## Tile Restoration Center

## Reproduction of Historic Tiles

Specializing in American Arts and Crafts Tiles
Ernest Batchelder and Claycraft Designs
Tiles for Fireplaces, Fountains, Floors, Wainscot, Kitchen, and Bath


3511 Interlake Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98103
TELEPHONE: (206) 633-4866
FAX: (206) 633-3489
www.tilerestorationcenter.com
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## Glossary of Fireplace Features



About Our
Company

Tile Restoration Center is a small ceramic tile company in Seattle, Washington dedicated to producing historically accurate reproductions of American Arts \& Crafts tiles from makers such as Ernest Batchelder and Claycraft. We have also created dozens of new designs in the Arts \& Crafts style to complement those historical images. We pride ourselves on the amount of care and hand work that goes into each and every tile we make, not just for looks, but in the dignified and creative spirit of the early twentieth century.

While Ernest Batchelder's factory employed up to 175 workers at the height of his production, the size of our team varies from 4 to 6 workers. As every step of production influences the final results, each team member is cross-trained in many areas of production. This means that every tile we produce is truly the result of a coordinated effort. We have recreated and still employ many of the techniques and materials of the Arts \& Crafts era, as we have found that there is no substitute for the look and feel that hand labor creates.

The quality and variety of our historic and more recent designs, the timeless character of our pictorial themes, and our warm, muted colors distinguish our tiles among other high quality products. The hand-wrought individuality and natural tones of our tiles make them uniquely suited to accent homes from the quaintly rustic to the tastefully modern. The soft, natural, and earthy qualities of our tiles make them feel familiar, even in new installations, where they add a touch of coziness to any home. We dedicate our efforts not just to the quality of the products of the Arts \& Crafts era, but also to the ideals that value the combination of hand labor and creativity.

## Company History

Tile Restoration Center was founded in the late 1980's by Marie Glasse Tapp, a potter and ceramic artist familiar with the work of Ernest Batchelder and other Southern California tile makers of the early twentieth century. In addition to teaching ceramics and producing tiles and pottery, Marie set about restoring tiled fireplaces on sites around the country.

As she worked to restore historic tile installations in Washington State, she encountered the need to replace a few irreparable Batchelder tiles. In order to do this, Marie needed to deduce and devise a method to create new tiles with the look and feel of those old distressed tiles. The concept of Tile Restoration Center was then set to evolve from a business of strictly restoration to primarily reproduction of historic tiles. Marie chose to focus on the work of Ernest Batchelder and Claycraft, whose subtle, unglazed surfaces flowed with warmth and craftsmanship.

Marie was later joined by her daughter, Delia Tapp, and together they developed Tile Restoration Center into a nationally recognized and respected source for quality historic reproduction tiles. They reproduced dozens of designs from Batchelder and Claycraft, and added several new designs in the style of those early artisans.

In 2005, Marie and Delia sold Tile Restoration Center to Steve Moon, the studio manager and a team member for more than 10 years. As Marie and Delia did before him, Steve honors the quality and craftsmanship of the past while building on its strong foundations. We look forward to producing many more historic reproduction designs, as well as original designs that will complement our extensive catalog.


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## About Ernest Batchelder and The Arts and Crafts Movement



Ernest Batchelder 1875-1957 California artist and tilemaker. His tileworks opened in 1912 and flourished until 1932 when, like many businesses, it became a casualty of the Great Depression.

Ernest Batchelder (1875-1957) was an accomplished designer who brought the tradition of the Arts and Crafts movement to the American West Coast. In 1901, Batchelder, a teacher of design in Minneapolis, brought his precepts of ordered design - harmony, balance, and rhythm - to his classes at Throop Polytechnic (later renamed Cal Tech) in Pasadena. Batchelder is considered to be perhaps the most influential idealist-reformer of the California Arts and Crafts movement. He and many other artists, writers, architects, and craftsmen who shared the high-minded characteristics of the Arts and Crafts movement, built bungalows and mansions on the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena. It was here under the shade of the olive trees in his Pasadena garden that Batchelder started his tile business. He got the clay from a local brickyard and brought it home in gunny sacks, all mixed and ready for use. Thus began a modest business which then developed into one of national importance.

