

PROJECT BRIEF / TILES

CAPSTONE
MCAD / SUMMER 2026
ANDREW RIVERA
05/02/26

“Tiles puts the entire studio in your pocket.”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROBLEM

Physical glaze tile walls mean broken tiles, faded labels, and wasted space.

SOLUTION

A system with a dynamic digital archive, searchable glaze combinations, and documented firings in one place.

WHO

Whether you're a student learning the fundamentals or a seasoned artist refining your practice, every test tile and project note is at your fingertips.

KEYWORDS

- Archival
- Systematic
- Accessible
- Reference
- Tactile
- Community

RESEARCH

WHAT I HAVE

Tiles exists as a functional prototype with core features in place, an established visual identity, and early user feedback from a small group of studio ceramicists. The groundwork is laid and the system works, the brand has a voice, and real users have begun interacting with it.

WHAT I’M WORKING ON

The current focus is refinement across the board. Tightening the interface, strengthening the branding, and deepening the research that informs both. Every iteration is informed by what the prototype has already taught me about how studio users think and work.

WHAT I NEED

To take Tiles further, the project needs expanded features. Particularly social and community facing tools that let studios and artists connect around shared glaze knowledge. Equally important is a broader base of user research and structured testing to validate design decisions and surface what the current prototype can't yet see.

