

Sector focus

Art & Design



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Jordan Keaney - Coda

Traditional ceramic material is hard, stiff, heavy and solid. However, in the design sector there is a requirement for materials which are flexible and versatile. Foam material tends to be lightweight, soft, squishy and airy. When the two are put together to produce ceramic foam it enables the material to be incorporated into furniture design for homes.

Challenge

Designer Jordan Keaney, a product designer based in London, creates lighting, furniture and home accessories with innovative materials that are not traditionally associated with furniture design.

He was commissioned by The British Council of Art and Design to represent how space is negotiated in the city of Venice, drawing from natural elements such as light and the waterways as well as the craftsmanship behind man-made structures such as canals, bridges and gondolas. Goodfellow's team of technical experts liaised with Jordan to provide a suitable ceramic foam that would help to bring Jordan's idea to life.

Ceramic foams can be produced using a range of ceramic materials and are used extensively within science and engineering applications. These include hot gas or molten metal filters, biomedical applications, thermal insulation, catalyst support and absorption of environmental pollutants. Generally, ceramics such as alumina, cordierite, mullite and zirconia are used for foams, with other non-oxides such as silicon carbide and aluminium nitride used as well.



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Solution

Meaning 'Tail' in Italian, Coda is the beautiful side table that Jordan Keaney produced as a response to his brief from The British Council of Art and Design. Inspired by the tail of the Venetian gondolas and the sea foam on which they float, he chose ceramic foam to represent the bubbly water that appears along the canals.

The tabletop is made from three layers of ceramic foam that allows light to filter through the porous structure and create stunning shadows, all atop a natural marble base. The combination of foam and marble is enhanced by the simple, minimalist design of the table. To add to the natural play of light, Jordan coated the foam with metallic spray paint that replicates aluminium and brass, creating a subtle and elegant shine.

The result is a timeless piece full of sensory details which will transport you on a journey across all through the designer's wonderful use of ceramic foam.

Jordan Keaney says, "A huge thank you to Goodfellow who have helped significantly with advice on manufacturing and testing, making me realise what is and what is not possible with ceramic foams. I'm very fortunate to have had my eyes opened to new materials, and I loved working with the team to try and bring new and exciting designs to the world. I hope to continue working with them in the future. People who see my work find the foam very interesting, so the possibility of bringing out a line of products involving the foam, as well as helping Goodfellow work more in the design sector, makes me very happy."