His tiles were sought after and used all across the country. While at the height of production, Batchelder's factory had moved to Los Angeles and employed as many as 175 workers. To maintain the handmade quality that had established his business, he set up many small hand-work stations for tile production. In the broad spaces of the tile works one would see many workers at their work benches making individual tiles. The tiles themselves were then loaded and fired in enormous kilns up to 65 feet long.

Batchelder's tiles are distinguished by the quality of their designs, the variety of their pictorial themes, and their muted and enduring colors. Each tile has a degree of individuality which continues to appeal to us when so much else in our lives is of assembly line origin. Although the Great Depression ended the tile works, Batchelder's legacy lives on in a multitude of installations. It is our pleasure and challenge at Tile Restoration Center to reproduce his work today, and to share with his many admirers the continued excitement generated by Batchelder's designs.


Double Peacock tile, DPI 12" x 12" (see p. 13)
"We watched them (the drying tiles) as a cook watches a pancake on the griddle."- Ernest Batchelder

## How We Make Our Reproduction Tiles

At Tile Restoration Center, we make historically accurate reproductions of Batchelder and Claycraft tiles using many of the original designs as well as many of the same methods Batchelder devised. Rather than using mechanized processes of mass production, we make each tile by hand. It is this hand labor and attention to details that give our tiles their strong and subtle character.

An initial drawing, sized up to allow for shrinkage, is made and transferred to wet clay which is then carved to achieve the raised surface. A plaster cast of the clay relief is poured and when it has cured, it is used to press wet clay into a new relief tile. The tile is air-dried before having its first kiln firing to the bisque level. To achieve the subtle coloration, multiple layers of mineral stains, or engobes, are hand applied with small sponges. The second firing to over $2000^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ fuses the colors
 and matures the clay, making the tiles semi-vitreous and du-
rable. After cooling, the tiles are hand-finished and sealed.
Our reproduction Arts \& Crafts style tiles are appropriate in interior and exterior settings. Like those from the Batchelder and Claycraft catalogs, our tiles are substantial and durable. Clients have used our tiles in traditional bungalows and large historic buildings as well as incorporated them into contemporary settings. The vitality and imagery of our tiles coupled with their good design make them a joy to live with.
"The subtle differences in our tiles are not contrived but are the natural result of the hand work process. We make the very best hand made tile we possibly can."

Ernest Batchelder



TRC Reproduction of Batchelder's Tile
Horse with Rider, 4" $\times 4$ " HM (see p. 11)


Fireplaces, fountains, floors, wainscots, kitchens, and bathrooms. We can not recommend our tiles for areas of excessive cleaning, i.e. counter tops or shower stalls.

Tile Sizes
Our listed tile sizes are nominal. That is, a "4" x 4"' tile will measure approximately $3-3 / 4$ " square. This way, they are modular so that tiles of different sizes fit together and automatically include the recommended $1 / 4$ " grout line in layout measurements. The standard thickness for our tiles is $5 / 8^{\prime \prime}$. Our tiles will vary slightly in size and shape.
Lead Time
Average production time is $6-8$ weeks from contract and deposit, but can vary widely depending upon order size and complexity, and the amount of work in the studio.

## Carved Relief Designs

We offer more than 170 relief tile designs. Many are reproductions of Batchelder and Claycraft designs, with many newer designs in the Arts \& Crafts style. Included are several Relief Trim designs for many de-

## Custom Carving

We often create or adapt new custom tile designs, using the same care and craftsmanship that we invest in our own standard designs. First, we create an original drawing adapted from your photo, business logo, or other image. Next, we carve an original clay model from the image. Finally, a plaster mold is formed, from which your new tile is made.

## Seconds

"Seconds" tiles are available at a substantially reduced price to people who are local or visiting the area. Color and selection are limited. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.
sign applications. See pages $9-16$ for Relief Tile illustrations.

