



pricolage

# doing the dishes

Ceramics are rarely at the cutting edge of design, but London-based Italian Caterina Fadda has managed to inject modernity into bowls and plates. Having trained at the Royal College of Art, she supplies a new generation of ceramists, whose work has more in common with modern design than Japanese-inspired stoneware. Her organic plates and shapely 60s-inspired slip-foot bowls are anything but earthy and are produced in a range of bold, Mediterranean colours. Inspired by the formality of traditional Italian food as well as the need for a flexible approach to modern living, her large puddle-shaped plates are equally suitable for a four-course feast - they can be stacked up for each course - or for a more informal affair in front of the TV with matching bowls for a comparably established supper. Fadda's idea is to mix and match. "I would have hundreds of colours for each form, if I could," she readily admits. Having snapped up the Oxo design award and received a highly commended mention at the Ideal Home show in 1999, Fadda is now collaborating with UK-based design company Authentics, who will produce her best-selling item, the salt and pepper shaker. An irresistibly tactile duo,

the two pebble shapes fit together to create a kind of sculpture and are also highly functional. The salt shaker fits neatly inside the palm, so that its contents are spread evenly, and the pepper shaker is inserted at the centre for a better grip - details which make Fadda's work successful yet still relatively unconventional. Not content with ceramics, the designer has already side-stepped into furniture. AMAZE is a Polypex cube which can be used as a simple side table or alternatively as part of a modular storage arrangement. And her Stasodigit, more of a pebble-shaped sculpture than a standard table lamp, has quietly transformed the world of glass. As its vibrant name suggests, Sasso is a pebble-like blob of thick deep glass which illuminates with a soft, warm glow when it is placed on the two metal contact strips of its glass base. Despite its bold colour and innovative form, Sasso is surprisingly harmonious. *Alexandra Bradley*

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