

Screen-printed 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 your custom tile installation is to know what's possible. This explainer will help you to understand the process and possibilities.

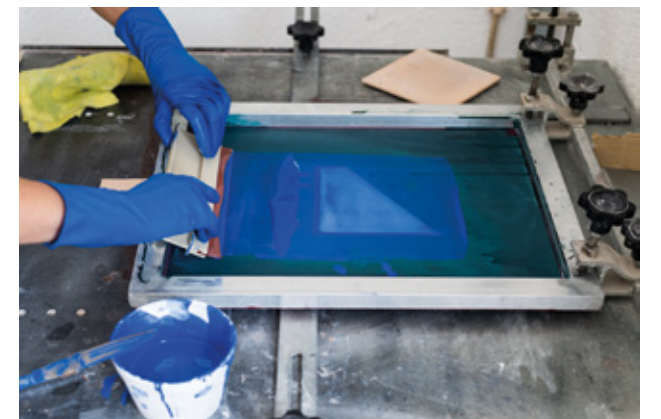
- A The Production process
- B How to order samples
- C The next steps
- D Customisations

A The production process

Handmaking tiles is a physically demanding process. The clay is pressed into moulds and pounded flat. The excess clay is sliced off and the tiles are laid to dry for 2-3 weeks.

When the tiles are completely dry, they are fired in a kiln. The raw, unglazed tiles that come out of the kiln are called 'bisques'. A base glaze is applied to the bisques on a glazing line.

Once the base glaze is dry, the tiles can be screen-printed. The final step is to fire the tile a second time.





B How to order samples

There are endless possibilities with handmade tiles, so when we put together a sample pack for you, we choose tiles from those 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 contains two tiles and a selection of colour chips. By combining the tiles and colour chips, you have the tools to imagine the possibilities.

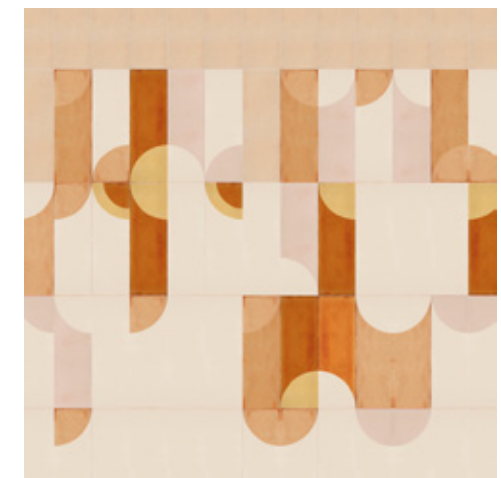
These are the steps to ordering a sample pack.

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 your base glaze

The base glaze is the colour onto which the screen-printed shape is applied. It is either white or cream.

The white base glaze (PPWM) is versatile and fresh. The cream base glaze (PPM6) is more vintage and homely. Colours tend to be a little warmer on cream.

These glazes are gloss but matte is also available on request and we recommend this if using the tiles on the floor.



PPM6
cream base



PPWM
white base



Restaurant Proximo, NC, USA @proximonc
Photographer Anna Routh Barzin @annarouth

Installation using PPM6 cream base glaze



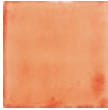
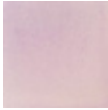
www.imraum.design
@_maison_du_soleil_

Installation using PPWM white base glaze

03

Choose the screen-printed colours that you want to see

There are more than 30 colours to choose from. An installation will typically have four or five colours but there are no hard-and-fast rules. Make a selection of colours that you would like to see and let us know.

