

let's make some



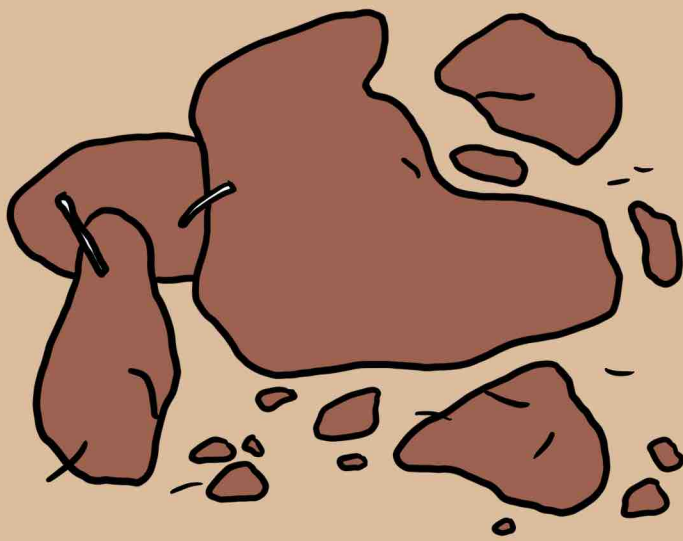
ENCAUSTIC
FLOOR
TILES

a big
THANK YOU !!
to ,



The Craven Dunnill Jackfield family

{ a moment to roll up our sleeves }



Let's dig
up some
CLAY
to begin
with ...