## Field Tiles

We offer Flat Field Tiles in all sizes from $1^{\prime \prime} \times 1^{\prime \prime}$ up to $8^{\prime} \times 12 "$, and we can also create bullnosed edges and custom cuts and sizes. These tile sizes are nominal, and all are approximately $5 / 8$ " thick. See Tile Installations pages for uses.

## Extruded Trim Tiles

We make over 20 Extruded Trim designs for countless design-enhancing applications. They are made in standard Field Tile colors, and are usually made in 4" or 6 " lengths (nominal), but can be made any length up to 12 ". See page 17 for profiles.

## Distributors

We have highly qualified distributors throughout the US and in Canada (please see distributor list insert or look online). If there is a distributor in your area, we request that you work with them. If you are not, you are welcome to work directly with us.

## Design Services

We offer complete custom design services for many different tile projects and welcome inquiries. A great way to start is to browse our installations for the look you prefer.

## Installation

Our tiles require special care during installation and grouting. Contact your distributor or consult our website for installation guidelines.

## Durability

TRC tiles are fired to over $2000^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, are semi-vitreous (moisture absorption of 1-6\%) and suitable for use in most installations. However, we do not recommend the use of our tiles for installations where there is continuous contact with water or heavy abrasion. Special care must be taken to protect the tiles in these applications.

## Warranty

We are confident in the quality and durability of our tiles, however, we do not guarantee our tile against chipping, spalling, etching, discoloration, wearing, or scratching. This is because we have no control over and are not responsible for the materials used to install our tile, the method of installation, backing, skill of the installer, type of maintenance, usage, or amount of traffic. Our only obligation shall be to replace or pay for any materials proved defective. Beyond the purchase price of materials supplied by us, we assume no liability for damages of any kind.


Dean Fireplace before renovation with TRC relief and Custom Color Field Tiles, and...
...after


"Mondrian" style Fireplace, Pasadena, featuring Thistle Keystone and Skewbacks (p. 15). Courtesy of Mission Tile West


Patterned Fireplace using Field Tiles exclusively. Courtesy of Spellman Construction.


Creative use of Pine Cone Relief Trim (p. 16) and Corbel (p. 15) for Kitchen Backsplash

Tile
Installations


Custom Arch Fireplace, Seattle, with curved RT trim and Ginkgo Frieze (p 13)


Peacock Fountain, Seattle, converted from a brick barbecue.
Courtesy of L. Kreisman.


Oregon Fireplace, with Bird \& Thistle Frieze (p. 13)
and Thistle Corbels (p. 15).
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## Colors

Our colors are subtle stone-like tones. Unlike glazes, which can cover over a clay body, our subtle colors are derived from the interaction of our stains with the clay. When our stain colors are fired into the clay of the tiles, they become a durable and integral part of the clay body. This interaction between the clay and the stains, combined with the handmade character, adds a natural and appealing variety to all of our tiles. All of our tiles will vary naturally in color and tone. This variation is an integral part of the overall look and character of the tiles.

We offer twelve Field (or flat tile) colors and twelve Inflow (or Relief tile) colors (see p. 8). The field colors are used for all Flat Field tiles as well as on the Extruded Trim tiles ( p .17 ). Our Relief Tiles are made with two colors: The "Inflow" color is in the recessed background areas, while the
 raised surface, the topcoat is stained with our Earth Brown color. Our many colors are compatible with each other and in many settings, so the selection and variety of different colors is a matter of great personal choice.
Our "Multicolor" relief tiles are hand painted (see p. 3) with up to 12 different colors. All "Multicolor" are also available in our standard inflow colors.


Sample Kits - including all available standard colors are available for purchase.
Allow 2-4 weeks delivery.

## Field Tile Colors



Tile Colors will vary: All of these tiles are Earth Brown (F-1) and demonstrate the typical range of color and tone within any one colorway. This variety is a normal and desirable result of combining our hands-on processes with naturally varying materials.

## Inflow Tile Colors



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## 2" $\times 2$ 2" Relief Tiles



## 3" x 3" Relief Tiles



Vine Series Note: Be sure to use special care when selecting vine series tiles to ensure that all of the vines line up properly. To do this, make sure that there are equal numbers of left- and right-turning designs.