LIKE-MINDED EXAMPLES

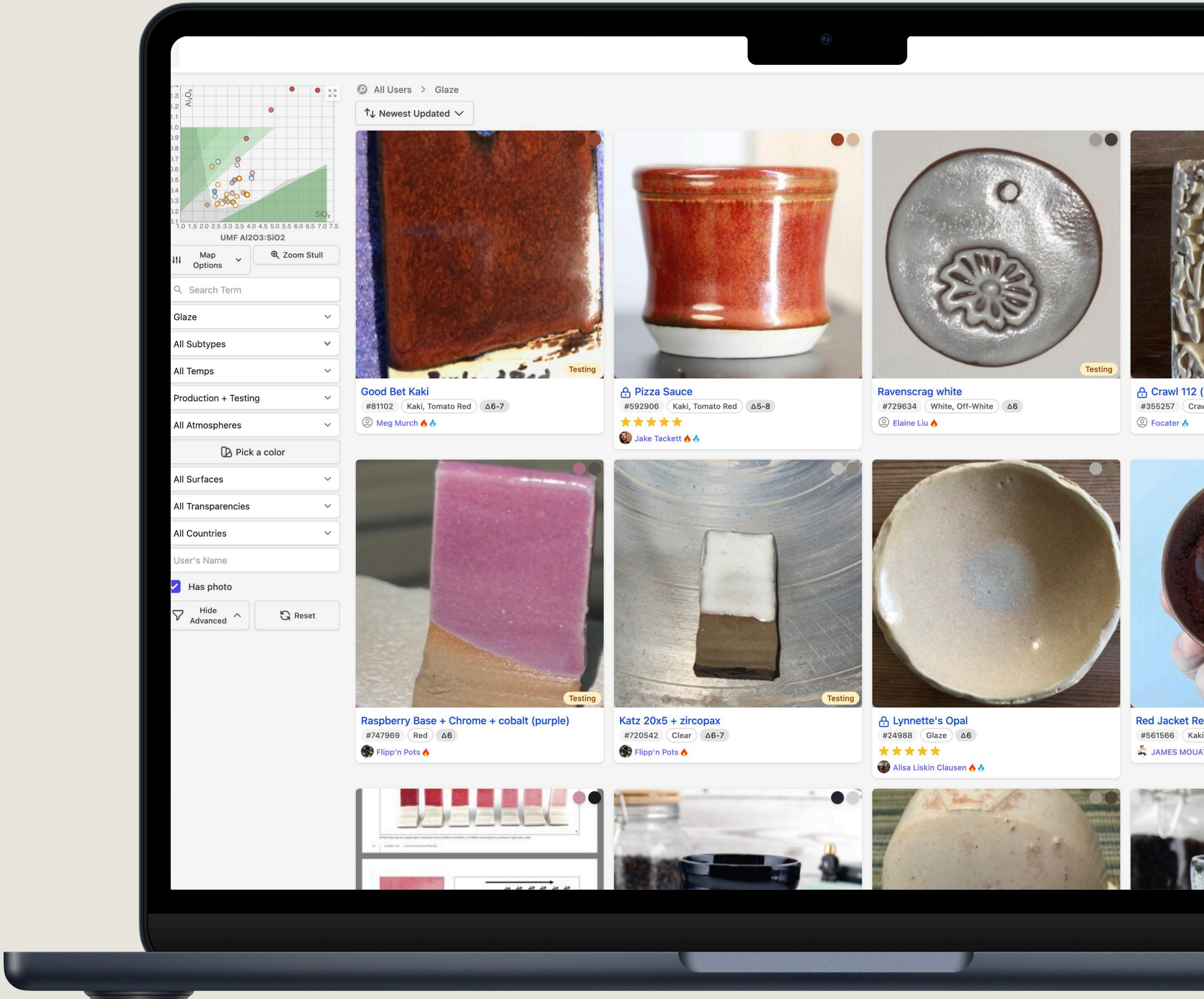
GLAZY.ORG

The Recipe Library: A searchable database of over 340,000 recipes. You can filter by temperature (Cone 6, Cone 10), atmosphere (Reduction, Oxidation), and color.

The Calculator (UMF): This is the "brain" of Glazy. It uses Unity Molecular Formula to analyze the chemistry of a glaze. It helps "glaze nerds" predict if a glaze will be stable, matte, or runny based on its chemical oxides.

Social Proof: Users upload photos of their own test results for a specific recipe. This shows how the same glaze looks on different clay bodies or in different kilns.

Material Inventory: A tool for individuals to track the raw materials they have in their studio and calculate the cost of a 5-gallon bucket of glaze.