Once dry,
it can be crushed
into tiny bits



All of which
can be soaked
in a tub full
of water

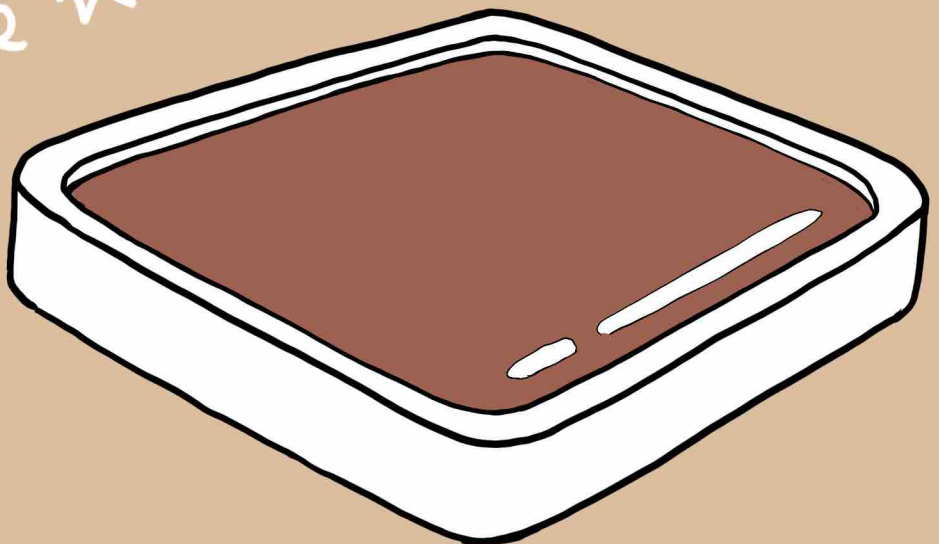


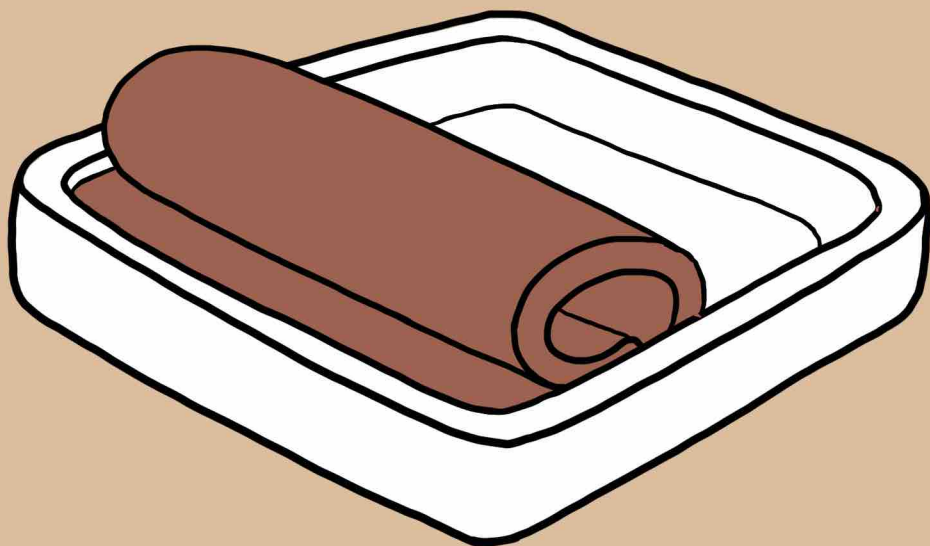
Give the tub
some alone time.
Take some yourself.

Once the clay
has softened
to a smoothie,
pour it through
a fine sieve
into another tub
(That should get rid
of large organic
matter and stones)

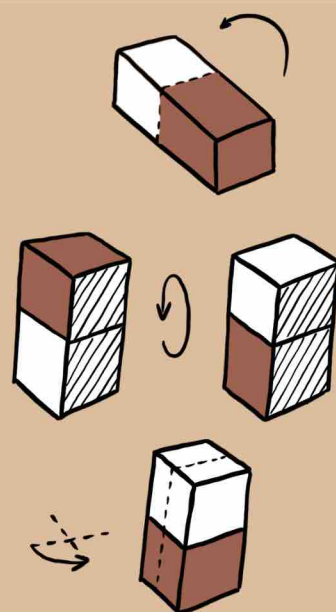
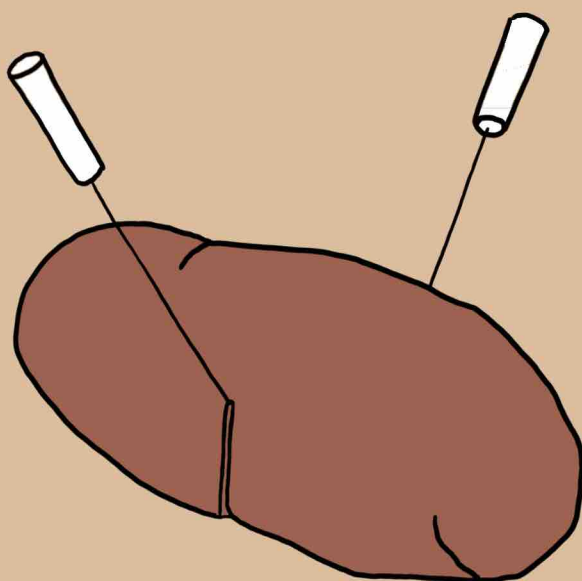


The smoothie
can be
put out to
dry on an
absorbent
surface





Once it's
'dough dry',
peel it out!

