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**SPECIFICATION REFERENCE SHEETS / 1 OF 3 /
FOUND SPACE TILES**

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

As an architects, we often ask ourselves, how can this surface, this wall or floor, give more? What more can it give? In answering this question, we have produced a series of ceramic wall tiles - tiles that reach out to touch and be touched.

Much like appropriating found objects, these tiles are made using the found spaces between bodies and architectural surfaces, and turned into positive forms. The design process is incidental; the forms happen, they aren't sculpted or orchestrated. The resulting tiles are a formal hybrid between two very necessary and basic architectural elements, the body and the wall. Part body and part wall, the tiles echo the presence of a person, a posture, and literally reach-out to be touched.

What these tiles give is a reference to the human body, embedded in a building material. The tiles encourage direct physical interaction; through touching and leaning, bodies find new niches for support, undulating folds and protrusions for resting, stimulating pressure points, or simply fitting like a garment - a new-found intimacy. Made in posture and/or body-specific clusters, the tiles are designed in standard finished dimensions, to be incorporated into inexpensive, 15 x 15cm tiled surfaces.

FUNCTION

With the ability to be integrated into otherwise standard and inexpensive tiled surfaces, FOUND SPACE TILES function, on one level, exactly like any other ceramic wall tile. What sets them apart is their added value, their generosity in offering wall surface area that supports the body in leaning and resting positions.

PERFORMANCE

The design of the tiles meets our objective, which is to encourage and invite more direct physical interaction between people and architectural surfaces. The strength of the tiles' performance comes from their dual use, both as ceramic tiles and physical supports. With the integration of FOUND SPACE TILES, suddenly, a wall is not a standoffish or neutral surface - it is inviting, generous and ergonomic.

AESTHETICS

The tiles have been designed to contribute to the creation of highly tactile, interactive and haptic spaces. In all of our work, and especially evident in the tiles, is our sensory orientation. Rather than placing priority on the visual, and designing a highly photogenic product, interior, or building, we aim to make spaces that spark engagement with the human body through physical curiosity, direct physical interaction. The tiles are both abstract and familiar; the element of the uncanny in their forms make them highly effective in provoking curiosity through touch. Only through interacting physically can people intuitively understand the function of the tiles as forms that echo the presence of the body and invite it back.

Sample Dimensions
and Elevations of Single
FOUND SPACE TILE

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ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

FOUND SPACE TILES are sustainable in three primary ways. Firstly, they are a humble form of design because they are made in a standard, existing tile module. The tiles can be installed either as a set of one or two, combined with otherwise standard tiles available at any building supply store, or they can be installed with an increased density, to create a more intense relief pattern, more protrusions for „fitting“ or leaning. This means that financially, using the tiles is very flexible. Building owners are not committed to using the tiles to cover entire walls. Secondly, the tiles are democratic because the focus of their attention is the human body, which everyone has. Thirdly, as low-fired earthenware ceramic, FOUND SPACE TILES are materially sustainable. With a long lifecycle as well as natural durability and low-maintenance attributes inherent to the material, ceramic tiles are often specified for use in sustainable buildings. Ceramic tiled surfaces are easily repaired; instead of repacing entire installations, it is possible to replace individual tiles. Ceramic tile is not an original nor secondary source of air pollution, and will not absorb odors from smoke, paint fumes or other contaminants, lending to enhanced indoor air quality.

MATERIALITY AND FABRICATION

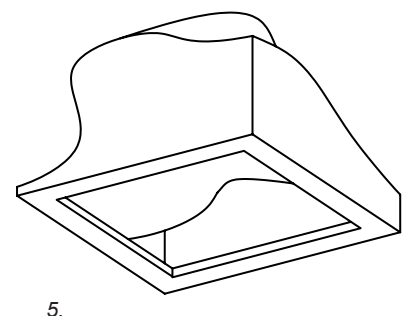
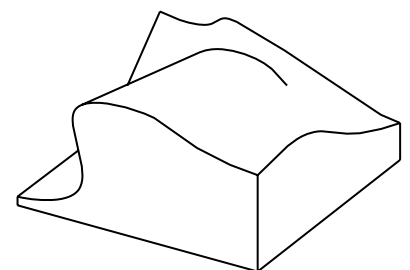
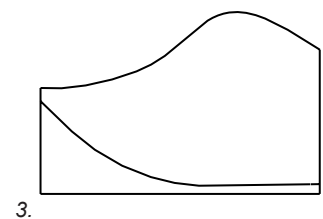
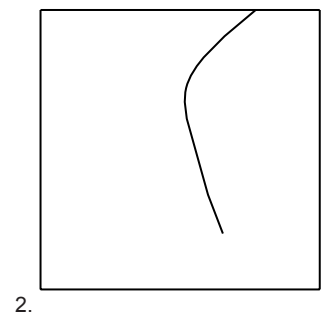
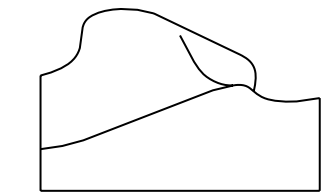
As described above, the tiles are, like standard ceramic wall tiles, fabricated using low-fired earthenware ceramic. They are glazed to achieve either a white glossy surface (standard) or to match any colour swatch that clients provide (custom). The tiles are manually fabricated by highly trained experts at CorUnum Contemporary Ceramics in den Bosch, the Netherlands, using the age-old and well tested method of slip casting with a plaster mould. The finished tiles are hollow shells with a 6mm thickness. The undulating geometries of the relief forms are intrinsically structural; like any ceramic object or surface, the tiles cannot withstand the sudden impact of hard objects - they will crack.

INSTALLATION

The installation of the tiles requires no special training or instruction. The flange on the back of the tiles provides ample surface area with which to mount the tiles to a wall with standard adhesive and grout. To-date, the tiles have been mounted by both amateurs and professional tile-layers, with great success!

Illustration, right:

1. Side view of single tile
2. Top view of single tile, finished dimensions 15 x 15cm
3. Side view of single tile, showing variable height of sides, from 5mm min. to 12.5 cm max.
4. Axonometric view of single tile
5. Tipped axonometric view of single tile showing backside of tile, installation flange



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TECHNICAL DATA

MATERIAL:	Earthenware ceramic, hollow
SURFACE FINISH:	Glossy
COLOUR(S):	White (standard) Coloured glazing is available on a custom-order basis
WEIGHT:	Approx. 250 gr. per tile
DIMENSIONS:	15 x 15 cm with variable depth (5 mm min. to 12.5 cm max) Thickness of shell is approx. 6 mm
FIRE RESISTANCE:	Non-flammable
POROSITY:	Glazed surface is non-porous; Unglazed exposed earthenware (back-side) porous for installation with standard tile adhesive
SCRATCH RESISTANCE:	Scratch-resistant, durable surface
UV RESISTANCE:	UV-resistant
TEXTURE:	Smooth, undulating
HARDNESS:	Hard
TRANSPARENCY:	0%
ODOUR:	none