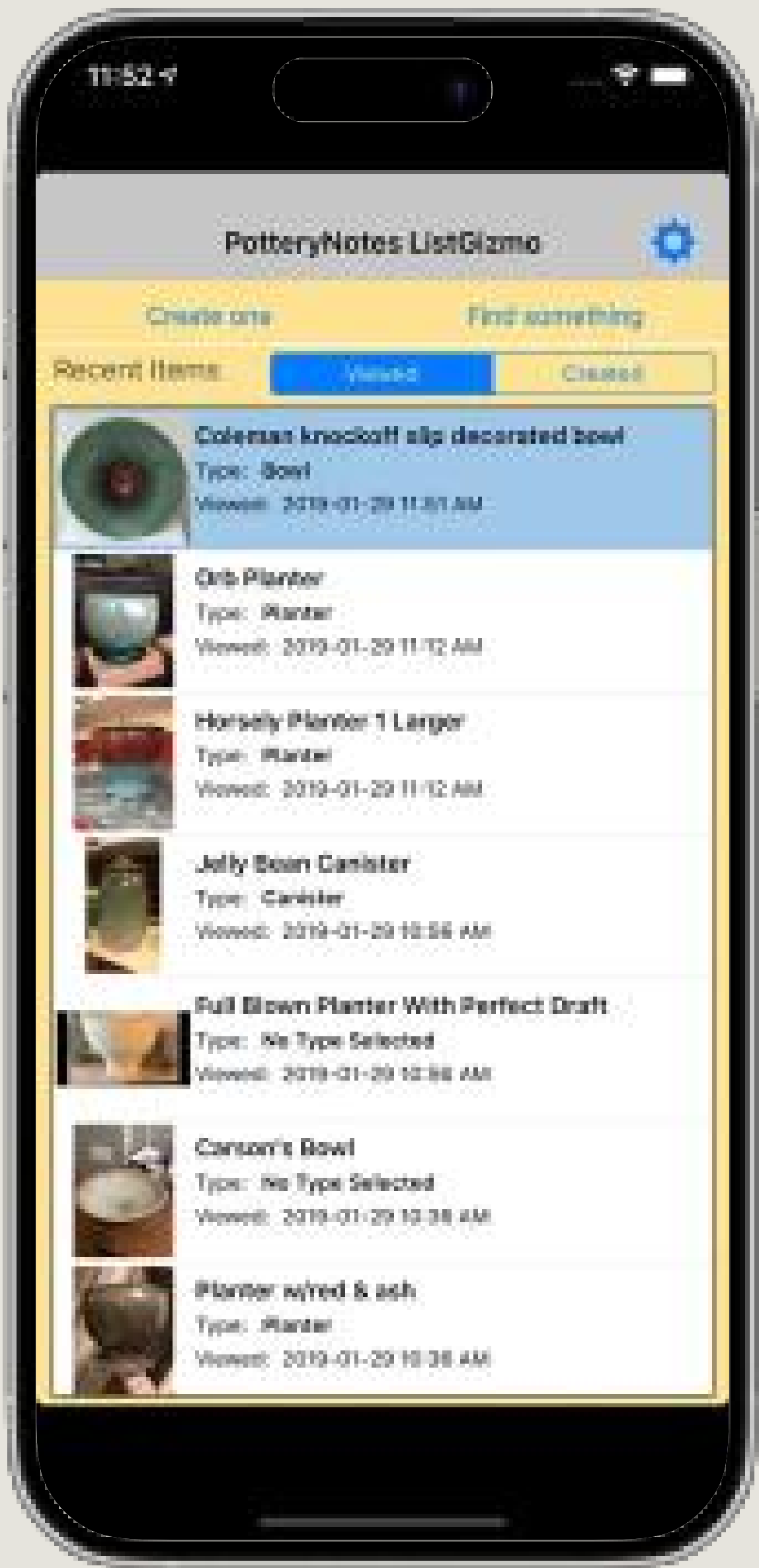
POTTERY NOTES

Project Timelines: Users create a record for a specific pot and add photos at every stage (Thrown, Bisque, Glazed, Fired).