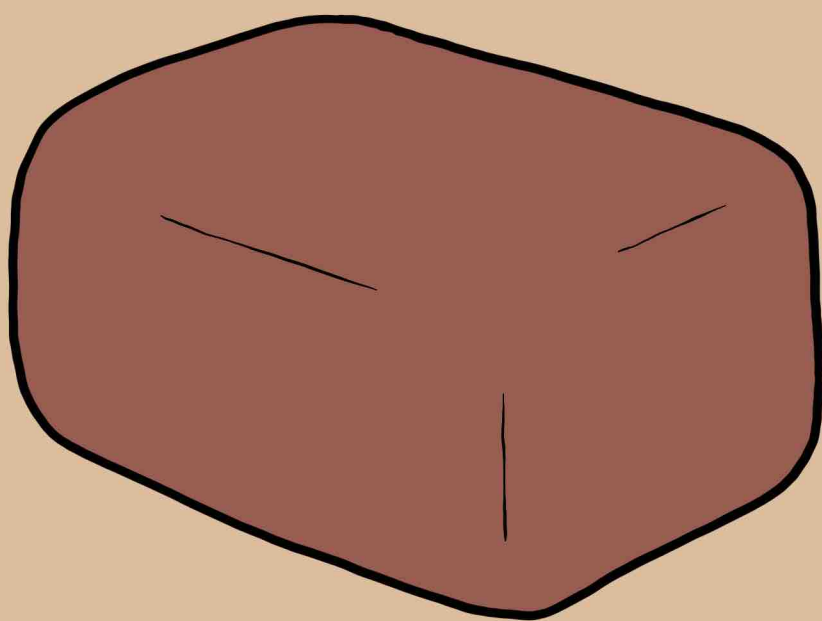


The dough can be cut and mixed
several times for an even consistency



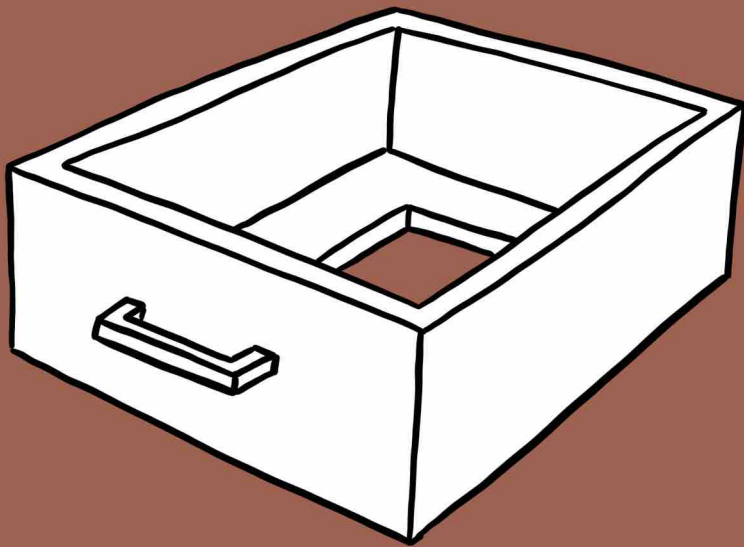
And thoroughly
kneaded
Of course.

Such that we are now
staring into the eyes of ,



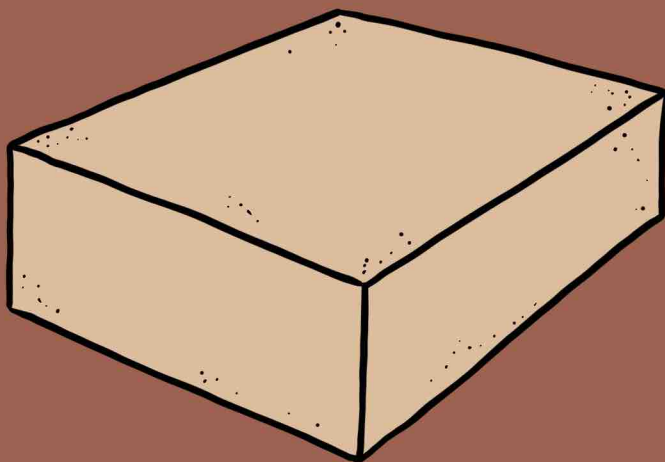
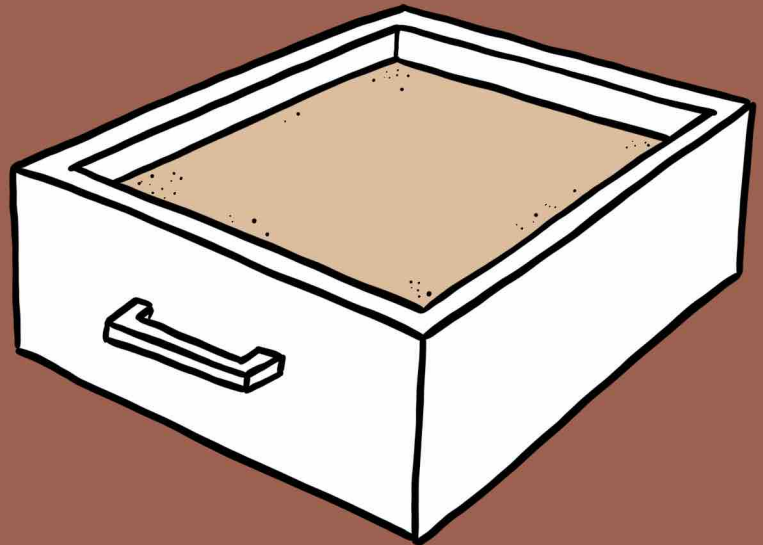
A lovely block of clay ...

