.... what's new ???

One of the most important thing that we learned can from both Angelica and Peter. Since both of them work on installations , many of them outside and in very inclement areas ! The topic of FREEZE / THAW was an important discussion. Peter works in a ^10 sculpture clay body which he makes and Angelica works in low-fire (^2) terra cotta. Both artists give their clay body formulas in their books. They both emphasized the same points:

1. For an artist, firing in the type of kilns that we do, it is almost impossible to guarantee that each and every piece would be perfectly fired and vitreous. So, how do they handle this ?
2. The clay body MUST have 20-30% grog ! Grog is a vehicle in the clay body that aids in the internal structure of the clay, helping to bring the heat work more evenly into the piece during the firing cycle. But - in the case of outdoor installation the grog functions as a network to wick away any water that should penetrate the clay body. When water freezes, it expands and the grog gives it the space to do this ! So, rather than having a piece,or tile split,spall or simply disintegrate ..... the water expands and when it thaws passes through. Brilliant!! This work is is credited to research done by Ted Randall at Alfred . Angelica has a full explanation of this in her tile book.

You still need to do the necessary tests ... but it can free you up to try a variety of clay in a variety of firing ranges ... just look for the all important grog content.
Georgies clays that have this type of grog content are:

LOW - FIRE ^05-02 :	CC547SC Wonder White Sculpture
	CC546SC Cherry Creek Sculpture
MID - RANGE ^6 :	CC550SC Timberline Sculpture
HIGH - FIRE ^10 :	CC512 Three Finger Jack
	CC512A Three Finger Jack Architectural
	CC512R Three Finger Jack Red

We will be testing these also and keep you updated !

A third and again awesome presenter was **ROBIN HOPPER**. Robin was the real draw for me. I own and refer to ALL of his books on a regular basis. If you don't own Robin's books, put them on your wish list .... every one one of them is filled with gems of knowledge. For those of you that did not attend and art school or have an art background and have found pottery an engaging activity, Robin offers a clear and informative way to create your pottery while imparting the concepts of art history as well as the technical aspect of clay and glazes.
While Robin is 72 and trying to retire, he is also busy testing and promoting one of the newest offers in the ceramic world. He has been working with PORCELAIN TILES. Not ordinary porcelain tiles - these are actually 97% alumina, and are the tiles that were created to protect the space shuttle. They are thin,translucent and have the ability to fire at any temperature. They may be re-fired, and do not need any pampering in the firing process....they actually like going up to temperature as fast as possible ! You can use enamels, low-fire products of any kind, mid-range glazes, high fire glazes , oxidation or reduction.... even raku !