

In pottery, form refers to an object's three-dimensional structure, encompassing its height, width, and depth, and it can be both functional and sculptural. This encompasses the general overall shape (like globular or cylindrical) and specific details (such as the foot, belly, shoulder, neck, and lip of a vessel). Potters create form through various techniques like [wheel throwing](#), [coiling](#), [slab building](#), and [molding](#), which are used to shape the clay into its final state.

Types of Pottery Form

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Vessel Form:

This involves creating a container, like a vase, bowl, or mug, with a defined interior space for holding objects or liquids.

- **Sculptural Form:**

This focuses on a three-dimensional artwork, where the form itself is the primary aesthetic element, not necessarily intended for practical use.

- **Flat Form:**

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While typically considered two-dimensional, forms like tiles can also be flat, taking on the characteristics of artworks.

Design Considerations

- **Form Follows Function:**

A principle where the design (form) of a functional piece of pottery is determined by its intended use.

- **Aesthetics and Proportion:**

The balance between aesthetic appeal and practical function is crucial, with potters often playing with proportions and lines to create compelling forms.

- **Vocabulary of Form:**

Artists use specific terms like "foot," "belly," "shoulder," "neck," and "lip" to describe the different parts of a vessel, similar to body anatomy, to guide the creation of a balanced and functional form.