



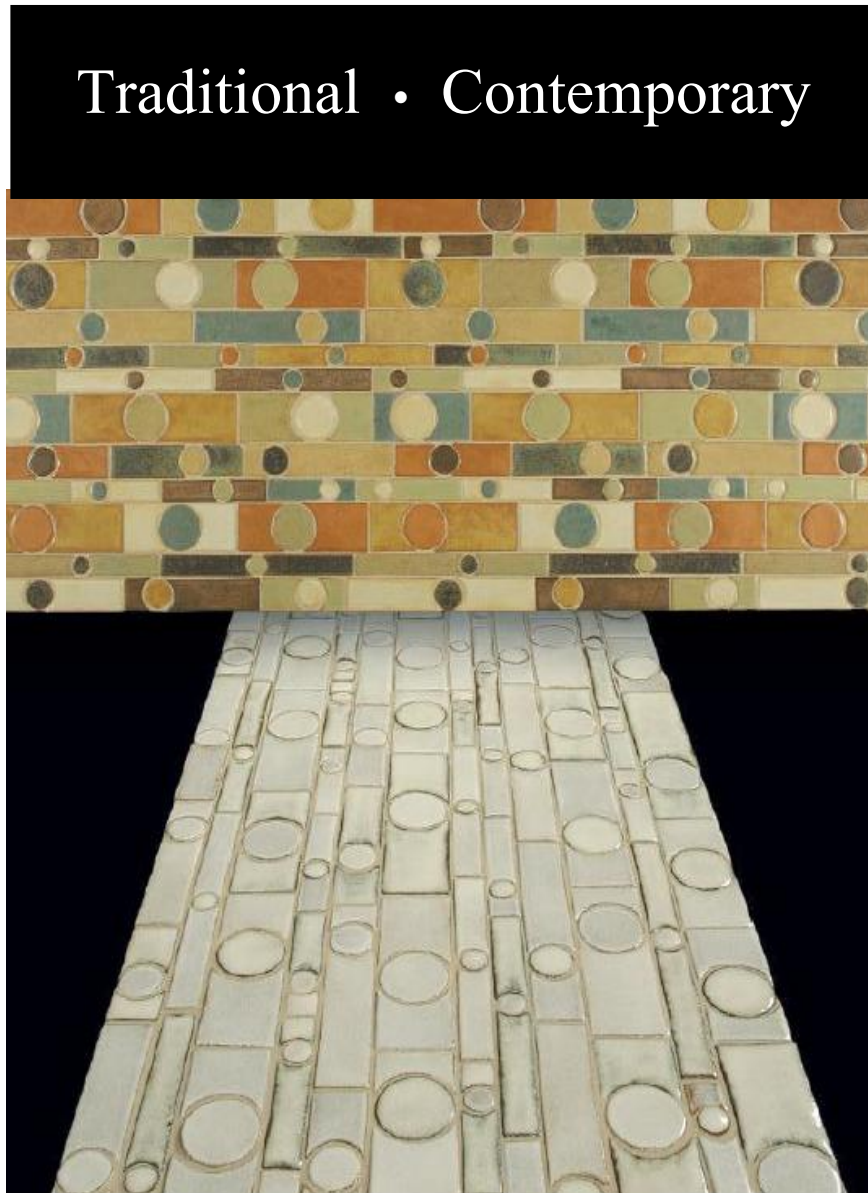
TILEWORKS

Part of The American Art Tile Movement

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# PRESS KIT

Traditional • Contemporary



**Contact:**

Lee Gruber, President

Syzygy Tileworks • 106 N. Bullard • Silver City, NM 88061

Tel: 575-388-5472 • Fax: 575-388-4182 • [info@syzygytile.com](mailto:info@syzygytile.com)

## Fact Sheet

Firm Name: Syzygy Inc. (dba Syzygy Tileworks)

Founders: Lee Gruber & David Del Junco (husband and wife team)

Established: 1993

Primary Business: Ceramic tile design and manufacture. All Syzygy Tile is handmade.

Market: U.S. and Canada.

Distribution: Syzygy Tile is available exclusively from select distributors.

