

## Section 1. Industrial art and design

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### ISSUES OF PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONS IN THE CONDITIONS OF MARKET RELATIONS (EXAMPLE OF WOOD CARVING OF KHORAZM)

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#### Abstract

Legal documents created for the development of applied art in the republic, opportunities and privileges granted by the state are noted. Khorezm woodcarving is distinguished from other regions by its uniqueness, non-repetition of ornaments, and processing style. The article describes the types of woodcarving products, their use, decoration, master's skills and specific aspects in the context of market relations.

**Keywords:** *Khorezm wood carving, pillar, door, chest, applied art, architecture, household and souvenir items*

#### Introduction

The market economy opens up a wide path for the development of all sectors. Private property encourages people to work harder and get more out of their labor. The abolition of private property in the Soviet era led to a crisis in crafts and applied arts. The favorable conditions created during the years of independence, the opportunities and privileges provided by the state led to the revival of many types of applied arts and forgotten traditions, and the re-establishment of the master-apprentice system.

#### The main part

Preservation of types and traditional methods of applied art in the conditions of

market relations is an urgent issue. Because the master-craftsman works based on market demands for economic benefit. It's no secret that the quality of the works created today is decreasing, they are moving away from the traditions and trying to make innovations in the field, producing cheap marketable, small, non-practical products.

State support for the development of the industry is of great importance, and the Government pays special attention to supporting artisans. First, let's consider the legal framework created to support handicrafts and applied arts. In our republic, 1991–2016 In 2017–2023, 4 regulatory documents (3 decrees, 1 resolution of the Cabinet

of Ministers) were adopted in the sector. In the years 15 legal documents (3 decrees, 3 presidential resolutions, 6 Cabinet of Ministers resolutions, etc.) were adopted. This is a clear proof of the great attention and state

concern paid to the handicraft sector in the following years. Each document created the basis for hundreds of thousands of citizens to find work, improve their lives, and look to the future with hope.

**Figure 1.** *Porch ceiling at the entrance of the building.  
The work of the folk artist of Uzbekistan H. Bogibekov*



In the early stages of independence, handicrafts were primarily viewed as a national treasure and a means of attracting foreign tourists, but in recent years they have been viewed as a direct economic pillar and a sector that improves people's well-being. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2017 year 17 The adoption of Decree No. UF-5242 "On Measures for the Further Development of Crafts and Comprehensive Support for Craftsmen" in November opened up new opportunities in the sector (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5242 dated November 17, 2017).

The decree established the following issues: comprehensive support for citizens and families engaged in handicraft activities, especially for craftsmen who have just started their activities; improvement and increase the efficiency of the "Ust a Shogird" schools, and on this basis the creation of new jobs; assistance in state registration of handicraft entities, allocation of land and buildings for them, connection to engineering communication networks, uninterrupted provision of them with equipment, facilities, raw materials and materials, and granting them preferential loans; establishment of handicraft development centers in cities and districts with widely developed folk crafts and creative traditions; restoration and further development of unique types of handicrafts; formation of

a market infrastructure for supplying handicraft products to consumers; encouragement of the export of handicraft products, assistance in the presentation of national handicraft products at exhibitions and fairs held in foreign countries (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5242 dated November 17, 2017).

One of the important documents in the field is the recently adopted Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2023 year 12 Decree No. PF-91 of June 2018 "On measures to attract the population to handicrafts and create favorable conditions for the development of handicraft activities". The purpose of adopting the decree is explained in its introduction as creating favorable conditions for the development of handicrafts in our country, in particular, improving the system of taxation of craftsmen, providing them with the necessary raw materials and financial resources, creating infrastructure and expanding markets for the sale of handicraft products, and widely attracting the population to handicrafts. Appendix 1 contains a list of 34 areas of handicraft activity and types of handicrafts (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-91 dated June 12, 2023).