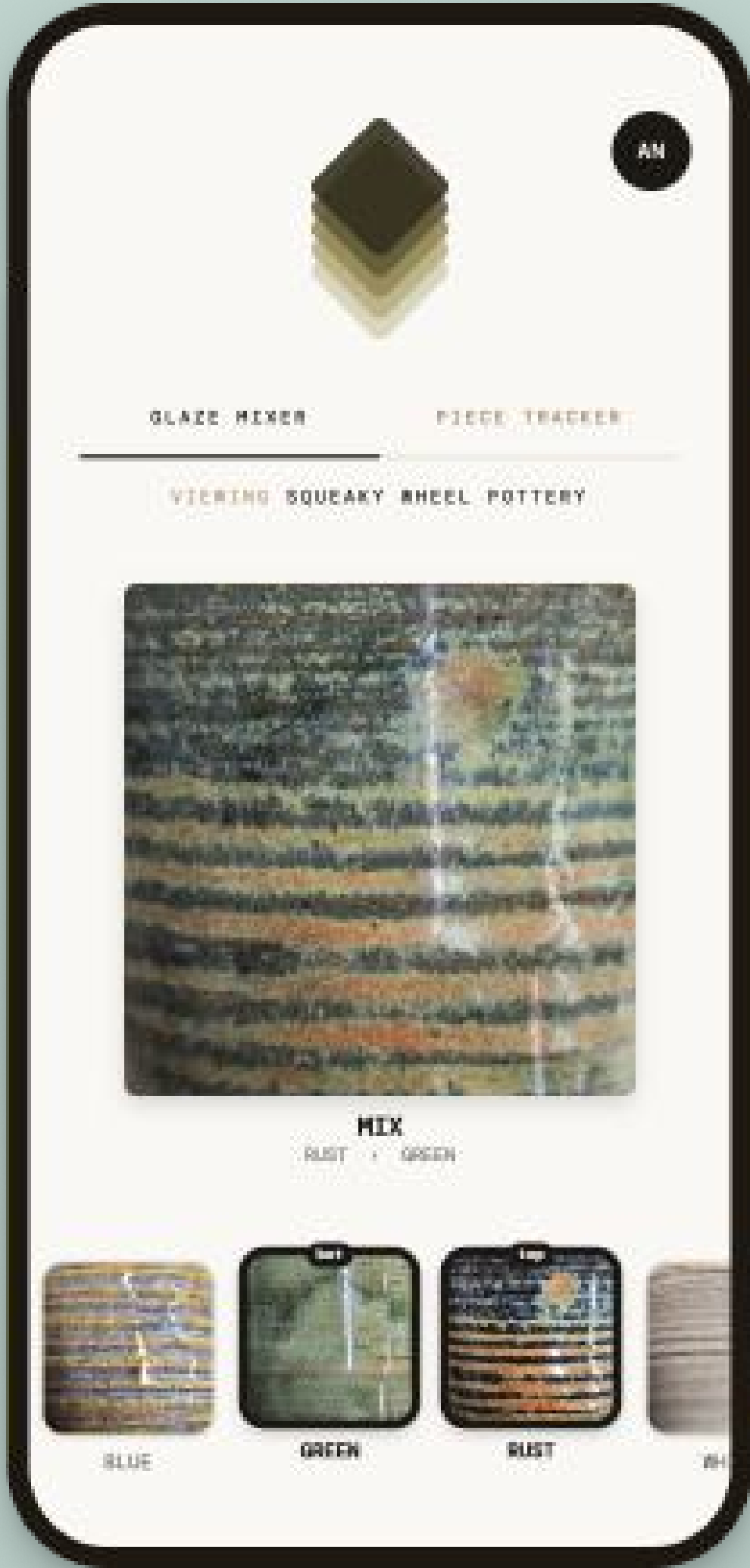
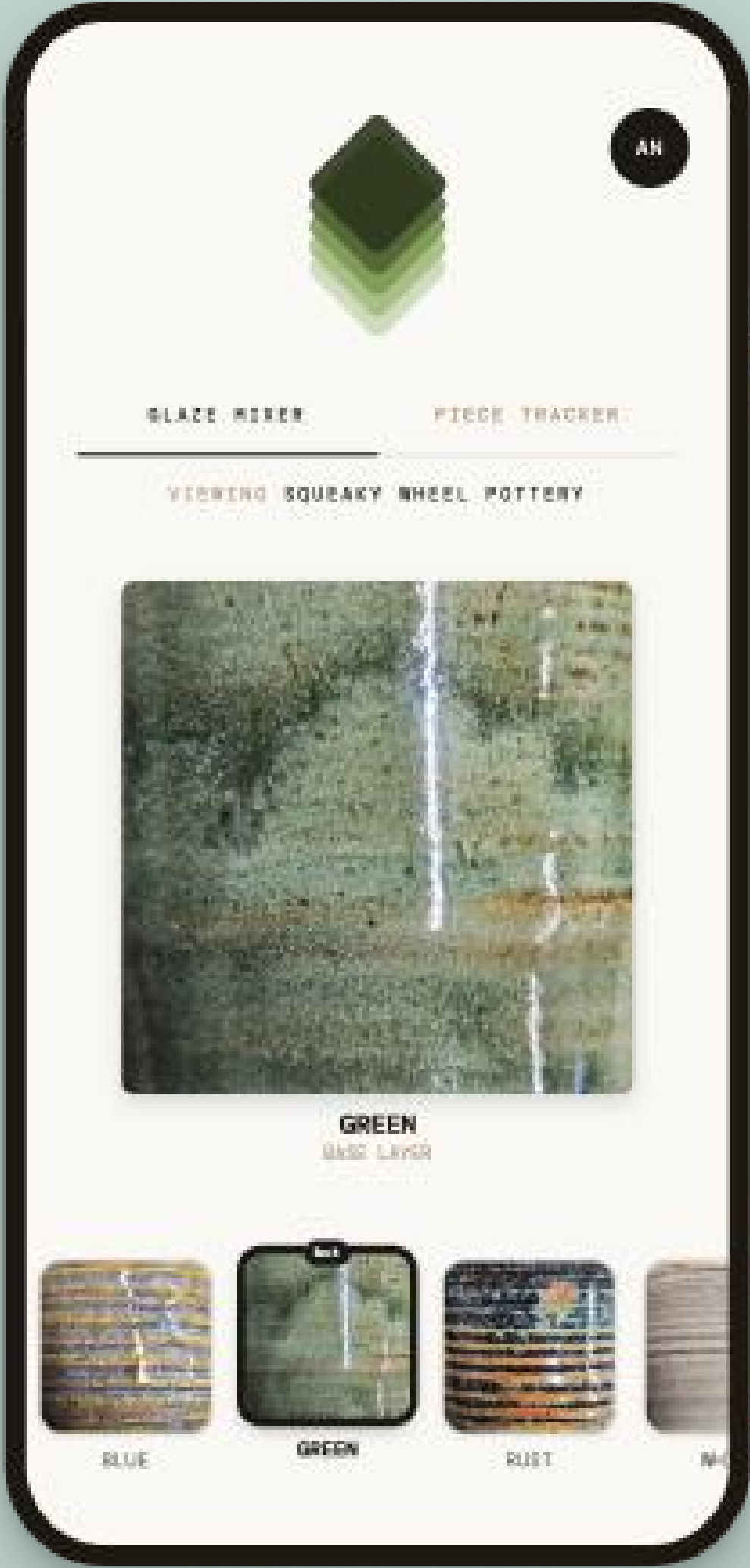
Customizable Fields: You can add fields for clay body, dimensions, weight, and firing temperature.