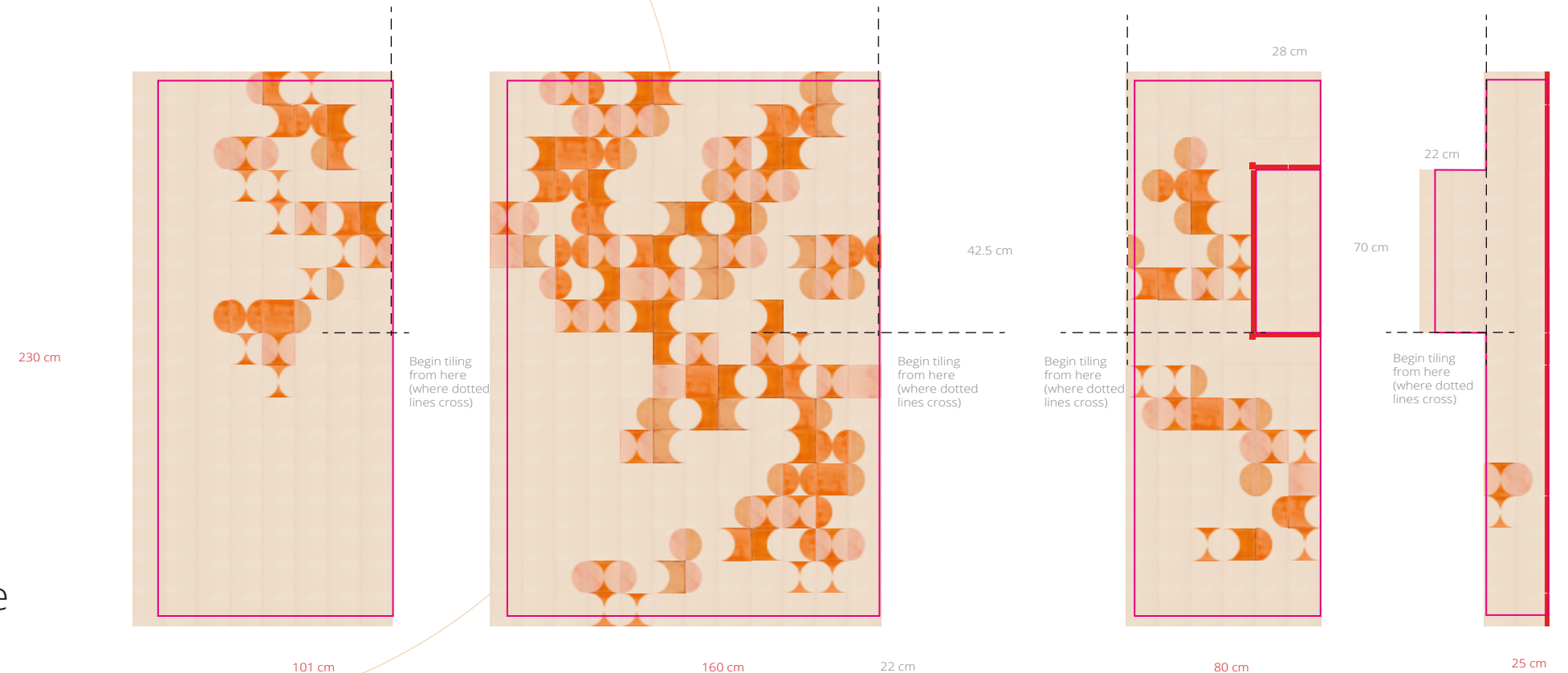
005		300		502		402	
006		301		503		405	
007		302		505		407	
008		304		506		500	
010		308		508		201	
101		310		509		200	
104		311		309		208	
105		312		009		209	

