

Flash teapot

Chronicles of the "flash teapot".

About three years ago I found several pruned branches on the grass in front of the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The branches belonged to a majestic and ancient maple tree that was cut down a year later due to illness



One of these branches became my "State of the Union" bowl (*500 Wood Bowls*, Lark books 2004). Another bowl was smashed in an unfortunate incident just moments before I finished it. The remains lay in state for two years before I received an invitation to build a teapot for the Mobilia gallery in Cambridge. When I started to design the teapot I remembered the broken bowl and decided to use it as the basis for the new piece.

First, I glued the old remains with black epoxy adhesive, in a similar fashion to the technique by which archeologists reassemble historic ceramic objects.

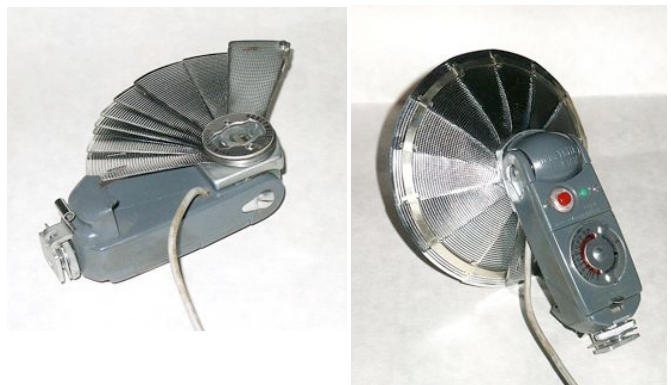


Second, I made the teapot arm-base from laminated walnut. My friend Leslie Hartwell, who has collaborated with me in the past, created the copper and brass arm-cage.



Building the arm-cage: laminated walnut burl, copper, brass and silver

Lastly, the lid of the teapot was constructed from an old flash unit with a beautiful stainless steel reflector-fan. I turned a two-part walnut knob that serves as a hub and finial to the reflector-fan. The knob facilitate the opening and closing of the fan. The lid, with care, can be taken in and out of the arm-cage.



Honeywell, Tilt-a-Mite: The flash unit that I found on Irving St., Cambridge, MA. Notice who the fan reflector can be either opened or be concealed to a compact and comfortable shape.