Employees: 25

Location: 106 N. Bullard, Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Phone: 575-388-5472

Fax: 575-388-4182

Email: [info@syzygytile.com](mailto:info@syzygytile.com)

Website: [www.syzygytile.com](http://www.syzygytile.com)



## Syzygy Tile is Truly Handmade

What makes Syzygy unique is that every single tile is made entirely by hand: hand cut, slow-dried, and bisque-fired; finished with up to eight layers of glaze brushed on by hand; and fired a second time. Original decorative designs, as well as designs drawn from historic architectural details, are individually pressed from hand-carved molds. Each tile is a work of art in design and color, made by artisans who take the time and pride to put craftsmanship into each piece.



Clay is pressed into a plaster mold



Clay shrinks slightly and is removed from mold



Completed greenware tile ready for drying



Tile is glazed with a brush after drying and bisque firing



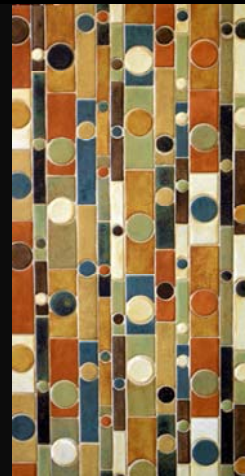
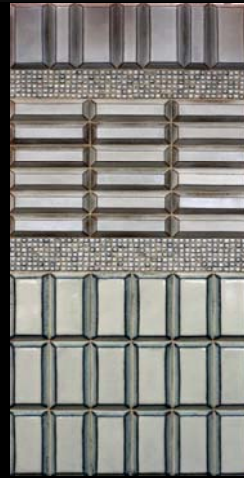
Tiles on special racks after glaze-firing



Children having fun with Syzygy's Community Involvement

## Product Sampling

### Traditional • Contemporary



For the complete collection see the Syzygy Tileworks catalog online at <http://www.syzygytile.com/catalog.html>

# The Syzygy Tileworks Story

## *Inspiration*

One day in the late 1980s, Lee Gruber and David Del Junco were standing in Fonthill, the enormous, rambling home of Henry Chapman Mercer, founder of the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works near Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They were looking with admiration at the tile-encrusted walls, the tile floors and ceilings, the tile ornamentation everywhere -examples of the honest artistry and passion that Mercer brought to his turn-of-the-century revival of a dying craft. Somewhere at this point, they turned to each other and said, "We can do this."

With that statement and Mercer's work as a model, they set themselves on a path that has demanded the highest standards of craft and creativity in making handmade tiles - standards they have faithfully pursued from the inception of Syzygy Tileworks in 1993.

## *Philosophy*

The name Syzygy, taken from the Greek, means an alignment of three celestial objects. It applies here to the coming together of color, design, and hand-craftsmanship. Although techniques and tools are readily available that would make the manufacturing process faster, easier, and possibly more lucrative, *handmade* is the watch word at Syzygy. Every single tile is formed and finished entirely by hand.



## *Science Meets Art*

David del Junco's background in chemistry enabled him to make sense of glaze formulations. But he took this technical knowledge further. After intense research and exhaustive lab work, Syzygy was in the position of offering an extensive palette of glazes, which have attracted major interest in the industry.

## *Evolution*

In the beginning Syzygy was a regional tileworks, emphasizing the rich and disparate cultural influences of Southwestern New Mexico – Mexican, Mimbreno, and western.

As a broader body of work took form, and all the difficult preparatory steps and research began to be recognized and rewarded by expanded geographic markets, the emphasis shifted to a more universal design concept. The principal focus became to produce tiles that are an integral part of architectural design rather than simply applied as decoration.



When Syzygy Tileworks outgrew its space in historic downtown Silver City in 2005, Lee and David renovated a building that once was home to a 1940s car dealership and moved just up the street from Syzygy's original location. This reflects their belief that it is important to work in the heart of their community.

### *A Distinctive Collection*

The Company is one of the premier representatives of the American Art Tile Movement. Today Syzygy Tileworks offers an imaginative and distinctive product line inspired by classical architecture, nature, and even industrial elements. This is a collection of true, clear colors, complemented by others specifically designed for subtle variations in hue. Over-glazes provide tone modulations and a sensation of surface depth. Continuing research and ongoing experimentation provide assurance that new colors and designs will keep Syzygy Tileworks at the top of the craft.



