Fire & Ice Inspired Tea Set
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After unsuccessfully pitching my idea of an earring, I chose to create a tea set. Looking back, this worked out for the better. The summer of 2011 I spent a few weeks in the UK where the people are infamous for their 4 o’clock tea times. It was during this trip that I discovered my love for the drink making this project very fitting. The design of my personal project was inspired by a photograph I found on the Internet. This image can be seen in Figure 1. I decided to put a modern spin on the theme and add other components (tray, spoon, etc.)

Figure 1. This image was the inspiration for my personal project. This image and the final rendering bare some similarities as well as some differences as the final design is more modernized.


In order to create this project in solid works I had to use many different tools and features including, extruding, sweeping, revolving, shelling, lofting, and surfacing. I used both the revolve tool and the loft tool to make the cups and pot. This gave me lots of practice with creating new planes etc. I ran into lots of errors when trying to complete the sweeps for my handles (on both the cup and pot). These pieces can be seen in the final assembly rendered image found in Figure 2. After consulting with our wonderful TA’s I was able to resolve the ‘zero thickness’ error.
There were many different challenging components of my project. It was difficult to not have dimensions for the design so I referenced an online source to get a ballpark idea of standard tea set dimensions. The link to this website can be found in the Reference section of this report. One of the most challenging features of my project included learning how to surface in order to project a shape onto a curved surface to create the spout on my teapot. Figure 3. Shows close up renderings of the teapot and sugar bowl. I also learned how to use the Spline and Mirroring tool to create the spout and spoon. Learning these techniques cut back on the amount of time and deepened my understanding of the SolidWorks program. In addition to the new skills I learned for my personal project, I also completed two (almost three) tutorials which added to my skill set. I completed the patterning and animation tutorials and most of the sheet metal one.
Prior to Edsgn 100 I had never used SolidWorks. Needless to say, the SolidWorks portion of this class taught me a lot. The first thing being that contrary to my belief I can in fact work a computer. In addition to that I learned about the different features and how to operate the program. I am now confident enough to play around with the software. I have really grown as a SolidWorks user from an unconfident, lost wanderer into a more confident, less lost wanderer.

Figure 4. Assembly Drawing
References:

Dimensions:
http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining_etiquette/table_setting/place_setting/dinnerware/cups.html#teacup