

1) How do you think the role of the teacup has evolved in tea culture over time?

The role of the teacup in tea culture has evolved from being a symbol of status and ritual to becoming a more accessible and versatile vessel for everyday tea drinking.

In ancient times, teacups were not just functional but also heavily reflected social hierarchy, etiquette, and artistic expression. As the appreciation for tea culture spread, teacups adapted to serve different preferences of tea.. The dual-cup snifter 闻香杯 in Taiwan emerged to better appreciate the aroma of oolong tea, while mini teacups emphasized small, thin-walled designs to intensify flavor for lover of chaozhou brewing style (very concentrated).

Today, the teacup remains an essential part of tea culture, albeit sometimes easily overlooked, balancing aesthetics and practicality.

2) Are there specific teacup designs in your shop that reflect traditional or cultural influences?

- White Porcelain Teacups: Versatile and timeless, suitable for all teas. White porcelain shows true color of the tea liquor and does not influence its aroma and flavor
- Teacups Decorated with Auspicious Fruits: peaches (寿桃) for longevity and persimmons (柿子) for good fortune stems from chinese symbolism
- The Snifter Cup (闻香杯): modern innovation from Taiwan's 1980s tea boom. This method marked the start of modern chinese tea appreciation, influencing the redesign of other teaware and distinguishing Chinese tea art (茶艺) from the mainstream Japanese tea ceremony (茶道) back in the days

3) Do you find that customers are drawn to certain types of teacups based on cultural preferences or traditions?***

Today, teacup selection is mostly based on aesthetics and practicality. For example:

- Narrow-based, taller cups look super elegant but may be unstable when used
- Thin-walled cups are lightweight and appealing, helps tasting better, but prone to chipping

Our customers generally seek a balance between beauty and function, choosing teacups that are both practical and pretty looking

4) How do you see the act of serving tea influencing social interactions in your shop?***

Serving tea naturally extends customers' time spent in our stores and creates a welcoming atmosphere. Tea has a unique ability to bring people together, allowing us to build strong relationships over shared tea sessions.

5) Have you noticed if the choice of teacup affects the overall tea-drinking experience for your customers?

Yes, teacup selection is one of the important factors in tea tasting by influencing how flavors and aromas are perceived.

6) Do you incorporate any specific rituals or practices around tea service that highlight the importance of the teacup?

- The “Owner’s Cup” (主人杯) is personal teacup that one brings to different places or keeps exclusively for personal use.
- Preheating Cups – Enhances aroma and taste by maintaining optimal temperature for the tea.

*7) From your experience, how does the design of a teacup (material, shape, size) impact the taste or enjoyment of tea?**

The design of a teacup—including its material, shape, and size—directly influences the taste, aroma, and overall enjoyment of tea.

Material:

- Porcelain are non-porous, therefore neutral. It preserves the pure flavor and aroma of tea, making it the most versatile choice for all teas
- Purple Clay (Zisha) absorbs tea essence over time, enhancing depth and complexity, ideal for **aged and post-fermented teas (ripe Pu’er, Liu Bao, etc.).
- Glass (transparent, fast heat conduction) is best for green teas, allowing visual appreciation, though it cools quickly.

Shape & Size:

- Thin-walled and taller cups enhance fragrance (better for aromatic teas)
- Thicker cups retain heat and emphasize body and mouthfeel (better for darker teas)
- Smaller cups encourage mindful sipping, preserving heat and intensifying flavors.
- Larger cups provide less sharp flavours but are ideal for casual drinking

8) Do you think teacups play a role in promoting mindfulness or relaxation during tea consumption?**

Absolutely! Traditional handleless cups encourage more intouch with tea’s warmth and aroma. The small size also promotes mindfulness, as each sip requires intention and attention—otherwise, one might finish the tea too quickly before truly tasting it!

*9) Are there any teacup designs specifically meant to enhance the health benefits of tea, like those used in traditional Chinese medicine?**

As far as I know, the cup itself does not impact tea's health benefits. However, I wouldn't recommend brewing or storing tea in stainless steel, as minimal levels of metal dissolution might produce more dull and bland tea

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10) How do you select the teacups you use or sell in your shop? Do you prioritize specific materials, craftsmanship, or aesthetics?**

We cater to current trends and customer preferences, We have also collaborated with a malaysian calligrapher on our teacup set

11) Have you noticed any modern trends in teacup design that reflect changes in how people enjoy tea today?**

One modern trend is teacups with built-in filters, reflecting a shift toward convenience and practicality in tea preparation.

Another is the popularity of blank teacups. So essentially teacups without any decorations or drawings. Probably has to do with the minimalist trend.

12) Do you think teacup design today still carries the same meaning and significance as it did in the past? Why or why not?**

Teacup design has evolved alongside history, economic shifts, and changing lifestyles. Designs are now more accessible and functional. Today, mass production makes teacups widely available at a more affordable pricepoint, but enthusiasts still seek artisanal and handcrafted choices treated more like an art than a practical vessel. For many, choosing a teacup remains an mainly personal preference, influenced by aesthetics and their own tea preferences.

There is also a growing appreciation for handcrafted teaware, as more people becoming more enthusiast and more like a collector attitude. Whether mass-produced or artisanal, the experience ultimately depends on how the drinker engages with the tea itself.