## Environmental Statement

*“Few Things Are More Environmentally Sound Than Products That Endure”*

We are dedicated to producing a truly hand-made, aesthetically pleasing product that is durable, environmentally safe and benefits the local community artistically, economically and environmentally. Our goal is to keep the hand-made craftsman tradition alive in our production of this beautiful tile.

We work at being good stewards in all aspects of our production. In the manufacturing area we recycle/reuse clay excess by running it through a pug mill and forming it back into tiles. We use only lead-free, non-toxic glaze formulae. Because we only glaze by hand using brushes, there is no glaze overspray. Any glaze residue is filtered and reused here or by local potters. Our seconds and overstocks are sold or donated to stores specializing in recycled and reused products. Tile is composed of the most abundant elements on earth: silicates, alumina and calcium. Tile is a permanent, durable building material which will maintain its beauty and durability for generations. Tile need never be replaced. Tile cannot be damaged by water or fire. No toxic chemicals are needed for maintenance. Few things are more environmentally sound than products that endure.

In our manufacturing facility we use supplemental natural lighting and passive solar gain to maximize lighting and heating efficiency. We recycle used office products with local recycling authorities (plastic, glass, paper). Dust collectors keep the air clean in our employee work spaces. Our tiles are shipped to customers using reused and recycled cardboard packaging and bio-degradable (water soluble) packing material for cushioning.



Outskirts of Silver City, New Mexico

In our community, we work in a renovated 1938 industrial building which had been abandoned. Our workers are locally hired and live within close proximity to the business. We use local sources for office and manufacturing materials and services whenever possible. We are creating a green space in our parking area. Our employees are truly artisans and craftsmen. They are central to our operation and we strive to create a product and working environment that fosters pride and enthusiasm.

## Press

### Articles featuring Syzygy Tileworks / Syzygy Tile:

Macintosh and More in Montecito (article and magazine cover photo)  
*Style 1900*, Fall 2009

Out & About: Silver City  
*Phoenix Home & Garden*, March 2009

Ocean's Light: AA Sun-Drenched Craftsman Overlooks the Pacific  
*American Bungalow*, Spring 2007

Dream Kitchens  
*Home & Design*, Winter 2007

Floating Down to Earth  
*Housetrends*, May 2006

Artisan: Syzygy Tileworks, Silver City, New Mexico  
*Sources + Design*, January/February 2005

A Garden's Little Secrets  
*Metropolitan Home*, Jan/Feb 1998

1998 The Top Twenty,  
*Interior Design*, December 1998

Color, Design, Hand-craftsmanship: Synonymous with Syzygy Tileworks  
*Las Cruces Real Estate Guide*, March 2009

Creating the Interior  
*Silver City Life*, Winter/Spring 2009

24 Club Home Tour  
*Silver City Life*, Summer 2008

Community Focus: Silver City  
*New Mexico Business Journal*, September 2007



## Founders

### Lee Gruber & David del Junco

Lee and David each bring a creative genius to make Syzygy Tileworks unique in the Art Tile world.

Lee Gruber is an artist and designer with an acute sense of color, light and texture. Her aesthetic is apparent in the rich color palette and complexity of pattern and design in Syzygy's line. Her personal integrity is evident in all aspects of the Tileworks — emphasis on tile quality, focus on client relationships, and commitment to personnel and community.



David del Junco is an inventor, scientist and designer. He has made it possible to actualize their vision. Many production techniques are truly distinctive and are integral to the resulting product. From decorative mold structure, glaze chemistry, and kiln thermodynamics to incorporating historic American architectural design elements, David's inquiring, analytic mind is fundamental to Syzygy.



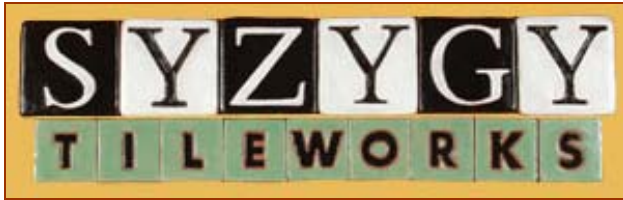
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## Logos



## Tag Line

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## Press Kit

[www.syzygytile.com/presskit](http://www.syzygytile.com/presskit)

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