

Perfect Pour: Feldspar takes on the Teapot

Dartmoor-based design brand **Feldspar** is not interested in creating products for the sake of it. From its lambswool blankets to fine bone china tableware, every one of its 'objects for life' is designed with function at the fore. So, naturally, when designing a teapot, the focus was on perfecting the pour.



Cobalt teapot and beakers by Feldspar.

'We find many teapots frustrating – the way they spill even before you've lifted them up. We've spent ages prototyping this one to make sure it has a satisfying pour.'

– Cath Brown, Feldspar

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Plaster model of the teapot by Feldspar.

This first thing you notice about **Feldspar's** teapot is the **elongated spout**. From the angle at which it leans to the curve of its tip, the design of the spout has been considered from every perspective. The result? **A flawless flow** from pot to cup with not a runaway dribble in sight.

In keeping with the brand's existing collection of tea and coffee cups, the teapot is available in two variations: **cobalt blue and gold**. The choice of cobalt blue was inspired by traditional chinaware. 'Blue and white is a such a timeless combination, and the cobalt perfectly sets off the famed crisp white of the English fine bone china,' explains Feldspar.

The subtle variation in colour can be seen on the two handles of the pot. Applied by a small team of Stoke-on-Trent-based artisans (the same team entrusted with painting the china in the Royal Collection), the finish of the cobalt blue is deliberately rustic, with the traces of brushstrokes adding to the charm and characters. For the gold version, the process is more intricate: **22k gold is suspended in a liquid medium and then painted onto the glazed china**. The teapot is then fired and the handles polished.

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'A cobalt handle is a walk in the park for the artisans in Stoke-on-Trent, but it was important to us that it was obviously hand-painted, that you can see the brushstrokes and that each one is slightly different. This reminds the consumer of the handmade manufacturing process.'

– **Jeremy Brown**, Feldspar

Feldspar was founded several years ago when **Cath** and **Jeremy Brown** upped sticks from Hackney in London and set off for the Devonshire countryside. Setting up a design business was never part of the plan but, faced with furnishing their new home – a **400-year-old Devon longhouse** on an isolated patch of **Dartmoor** – the duo set about making everything themselves. Somewhere along the way, they realised they'd created a new design brand. Feldspar now produces a diverse and evolving range of **contemporary homewares**, including **fine bone china vases** and **tableware**, **all-natural soaps and candles**, and **luxurious lambswool blankets**.

The studio designs and prototypes all products in its **moorland studio**. Once the design has been perfected, Feldspar collaborates with talented UK-based artisans to handcraft the products according to **intricate artisanal processes, often passed down generations**. 'We want to make everything in locations where there is a tradition of that industry,' explains Cath Brown – hence why all the brand's ceramic products, including the teapot, are made in Stoke-on-Trent, the heartland of British pottery.

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'For us, it is important that these regional centres for craft and industry aren't just museums of what once was. There is so much knowledge and skill still there, and to be able to use that skill is brilliant. The quality and integrity that these makers bring to our manufacturing process is amazing.'

– Cath Brown, Feldspar

Over the last six months, Cath and Jeremy have been experimenting with materials found, quite literally, on their doorstep. By **extracting clay from their back garden** – a combination of terracotta and china clay with a distinctive, fiery orange hue – the studio has also been able to create a new collection of **handcrafted thin-walled mugs**, all designed, prototyped and manufactured in a single location. The mugs (and what is teapot-brewed tea without mugs?) will be available to purchase at feldspar.studio from mid-June 2018, and the teapot will join Feldspar's china tableware on the shelves of stockists, including **The Conran Shop, Alex Eagle, Mint and twentytwentyone** from 9 July 2018.

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Notes to editors

About Feldspar

From a thatched farmhouse on the edge of Dartmoor, Jeremy and Cath Brown design 'objects for life' as the design brand Feldspar, named after the abundant mineral found in granite that gives ceramics and glass their strength. Their studio produces fine bone china tableware, superfine lambs wool blankets and an all-natural home fragrance range – all designed and prototyped in Feldspar's cobbled workshop and handmade by a network of highly skilled craftspeople around the UK. Characterised by a timeless, trend-agnostic aesthetic and a strong emphasis on everyday use and longevity, their products are crafted from sustainable, natural materials sourced as locally as possible. Feldspar products are available in retail stores such as the Conran Shop, Fortnum & Mason, Mint, twentytwentyone, the V&A and Soho Farmhouse, as well as online at Feldspar Studio.

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