WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of producing a ceramic core for investment casting, the method comprising at least a step of:

injecting a slurry into a disposable die, the slurry comprising ceramic particles, binders, and carbon fibers, wherein the slurry is an Al_2O_3-siloxane based slurry with added carbon fiber.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the ceramic core defines an internal surface of a turbine blade, after casting.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the slurry includes carbon fibers in a concentration not exceeding 20 wt% of the slurry.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the carbon fibers have an average diameter of 200 microns or less.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the carbon fibers have an average diameter of 100 microns or less.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the carbon fibers have an aspect ratio of greater than 1:1 up to 100:1.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the carbon fibers have an aspect ratio of greater than 10:1 up to 100:1.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional heating step that removes the disposable die.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional heating step that substantially removes the carbon fibers.

10. A fired ceramic core formed according to the method of claim 9, the fired ceramic core comprising the ceramic particles and fiber-shaped voids, the fiber-shaped voids aligned with an axis of the core.

11. The ceramic core of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the ceramic core defines an internal surface of a turbine blade, after casting.

12. The ceramic core of claim 10, wherein the voids have an average diameter of 200 microns or less.

13. The ceramic core of claim 10, wherein the voids have an average diameter of 100 microns or less.

14. The ceramic core of claim 10, wherein the voids have an aspect ratio of greater than 1:1 up to 100:1.

15. The ceramic core of claim 10, wherein the voids have an aspect ratio of greater than 10:1 up to 100:1.

16. A cured ceramic core formed according to the method of claim 8, the cured ceramic core comprising the ceramic particles, the binder, and the carbon fibers, the carbon fibers aligned with an axis of the core.

17. A method of producing a ceramic core for investment casting, the method comprising at least a step of:

injecting a slurry into a disposable die, the slurry comprising ceramic particles, binders, and carbon fibers, wherein the slurry is an Al_2O_3-siloxane based slurry; and

heating the disposable die, the heating oxidizing and substantially removing the carbon fibers leaving voids.