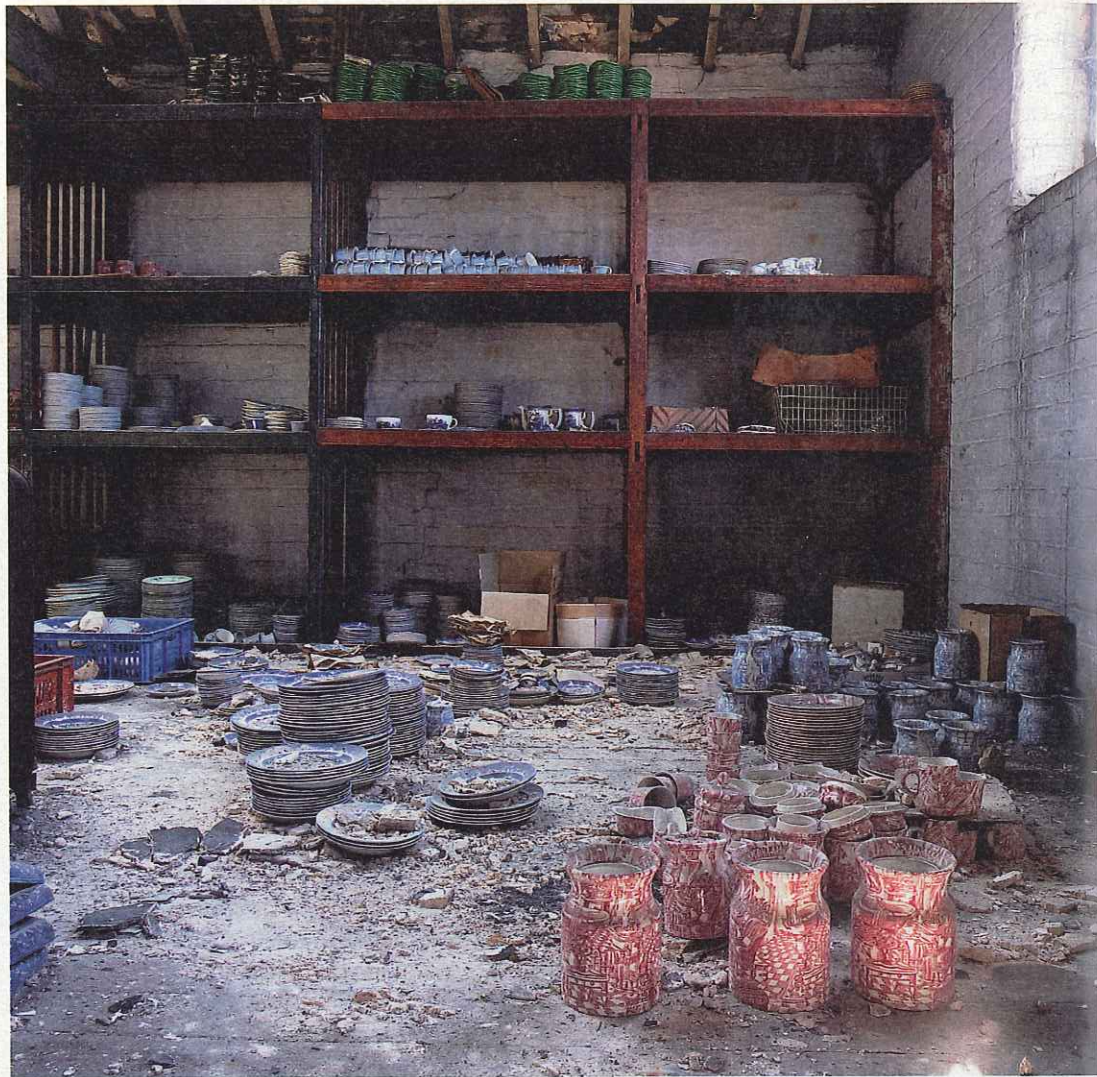


Design notebook by David Nicholls

MADE IN BRITAIN The British Ceramics Biennial is part of the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership's effort to support Stoke-on-Trent's beleaguered potteries. In the past five years some of the region's most famous companies have run into trouble, including Wedgwood, Royal Worcester, Spode and Royal Doulton. The festival champions emerging and established ceramists working in Britain, and also includes an international element, with an installation of traditional pottery from Gujarat in India (held at the former Spode site) and a selection of porcelain by the Spanish designer Jaime Hayón (at the Emma Bridgewater pottery). One of the highlights is *Breaking the Mould*, an exhibition of Dan Dubwitz's photographs taken at disused potteries earlier this year (the one shown here is of a store at Burleigh). *Breaking the Mould* runs until November 29 at The Old Post Office, 12 Wedgwood Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent (breakingthemould.info). The British Ceramics Biennial continues until December 13 (01782-597083; stokeceramicsfestival.co.uk).



HIGH STANDARD The Finnish furniture company Artek (set up by the architect Alvar Aalto in 1935) and the Japanese fashion house Comme des Garçons – two companies whose coolness knows no bounds – have collaborated to produce a his-and-hers fragrance called Standard. Its ultra-simple packaging and fuss-free, matt-grey bottle are a reminder of the function-over-form aesthetic that Aalto worked to throughout his career. Have a whiff of what's inside at Dover Street Market, where you can buy it for £65 per 100ml (020-7518 0680; doverstreetmarket.com).

SLICE OF LIFE Made from Dutch beechwood, these breadboards are cut into the shapes of houses (£25) and cityscapes (£39). Adorable. From Couverture: 020-7229 2178; couverture.co.uk.



GO SOFT This hand-embroidered cushion by the RCA graduate Nicola Le Rougetel is one of three available at Linley. £195 each (020-7730 7300; davidlinley.com).



LIGHT PULL One of the hits of the recent *Maison et Objet* exhibition in Paris was this set of three resin candlesticks, which stand upright on the steel tray by virtue of an incredibly strong magnet. *Dervish* costs £40 (tray included) and is designed for Innermost by Item, a London- and Paris-based studio (08452-600051; innermost.net).