Surface Treatment Tracking: A dedicated area to list which glazes were used, how many layers were applied, and the application method (dipped, brushed, etc.).

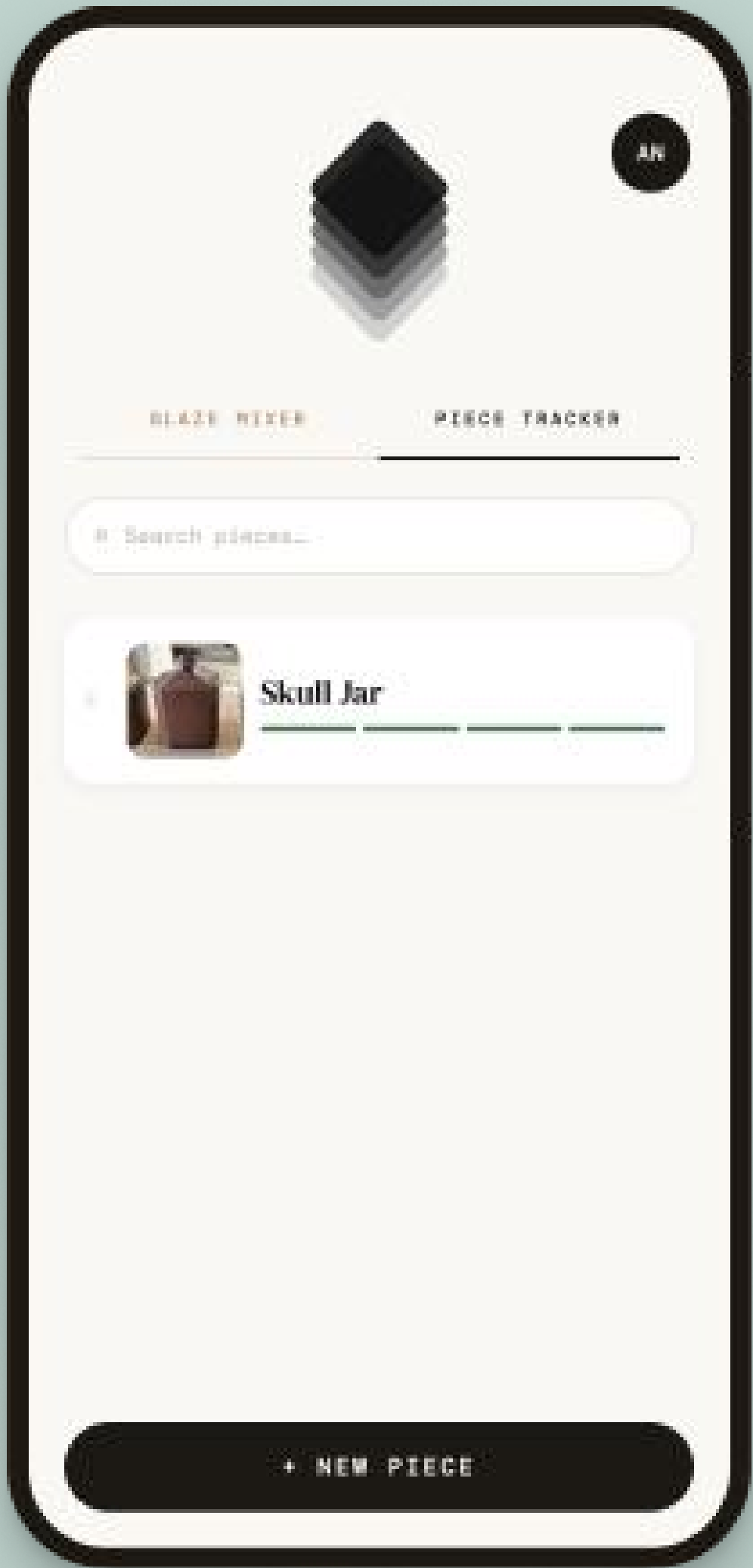
Offline Access: Since it’s a native app, it even works in basement studios with bad Wi-Fi.