To turn this clay into a pretty tile
we'll first need to cast:
a plaster mould



Here's a
wooden box
(with an 'open'
bottom)

Bottom closed,
we can pour in
the plaster mix



Once set,
open the bottom
and eject it out!

Now that we have a mould,
what we need is a pretty pattern.

Here's one !



Pretty AND Leafy !

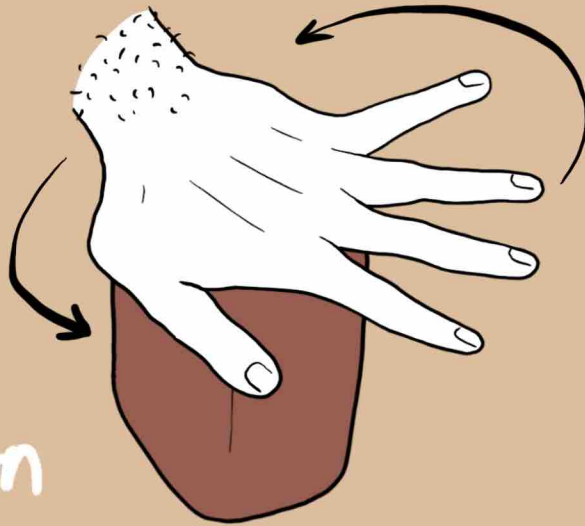
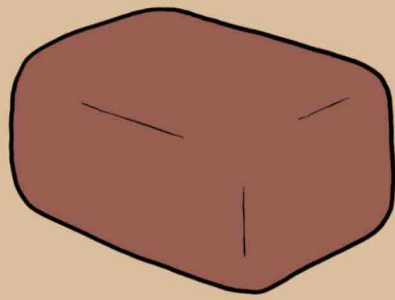
Trace the leafiness
onto the plaster
surface.
Now use some
pointy tools to,



Carve
it out!

