from the Designs section of our website or an image from the Projects section.

There are also many images on our Pinterest boards and our Instagram account (@sminkthings).









02

Choose the glaze colours that you want to see

There are various glaze colours to choose from. Each glaze colour has a minimum of 3m2 / 33sf / 150 tiles. Choose the colours that you would like to see and let us know.

Glossy

- **B002** Eggshell white
- **B010** Flamingo baby
- **B011** Flamingo pink
- **B028** Charcoal grey
- **B029** Elephant grey
- **B042** Ice grey white
- **B043** French grey
- **B044** Divine grey
- **B053** Saffron yellow
- **B054** Creme caramel
- **B057** Brown beer bottle
- **B083** Ocean surf
- **B088** Tempest blue
- **B089** Tempest green
- **B092** Lemon tart
- **B096** Glossy transparent
- **B150** Fresh salmon
- **B608** Green delight
- **B700** British racing green
- **C039** Shallow waters
- **C067** Spearmint spa
- **C075** Ultramarine sea
- **PPWM** White
- **PPM6** Cream

Satin matt

- **M815** Paper black
- **M825** Smoke grey
- **M835** Industrial grey
- **M855** Elegant greige
- **M885** Soft pink
- **M890** Matte cream
- **M998** Matte transparent
- **PM6M** Cream
- **PWMM** White

Special firing

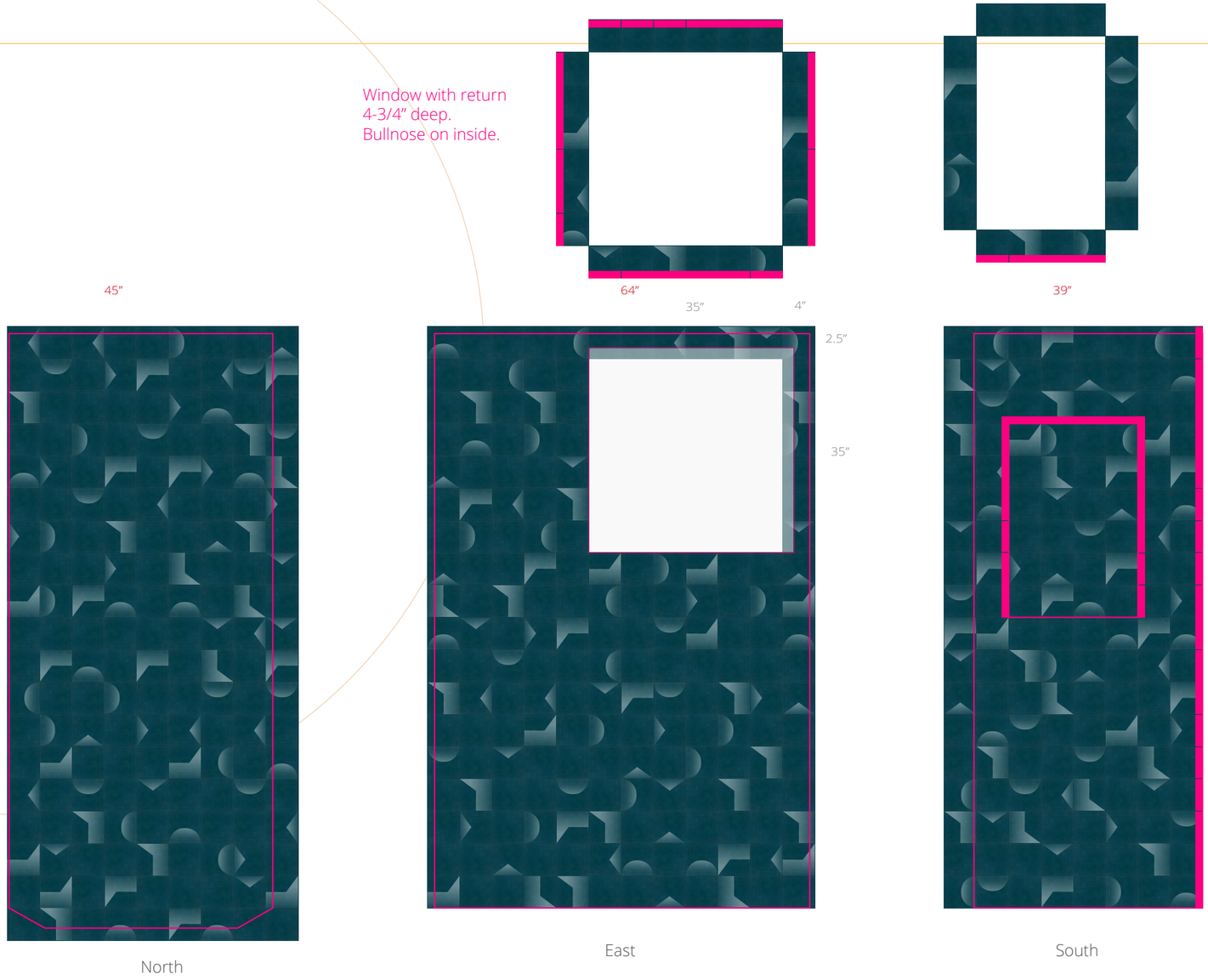
- **S001** Red chili pepper
- **S010** Orange caviar

