

Ian Jones entry In "Wood-fire Ceramics", Coll Minogue and Robert Sanderson, Craftsman House, 2000

achieving the ash and clay qualities he wanted. In 1984 he built a much larger (12 m long by 1.5 m wide) single chamber, cross-draught 'Dragon' kiln, for firing his range of domestic ware. During the following five years, Ian fired this kiln 14 times, each firing lasting five days or more.

In 1989 Ian went to live in Iwate Prefecture, Japan, and stayed for three years. During this time he gained much experience in firing both anagama and noborigama kilns. In 1994 he completed building his third wood-fire kiln, which is 8 m in length and 1.2 m in height and width. The catenary shaped arch (114 mm/4½ in. thick), is built on a wall three bricks high, and is covered with about 150 mm (6 in.) of clay. The kiln has a main firebox and there are three stokeholes along each side. Firings last for four days and between 20 m³ and 30 m³ of split pine (generally waste wood collected from a local forest) are used per firing. Ian explains:

My pots are mostly glazed on the interior surfaces (raw glazed) so temperature control is quite important. I put down cone 13 at the front of the kiln (on the first setting of shelves, about five feet into the kiln) where it isn't really that hot as the ash puts the cones down. Throughout the rest of the kiln I achieve a genuine cone 12 or 13 and near the chimney I strive for cone 14.

In firing his kiln, one of the problems Ian faces is the fire risk in the summer months. As a result he normally cannot fire between the end of October and the end of April. (He also has a gas kiln in which he fires glazed work during this period.) The wood kiln is fired two or three times a year.



Ian Jones' kiln. Photograph by Cathy Laudénbach.

nature of the clay is everything to woodfire.'

Ian Jones

Ian Jones built his first wood-fired kiln in Gundaroo (New South Wales), 30 km north of Canberra, in 1979. With a capacity of 2.8 m³ (100 cu.ft), it was fired by a Bourry-type firebox. However he became dissatisfied with the results of firings, as he was not



Carved and torn vase by Ian Jones (Aus.), 30cm/h. Photograph by Cathy Laudénbach.