EXISTING ASSETS/PROTOTYPE



EXISTING ASSETS/PROTOTYPE



EXISTING ASSETS/PROTOTYPE

New Studio

STUDIO INFO

NAME

Studio name

DESCRIPTION

About your studio...

LOCATION

City, State

CONTACT

Email or website

MEMBER JOIN CODE

HRCVWJ

SHARE WITH STUDIO MEMBERS

STUDIO GLAZES

No glazes yet — add your first one below

+ ADD GLAZE

MEMBERS

andriv

ADMIN · JOINED APR 2020

ADMIN

Squeaky Wheel Pottery

DESCRIPTION

Babett opened Squeaky Wheel Pottery in the spring of 2022, bringing her love of clay to the heart of downtown Hastings. Born and raised in Germany, and now rooted in

LOCATION

Hastings, MN

CONTACT

Info@squeakywheelpottery.com

MEMBER JOIN CODE

6F2RYN

SHARE WITH STUDIO MEMBERS

STUDIO GLAZES

Blue

Temp (°F)

Notes

Green

Cone 6

Runny

Rust

Temp (°F)

Notes

AN

GLAZE MIXER

FISCO TRAINERY

andriv

STUDIOS

Squeaky Wheel Pottery

6F2RYN · 3 GLAZES

SET ACTIVE

JOIN A STUDIO

CREATE A STUDIO

LOG OUT

POTENTIAL PARTERS/AUDIENCE



"I never know what a glaze is going to look like until it comes out of the kiln. I wish I had a better way to see what's possible before I commit."

Maya Chen · Student



"I've been coming here for two years and I still feel like I'm only scratching the surface of what the glaze wall has to offer."

David Okafor · Studio Member



"Keeping our glaze documentation current is one of those things that always falls to the bottom of the list. It's important but there's never a good system for it."

Sarah Lindgren · Instructor



"Running a studio means wearing a lot of hats. Keeping track of everything we've tested and fired is one of those things that never feels quite under control."

Tom Reyes · Studio Manager

PROJECT TIMELINE

PROTOTYPE

Establish the project brief, develop the proof of concept, and deliver a working prototype. This phase defines the core of what Tiles is and what it does.

Weeks 4-7

NEW COMPONENTS/
FEEDBACK

Introduce new features, gather user and external feedback, and iterate through three passes of refinement. The case study site takes shape here alongside the evolving prototype.

REVISION & POLISH

Incorporate all feedback, finalize the prototype, complete the case study site, and build out presentation materials. Resume and external facing assets get their final pass.

Weeks 8-9

Week 10

FINAL PRESENTATION

Deliver the capstone. The anchoring centerpiece is the live Tiles prototype. A demonstrable, fully documented tool presented alongside the case study site.

Weeks 1-3

THANK YOU.