C What happens next?

Once you have received your sample pack and told us your glaze and design preferences, we start work on a customised layout design for you. This layout aims to give a unique voice to your project, somewhere between art and design.

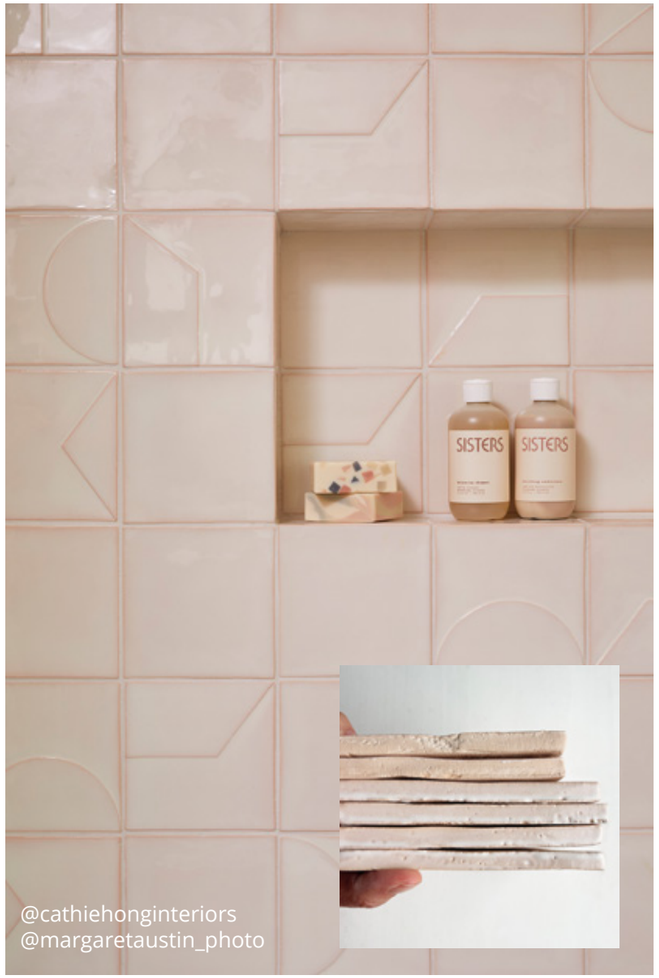
We refine the layout in consultation with you and when finalised, we request a transport quote and then prepare a draft invoice for you to review.

Remember to tell us if you would like to include any of the customisations listed in the next section.









D Customisations

01

Bullnose and extra glazed edge tiles

Bullnose and extra glazed edge tiles ensure that the unglazed edges of the tiles are not visible, for example around niches and window returns and along the top row of tiles in half-height walls.

Bullnose tiles have a curved edge which creates a smooth, flush finish. Extra glazed edge tiles perform the same role but without the curved edge. Bullnose tiles are 2x the cost of normal tiles and extra glazed edge tiles are 1.12x the cost.

You can also miter the tiles on site; in this case no special tiles are needed.





02

Pocket tiles for lighting

Pocket tiles are placed over wall light fittings to create an atmospheric tiled wall. They're glazed in the same way as our wall tiles and become part of the tile installation rather than interrupting it.