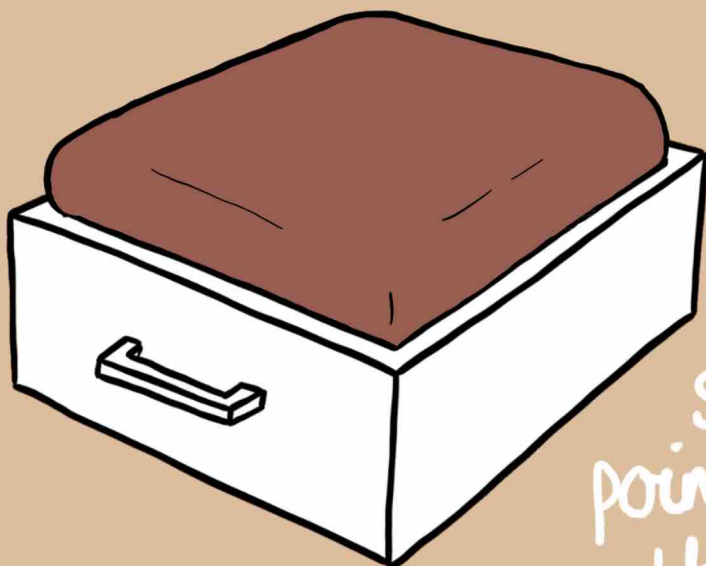
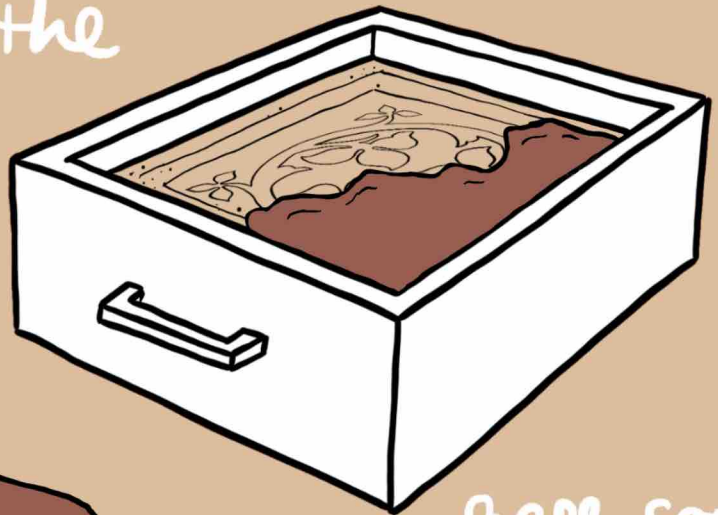
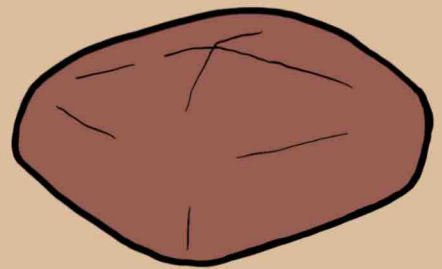
Once the
carving is
done, scrape
the surface clean
with a sharp edge

Now, back to the clay:



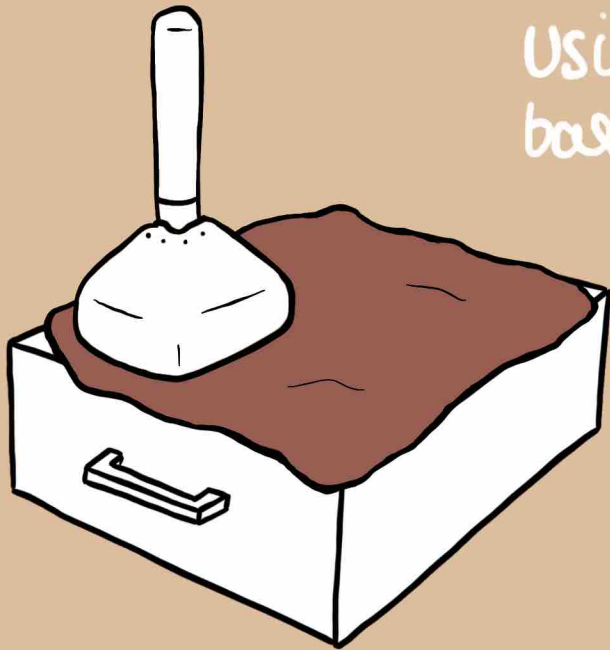
Let's
make
a
Muffin!

Press down on
the upright
block of clay with
a circular motion to
create a slight cone.
Now square off the
sides. Turn it over.
Muffin!

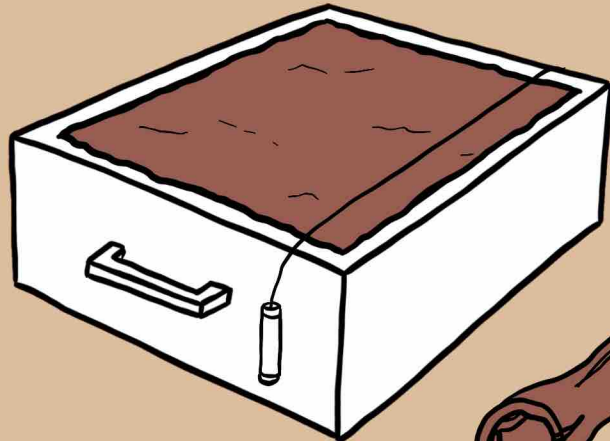


Press some
clay into the
pattern and then
smack the muffin-
point down - onto
the plaster.

