

Teaching Tip

Direct students to search for images of work by Michael Graves in books and on the Internet. Ask students to collaboratively create a drawn timeline of his works, including his work, influential people in his life, and individuals or organizations he influenced.

Drawing for Design

Michael Graves Tea Kettle

Michael Graves was an architect in the U.S. when he was asked by the Italian furniture company Alessi to redesign a utilitarian consumer product: the teakettle. Over several years, Graves had conversations with a variety of professionals connected to the design and production process, which led to many

sketches and varying design concepts. The designers explored the role, identity, and meaning of the teakettle itself before creating sketches or making a prototype. The result is a playful and highly functional take on a traditional object that appeals to the senses and enlivens the concept of breakfast.

Fig. 1-8. How does the preliminary drawing for the teapot compare to the final product?

Michael Graves, sketch for Whistling Bird Teakettle.

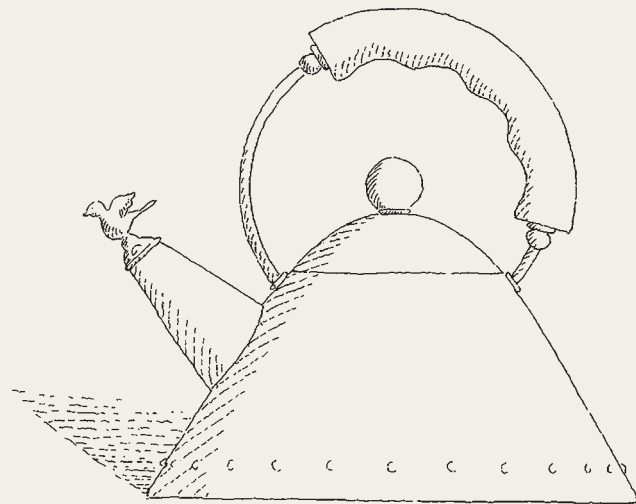


Fig. 1-9. "Model 9093" was produced in 1985.

Michael Graves, *Whistling Bird Teakettle*.

Photograph: George Kopp.