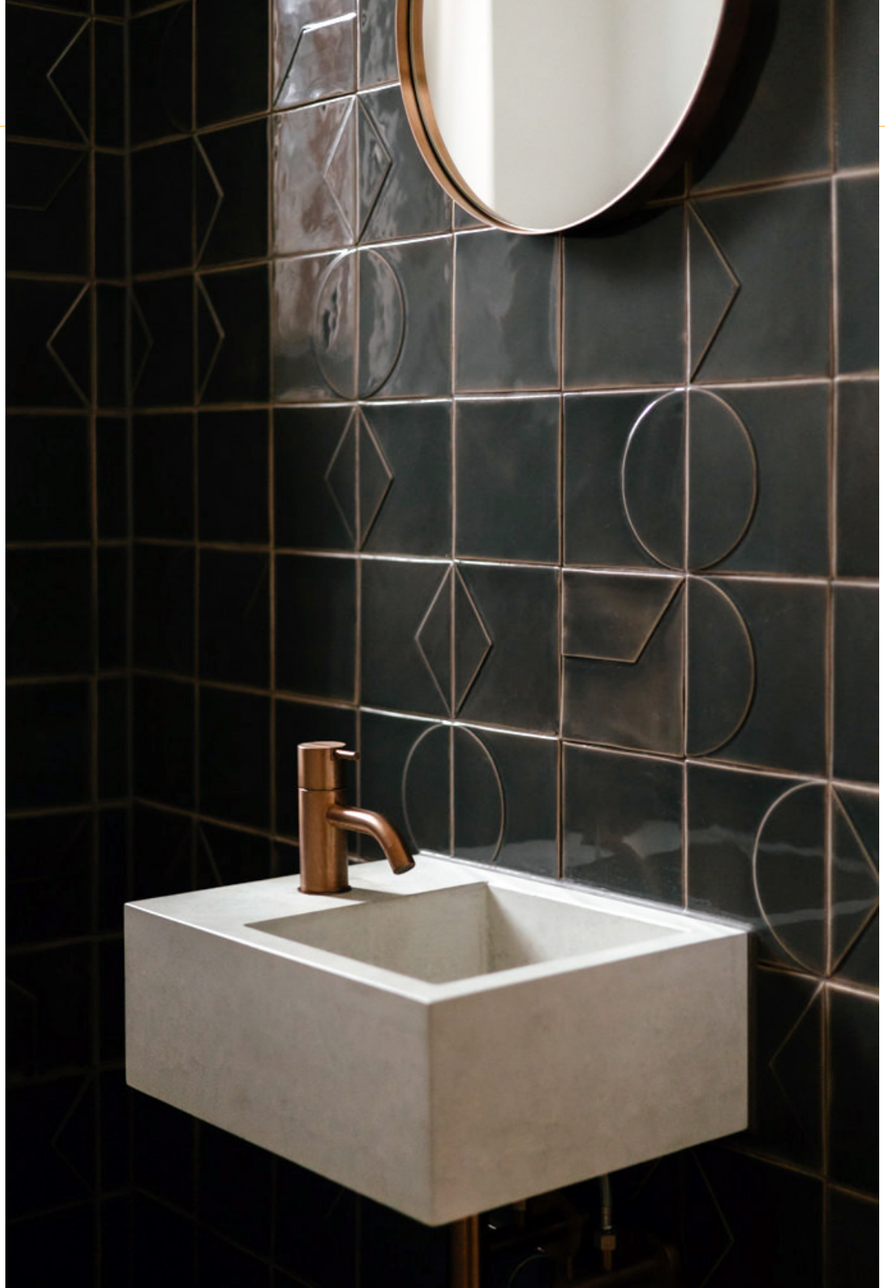
In the daytime they blend with the surrounding tiles and at night they light up the installation with a soft radiance.

Unlike standard wall sconces or downlights, pocket tiles can be positioned anywhere within the tile field. This allows you to place light precisely where it's needed, creating rhythm along a wall without being constrained by electrical box locations or fixture dimensions.

03

Floor tiles

We also produce handmade floor tiles which are 40% thicker than our wall tiles and pressed to make them more robust. We recommend matt glazes for use on the floor.





Screen-printed tiles explainer

We also have an Explainer for our screen-printed tiles.

Screen-printed tiles allow for more colour variation within a single tile installation. They have a base glaze applied to the tile, just like Relief tiles, but with screen-printed tiles it is either white or cream. Then a shape is screen-printed onto the tile by hand. There is a wide range of screen-print colours and shapes available and these can be mixed and matched within a single installation (which we design for you of course). There is a minimum of 150 tiles per order, either white or cream base glaze, and the most common combination is around four colours and four shapes in a single installation.

The beauty of screen-printed tiles is in the unique patterns and designs that can be created in each room. Let us know if you would like to see the Screen-printed tiles explainer.