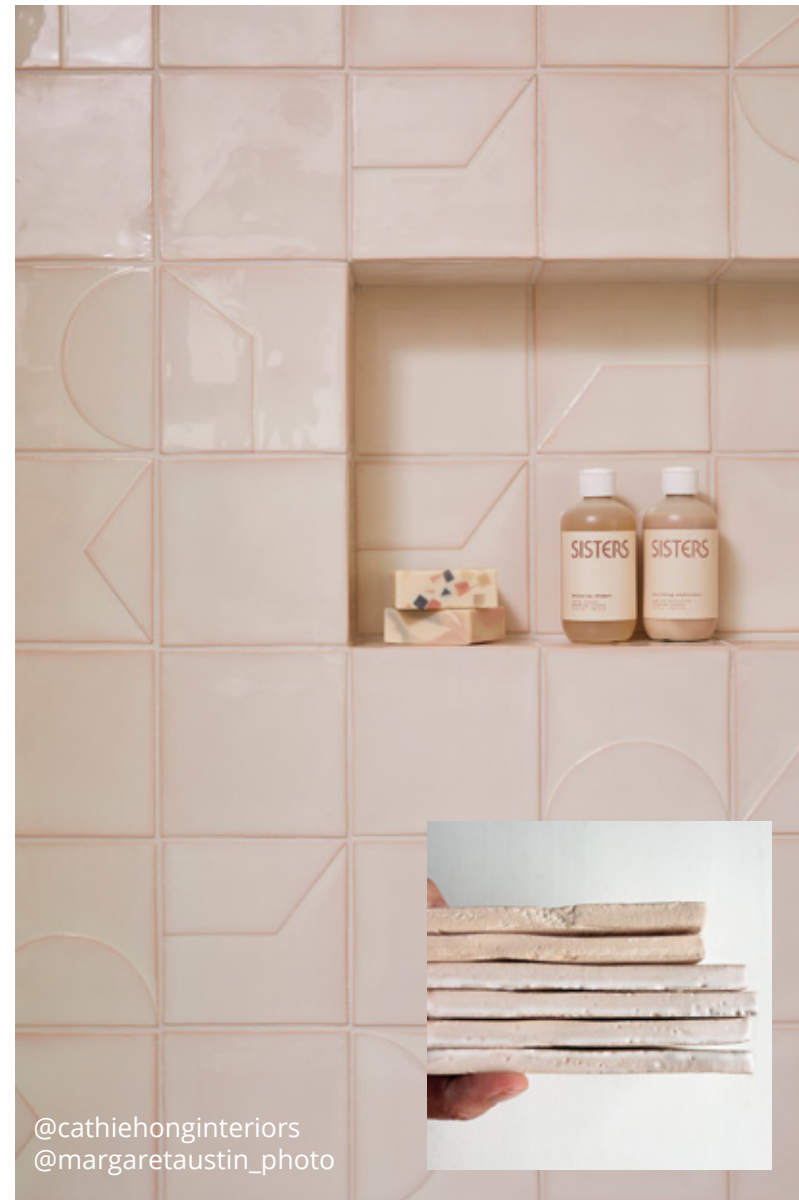
C What happens next?

Once you have received your sample pack and told us your 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

Glaze the back of the tile instead of the front

Some projects benefit from a wabi-sabi kind of imperfection. To achieve this we can glaze and screen-print the back of the tile instead of the front.

The back of the tile is less regular and the edges are often less straight. The uneven surface causes the screen-printed colours to gather and pool in interesting ways, lending a distressed, vintage feel to the tiles.





03

Pocket tiles for lighting

Pocket tiles are placed over wall light fittings to create an atmospheric tiled wall. They're screen-printed by hand 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.

04

Floor tiles

We also make screen-printed tiles which are suitable for the floor. They are thicker than our wall tiles and pressed to make them flatter and more robust. They also have a matte base glaze instead of gloss. The DCOF anti-slip rating for these tiles is R9, so please verify that this is sufficient for your project.





Relief tiles Explainer

We also have an Explainer for our Relief tiles.

Relief tiles have a shallow 3D shape and a single glaze colour. A shape is pressed into the Relief tile while the clay is still wet. As the resulting tile is not flat, it can't be screen-printed and can only be glazed in a single colour. There is a wide range of glaze colours available for Relief tiles (these are different to the screen-print colours) and there is a minimum of 150 tiles per glaze colour.

The beauty of Relief tiles is in the way that the underlying terracotta clay shows through along the edges of the 3D shapes, as well as the shadows that the shapes throw onto the glazed surface of the tile.

Let us know if you would like to see the Relief tiles brochure.