

Nabataean Painted Fine Ware (NPFW)

Recovery and Reproduction

The scientific analysis results showed that the clay that best matched the ancient Nabataean ceramic sherds came from the az-Zurraba and Ain al-Tinneh sites near Petra.

Since ancient kilns have been found and studied in both sites it was decided to use raw materials from these sites for reproduction.

In cooperation with local potters extensive sampling from both sites was organized. This was followed by cleaning and sieving the natural clay samples. Continuous water decanting and partial drying of washed mud using raw textiles was extremely helpful for obtaining the best clay mass for modeling.

Modeling and room temperature drying was the next step before application of a special slip to obtain fine surfaces. This was followed by the application of the decoration derived many from clays and colored sandstones to reproduce the original Nabataean designs. After room temperature drying, firing of the pieces was achieved using controlled ovens and specific firing programs. A workshop in Taybeh (Petra Region), known as the “Taybeh Girls Workshop” implemented the production of the modern revival of the Nabatean fineware..