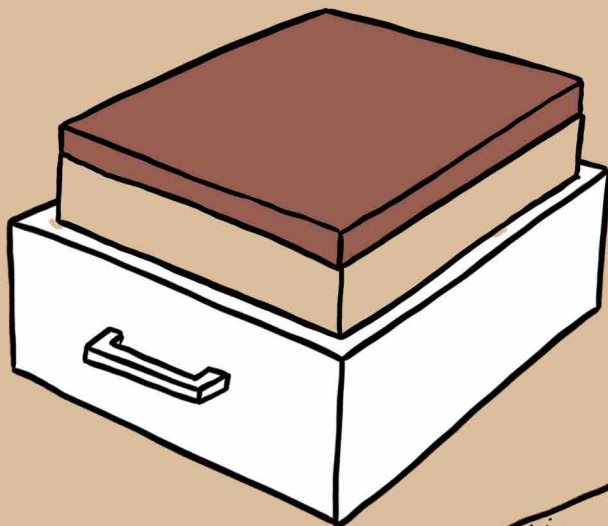
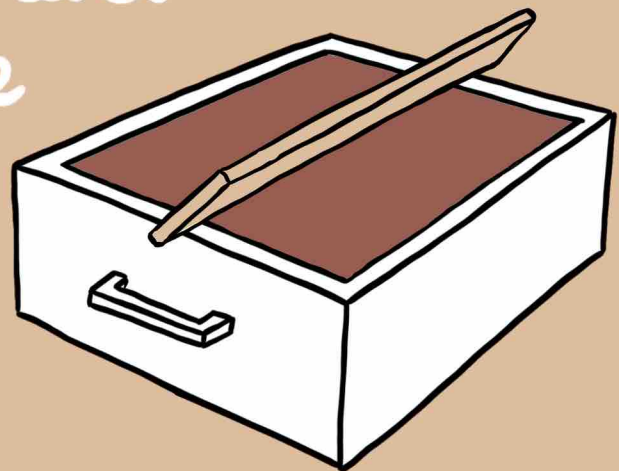
Using a small rammer,
bash all of the clay in!



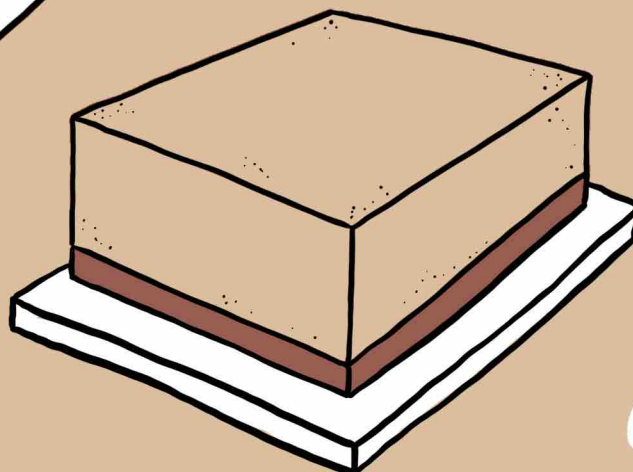
Cut the excess off



And then level
the surface



Now eject
it out,



And flip
it over
on a
plank
of wood

Lift the mould off, to reveal :
a pretty (& leafy) clay tile !

[YAYYY !!]

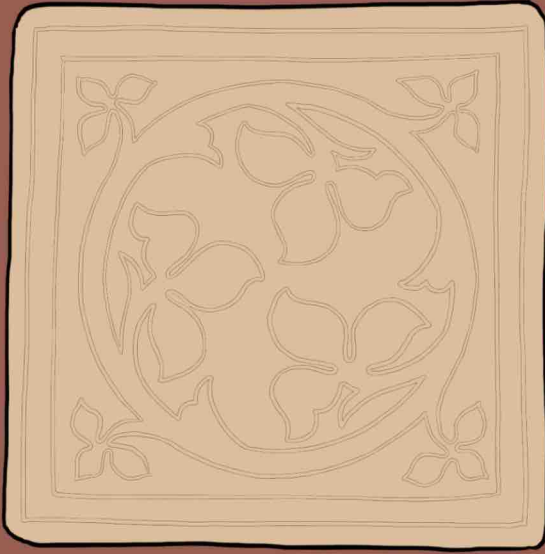


We can now bake this tile in a kiln
(for a 'relief' tile)