## Our tiles

## $4 " \times 4 "$ Relief Tiles, continued



## 4" x 4" Relief Tiles, Continued



## 6" $\times 6$ " Relief Tiles



Pine Cone
PC1


Bird on a Branch
SQ1


Circle Hunter
O1


## Tudor Rose

TUR


Grapes
SQ2


Circle Musician 02


## Ginkgo AMG



Old Tree, Right
T1


Circle Rabbit 03


Peacock
PK1


Trees with Village T2


## Circle Peacock

 04

Viking Ship
S1


Old Tree. Left
T3


Circle Dog 08

## $6^{\prime \prime} \times 6^{\prime \prime}$ Relief Tiles, Continued



Scott's Flowers
SG1


Gothic CCGO


Flower Pot
SG4

## 8" $\times$ 8" Relief Tiles



Lily Pad
LP8


Pine Cone PC5


Tree, right
T4


Grille, pierced for water or air FG


Tree with Village
T6


Hearthside Dream with Title*
HD
Also available in multi-color, shown on page 13.


Flower Frieze
GTFL


Tree, left
T7


Hearthside Dream with Boy*
HDB
Also available in multi-color, shown on page 13.


TRC Logo large
GTLL

## Large Relief Tiles, Murals, and Friezes



Hearthside Dream Series, multicolor. The $8^{\prime \prime} \times 32^{\prime \prime}$ mural includes one $8 \times 8$ center tile, with four $4 \times 4$ tiles on each side. Center tile can be HDB (shown), or HD (right).


Large Relief Tiles, Murals, and Friezes, continued


Pine Panel, Left 6" $\times 24$ " PPL
Four 6x6 Tiles


Thistle Column, THC; Thistle Column Base, THCB
Each piece measures $6^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}$. Use any number of THC to extend column effect (see inside cover).


Pine Panel, Right 6" $\times 24$ "
PPR
Four $6 \times 6$ Tiles


Bears in Forest $12^{\prime \prime} \times 16^{\prime \prime} \times 2 "$ BR1

Elk in Forest $12^{\prime \prime} \times 16^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}$
E1


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## Corbels and Keystones



Flower Pod Corbel
FP1
4"H x 3-3/4"W x 3"D


Plain Corbel
FP3
$3-3 / 4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} \times 3-3 / 4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times$ 1-1/2"D


Thistle Stalk Corbel
FP2
$6-1 / 8 " H \times 4-1 / 4 " W \times 2-1 / 8 " D$


Thistle Skewback, left
TH4
$5-7 / 8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} \times 4-7 / 8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 1$ D


Thistle Keystone
TH3
6-1/4"H x 5-7/8"W x 1-1/2"D


Thistle Skewback, right TH5 $5-7 / 8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} \times 4-7 / 8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 1$ "D


TH3 Keystone profile (Skewbacks are flat)


Thistle Keystone TH7
7"H x 6-1/4"W x 2-1/2"D


Pine Cone Corbel
PC8
$8-1 / 4$ "H x 6-3/8"W x 2-5/8"D


Thistle Corbel
TH6
6"H x 7"W x 3-1/2"D


## Relief Trim



Checker Dentil Stretcher $\stackrel{5 / 8^{\prime \prime}}{\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\prime}}$
2" $\times 6$ "
CD2
Profile shown at right


The Ginkgo Trim, Pine Cone Trim, and Vine Trim have standard flat profile approximately $5 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ thick. Other relief trims have varying profiles as illustrated.




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Also in 8 " height, as FB8



> Specializing in American Arts and Crafts Tiles Ernest Batchelder and Claycraft Designs Tiles for Fireplaces, Fountains, Floors, Wainscot, Kitchen, and Bath

Tile Restoration Center:
A Monkey Works, Inc. Company
Steve Moon, Owner
3511 Interlake Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98103
Phone: (206) 633-4866
Fax: (206) 633-3489
E-mail: trc@tilerestorationcenter.com