The purchase of works of art by craftsmen reflecting national values, ordered by

the Cultural Heritage Agency and based on the needs of state museums (item 15), is of great importance. Indeed, during the years of independence, almost no attention was paid to the purchase of traditional handicrafts for museum collections. The implementation of this item will not only increase the prestige of folk craftsmen and dynastic masters, but will also encourage them to create exquisite works of art.

Using the example of Khorezm woodcarving, we will talk about the state and development of applied arts in the conditions of market relations. Woodcarving is the most developed type of applied art in Khorezm, the only type of applied art that has survived in all historical periods, not only survived, but also preserved its unique characteristics and further developed. Other types of applied arts could not withstand the ravages of time during various invasions and years of depression, some of them disappeared altogether, some stopped for a certain period, and still others faded away.

Woodcarving was widely used in architecture and household items. According to their function, Khorezm woodcarving items can be divided into 3 groups: 1) construction equipment; 2) household items; 3) tools.

In Khorezm woodcarving, architectural decorations have been widespread since ancient times. Architectural decorations are also considered the main part of the structure. In Khorezm woodcarving, such items as pillars (*ura*), *basha*, capitals (*kosh*), *poyustun* (*uratosh*), gates, doors (*kopi*) are widespread. A gate is a wooden device in architecture that covers the entrance, opens and closes. Gates are widespread in Khorezm, in addition to palaces and large courtyards, in ordinary houses. This is because the Khorezm people built houses in a closed way and the doors faced the corridor. The corridor was a large and long corridor, and large gates were built in them. Gates can be called a special panel in Khorezm woodcarving, because due to the size of the gates, large compositions are created in them. The gates are mainly made of wood, in a paired style. During the khanate, the main customers of the gates were the khan, state officials, and wealthy people. Even now, large carved gates are installed on buildings of state im-

portance, but these are very rare, and only orders are placed by major craftsmen. Businessmen and wealthy households also order gates, but this also happens rarely. Since the gates are a large-scale work, they are made only when an order is received. Masters do not want to risk preparing them in advance, because this is a big expense and takes up a lot of the master's time, and besides, a buyer is not always found.

The door is one of the most common items in Khorezm woodcarving. Doors come in one or two-panel versions. Previously, they were mainly made of *gujum* wood. Currently, due to the problem of finding raw materials, that is, large tree trunks, in Khorezm, walnut wood is mainly imported from the Fergana Valley, and almost all products are made from it. Today, the decoration of state and public buildings with carved wooden doors has almost ceased. The main customers for doors are mosques.

A pillar is a structure used in construction to support beams instead of walls. Pillars are used more widely in Khorezm than in other regions, which is due to the open verandas built taking into account the Khorezm climate. Almost every house had a large veranda (or *yazayiván*, *ters ayiván*) built, and it was considered a comfort in the summer.

**Figure 2.** *The door. T. Sapaev*



**Figure 3.** *Koshk. T. Sapaev*



In most houses, the courtyard is smaller, and the main part is covered with a large (ulu) porch and a small (ters) porch. The porches are set on large and small carved wooden pillars, marble benches decorated with small patterns. In castles, palaces, and even ordinary buildings, the formality of Khorezm porches, and the fact that they are necessarily equipped with high pillars, has become a factor determining the art and skill of woodcarving. The pillars are made of guzum, mulberry, and apricot trees, and are carved with Islamic carvings. However, nowadays, the construction of traditional porches in public houses has greatly decreased, which is due to the widespread use of modern cooling devices.

A minbar is a platform in the corner of a mosque, according to Islamic beliefs, used for delivering sermons after prayers. Minbars are made of brick, covered with tiles, or carved from wood. In recent years, the granting of greater religious freedom to the population has led to the construction of many new mosques in places and the reconstruction and renovation of old ones.