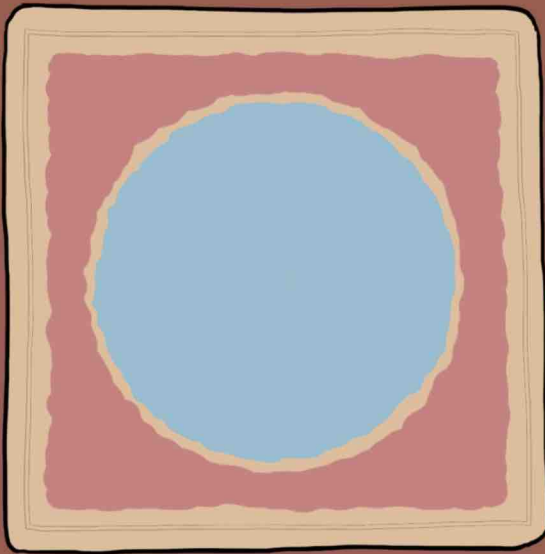
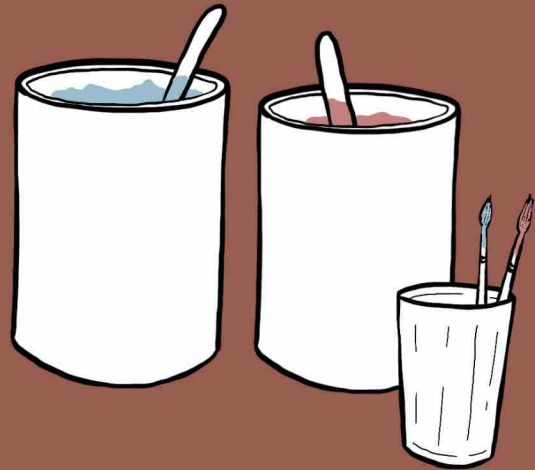
OR

With a few more steps make :
An Encaustic Floor Tile !

So we start with a raw 'relief' tile



With the help of a Potter friend* make a couple of coloured clay smoothies



Fill the pattern up with these colours!

Once dry, the tile can be scraped & levelled to reveal the colourful pattern

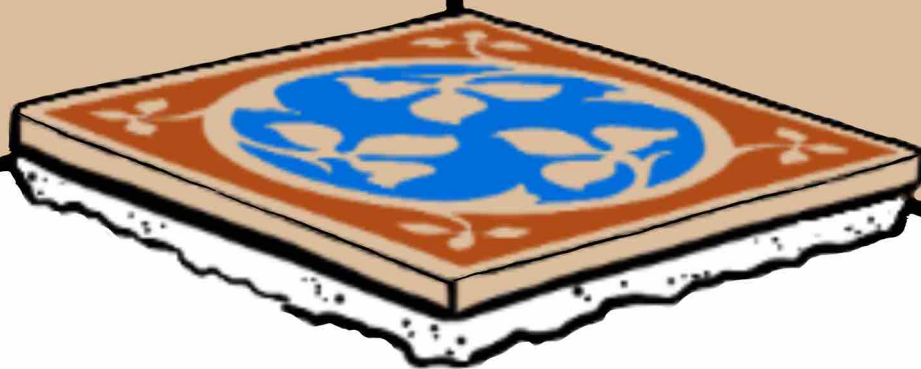


* Potters are like clay: when they have drunk enough, they're quite malleable and friendly

The tile can now be cut & cleaned
to the final dimensions,
and baked in the kiln!

