

**Ms. Dilshani Ranasinghe**

USE OF CLAY UTENSILS IN TRADITIONAL SRI LANKAN KITCHEN

**Abstract:**

The Kitchen is the most important place in a traditional house. 'Kussiya', 'Muluthengeya', 'Ginihalgeya', 'Bathgeya', 'Muluthena' are some of the traditional Sinhalese words used to identify the kitchen. Cooking is a main feature in the kitchen area and therefore cooking utensils are the main products featured in it. The kitchen should also be easy to clean and be well ventilated. Culinary utensils have evolved according to their usage and function. Utensils were made of different types of materials to cater for product functionality and to maintain good health. This research tries to identify types of clay utensils and their usage in the traditional kitchen environment. Research was conducted by examining traditional clay utensils in museum

collections, traditional houses, archeological excavations and written documents. Design Elements, Design Principles, decorations, and product functionality were the main factors considered.

Identifying traditional clay utensils is also an important factor to learn about Sri Lankan tradition; specifically the usage of materials, design and decorations, and stacking methods. The emphasis of this research was identifying the importance of shape and forms of kitchen items, stacking methods, use of decorations and techniques, the importance of materials and their relevance to product functionality. It is hoped these findings will help to re arrange our traditional kitchen to protect our cultural values for future generations.

### **Biography:**

Ms. Dilshani Niwanthika Ranasinghe, is a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa. Her field of specialty is a ceramic design. Dilshani's first degree was from the University of Moratuwa , B.Des (Hons), and has also completed her Master's Degree; Master of Philosophy (MPhil.) from University of Moratuwa. Presently she is the coordinator in the Product Design field in the Department and also works as an undergraduate coordinator, Dept. of Integrated Design.

Dilshani' has worked in the private sector at Fern wood Porcelain (pvt) Ltd and also in the public sector as a Designer in the National Design center before joining the University of Moratuwa. Where she is a resource person for the National Craft Council, member of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and former secretary of the SLAAS. Her research area is in Art and Craft, Ceramics, Traditional Artifacts. She has published several research articles for research conferences.

Email: [dilshaniranasinghe80@gmail.com](mailto:dilshaniranasinghe80@gmail.com)