

Technical CERAMIC KILNS SEMINAR by the company ROHDE

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I had the pleasure to be invited by the company ROHDE CERAMIC KILNS to the seminar for ceramic kilns experts held last week in Dyjakovice (Czech Republic) where their production manufacture settled down since the beginning. Created by Helmut Rohde 37 years ago, the small company has grown up always in a human friendly way. It is now lead by his son Benjamin Rohde and recently his 2 younger sons also got involved in the company. From the conception to the realization each detail is meticulously thought through. All production steps take place in the local Rohde production chain, no outsourcing. The choice of the suppliers is one of Roland Müller's specialities, lead by high quality requirements and local as far as possible. Each kiln is nearly treated like a unique piece and has its own passport where each step and each worker is memorized, quality first !

Glazing the pieces for the gas firing was the first phase of the seminar. While the high temperature firing was proceeding, we alternatively visited the production chain and followed the important steps of the firing, lead and explained by the excellent Rohde technician Jan Stoltmann.

The production is very calm and precise, we could see the proudness of the workers on their faces, and if you search under your kiln you might find a little smiley or kind of a tree leave designed, one of the the worker's signature ... Some participants of the seminar told us about their more than 30 years old Rohde kilns, still intensively firing with it. Despite this sustainability, the demand for Rohde kilns is always growing. Fixing the rare failures also was a thematic of the seminar, a good way to understand better the technology.



Combining high level technique with passion of good work and quality products ...to enjoy the results.

While the kiln was cooling down, Benjamin Rohde exposed us the new products and innovations to come in the next years, while being always open to the feed back of the final users.

The kiln we fired was a 170 liter gas down draft top loader, the perfect compromise for the studio ceramist who needs a good kiln but has no space and is not rich. I have 25 years experience of gas firing and have been building kilns for many years for my glaze research that requires performance and precision. I was very curious and followed the firing with a huge interest.



the firing

I also had been kindly allowed put some of my glazes inside, as a kiln-test ! The results were more than satisfying and now I know that I can blindly propose these kilns to my students and to any ceramist.

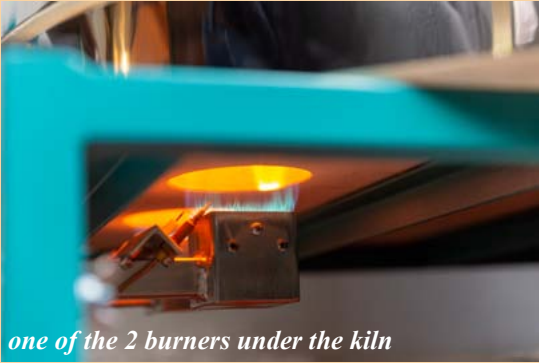
As a ceramist, professional school leader and ceramics equipment reseller, the most important for me is to help the kiln user to choose the right model adapted to his particular use. This seminar gave me a better understanding of the Rohde technology and the large range of kilns, from huge customized industrial to studio kilns.

Technology, economy and efficiency are not the only point though. Knowing that the company invests in ecological production, uses less plastic for packing and also installs more than necessary for the workers to have a healthy and ergonomic working place, while paying them well and in time, are even more additional arguments for me to have more joy with the Rohde kilns.

*Ariane Coissieux -



Reinhard Keitel with the firesculpture that the company Rohde commissioned him for their celebration in 2016



one of the 2 burners under the kiln



glazing



glazing



Jan Stoltmann explaining his firing process



replacing kiln elements



studying the firing curve

B. Rohde giving a technical lecture for the professionals