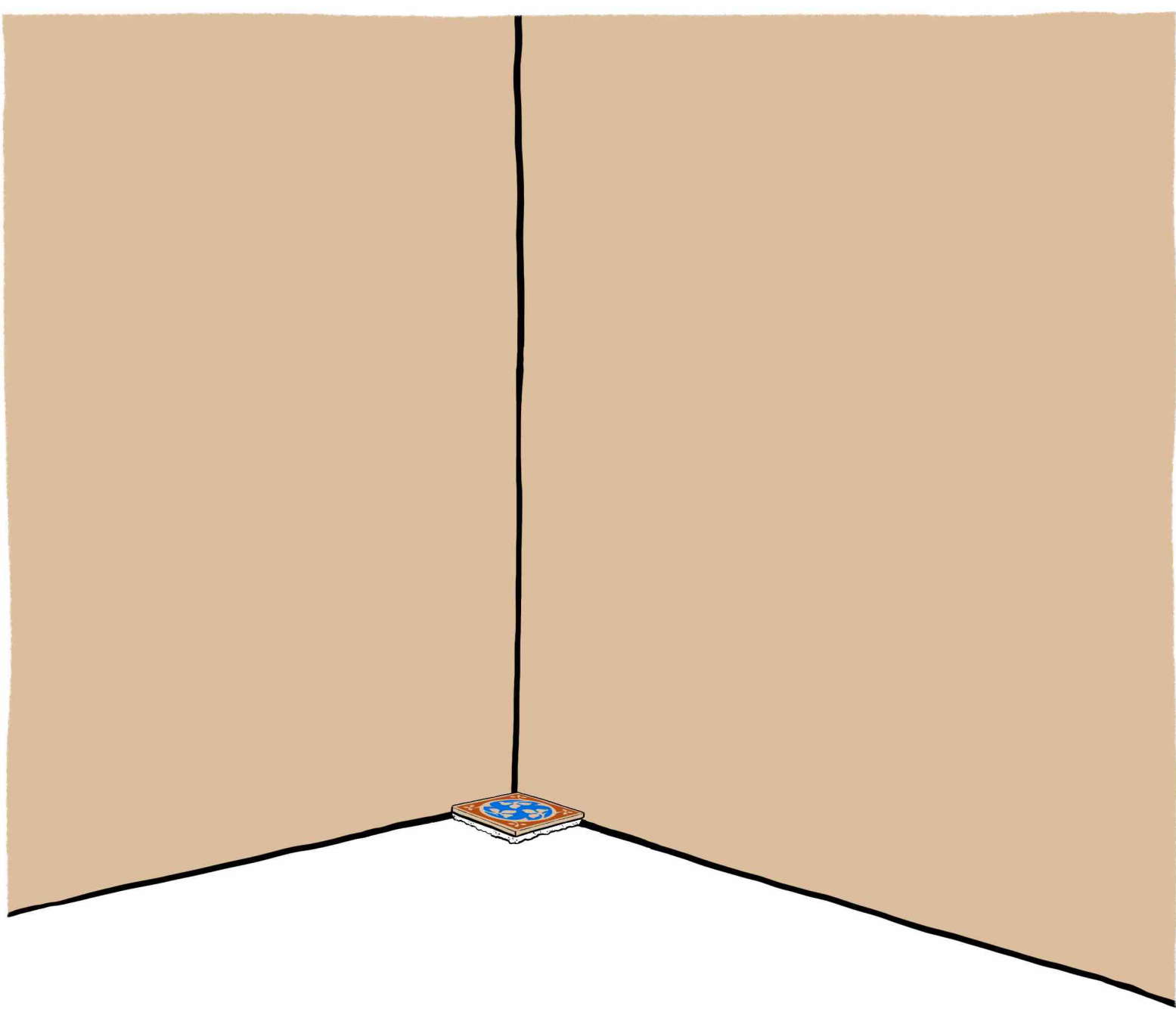


So here we are, gazing lovingly
into the eyes of,
our Pretty (& leafy) Encaustic Floor Tile!



which we can
lay onto the floor...

So Pretty (& Leafy) !



But we probably should've
dug out some more clay,

Oh well ...