Household items are used to make a lawh (Quran tablet), a pen case, a chair, a khandakhta, a staff, a chest (orja), and various boxes. Lawh is a special tablet for reading books. Manuscripts were previously written on leather, and later on specially prepared thick paper, and their covers were made of thick leather for quality and long-term preservation. The weight of manuscripts and lithographed

works, and the need to read them in a group, usually at one gathering, required that they be placed on a special tablet for reading. Masters created special tablets – lawhs, which were foldable, taking into account the convenience of reading a book and the fact that the reader could carry the tablet with him. Currently, tablets are made from one layer to 16 layers. However, tablets are mainly made as souvenirs for foreign tourists and their artistic qualities are not taken into account.

Pencil case – a box for holding pens and pencils. Pencil cases are mainly made in the painting style in the Tashkent, Fergana, and Samarkand-Bukhara regions, while in Khorezm, carving is widespread.

Boxes are made for storing various small items, such as jewelry and perfumes. Pencil cases and boxes, such as lavh, are also a favorite product of tourists. Because they are very compact, relatively light, elegant and beautiful, they are unique items that are almost not found in other regions. They can be used for practical purposes, both in their function and for storing other items. Making pencil cases and other boxes is also convenient for craftsmen. Since such items are small, they are mainly made from small parts cut from large products, it takes little time to make the item and they are sold in a short time.

Tables and chairs are less common in Khorezm than in other regions. Currently, they are made only on order. Customers are large entrepreneurs, who mainly place orders for exhibitions in the lobbies of large hotels.



A couch (bed) is a device with a backrest designed for sitting outdoors in the summer. Beds are ordered and purchased relatively often by residents. Khontakhta – four-legged, rectangular, made in different sizes. Served as a dining table. In the houses of wealthy people, Islamic motifs are carved on their heads, legs, and glasses. Islamic patterns are placed only on the bedspreads in some ordinary houses.

Chest (orja) – a rectangular wooden box. Chests were used to store various items, usually valuables (books, various documents, weapons, gold items, clothing). They are made in various sizes, small chests were used to store gold items and manuscripts. Large chests were used to store weapons, clothing. The chest has a lid. The lid is fastened with an iron hook, and a lock is installed on the front with a screw. The front of the chests is mainly carved, and traditional Khorezm patterns,

mainly Islamic patterns, are used in decoration. It is also common to carve, cut, draw, and paint metal patterns on the front of the chests. Initially, chests were made to order and formed the basis of the bride's dowry. Currently, orders for carved chests are rare.

**Figure 4.** *Six sided table.  
O. Khayitmetov*



**Figure 5.** *O. Masharipov with his products*



Before tools, saddles, yokes, whip handles, and chitgar molds were made in the carved method. Nowadays, due to the lack of demand for these items, they are not used at all. Chitkar mold is a tool used to print flowers on fabric. Over the past 2 years, in the process of restoring Khorezm chitgar, the author has managed to make more than 40 molds based on samples from museums in order to craftsmen. The most beautiful Islamic patterns were used precisely in chitgar molds and transferred to fabric through the mold. The molds were mainly made from gujum, mulberry, apricot, and pear trees. In some cases, knotted patterns were also used in chitgar molds.

### Conclusion

The following activities serve the development of crafts and applied art in our republic: 1) Creation of legal foundations; 2) Tax benefits; 3) bank loans, subsidies; 4) Conducting various festivals and competitions; 5) Development of tourism.

### Existing problems

Legal documents provide for the same opportunities, privileges and incentives for ordinary artisans and masters of applied arts. This is also the case at various events, festivals and pageants. Formation of state orders for the products of the masters of applied art, especially the permanent purchase

of modern works of art for museums, has not been established.

### Recommendations

The creation of a solid legal basis for the development of the industry will play an important role in increasing the number of craftsmen in our republic, further increasing the level of employment of the population, enriching museum treasures, expanding tourism, and educating the younger generation in the spirit of national patriotism.

Organizing training seminars and trainings in cooperation with industry specialists in the regions will be very useful for young craftsmen. At the same time, it is recommended to develop a scientific basis for the development of the industry.

Special privileges and places for artisans and masters of applied arts should be considered in legal documents and in various events. That is, if the master of applied arts is given more opportunities, he will focus on the artistic aspects rather than the economic aspects.

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