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**TRADITIONAL TEXTILE ART FROM THE REPUBLIC
OF MOLDOVA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DESIGN
OF CONTEMPORARY PRODUCTS**

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The paper presents the result of the study with reference to the analysis of the possibilities of aesthetic diversification of products through the prism of traditional textile art in the Republic of Moldova and ensuring the continuity of traditional values. Moldovan carpets are a source of inspiration for the visual arts, including major European fashion houses, furniture manufacturers, textile designers, interior designers, but also for private clients fascinated by their beauty. Elements taken from traditional carpets and transposed into tapestries that decorate interiors diversify and provide aesthetics: refinement, warmth, vibration, connection with eternity while ensuring the continuity of traditional values.

Key words: carpet, weaving, interior design, modern.

INTRODUCTION

*"Carpets are the great values of a millennial tradition"
(Paul Petrescu, romanian ethnologist)*

It is known from the ancestors that the greatest wealth of a Moldovan family was the carpets. The interior of the houses was not without these ornaments considered some of the most ancient types of interior textiles. They integrate numerous messages transmitted through symbols, compositions, colors, thematic



topics, contexts in which they were used. At the same time, these woven ornaments have above all an immeasurable spiritual value amplified from generation to generation.

Thus, the objective of this paper aims, on the one hand, to identify the functional, aesthetic and dimensional variety of traditional Moldovan carpets, on the other hand - to analyze the possibilities of aesthetic diversification of products through traditional values derived from traditional Moldovan carpet.

RESULTS

Originally appeared with a utilitarian, protective function, the fabrics were made of woolyarns, emerging from the main occupation of the inhabitants – shepherding. In this sense, "Skalkovski A. A. drew attention to the growth of ordinary steppe sheep breeds in Bessarabia, the Moldovan breed and pan, appreciated both for meat and for the quality of long fibers (6–12 cm) and their strength" [2]. And in the edition of the book entitled "Bessarabian Carpets" by Varvara Buzila, the increase of the tusca, voloha, merino breeds is mentioned.

Wool, until it can be used as a weaving material, goes through a difficult processing path, which involved interaction with numerous objects related to tissue operation and manufacturing stages.

In order to begin the weaving process, "two preliminary operations are required: warping (the laying the threads on the moos on a certain length) and weaving (weaving technique)" [2], which involving special tools and different methods (fig. 1).

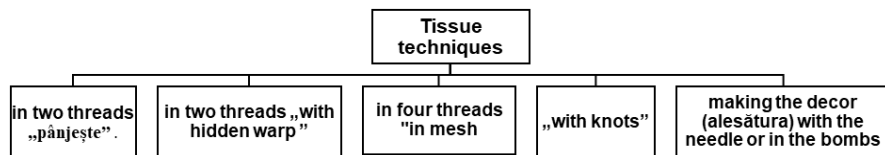


Fig. 1. Diversity of tissue techniques [2, 3]

Note that, "warp is always used for the natural color of the material, and the warp threads are usually dyed" with "natural plant dyes – leaves, roots, flowers, tree bark, fruit, or chemical dyes" [4, 6]. In the second half of the 19th century, warp wool yarns were replaced with hemp yarns, and at the end of the 19th century with cotton yarns [2, 3] (figure 2).

So far, the diversity of carpets is remarkable both in complexity and originality, so we consider relevant their classification based on multiple criteria (fig. 3). This being necessary in order to identify by knowledge the defining aspects.

The ornamental motifs through their essence, form, chromatics in the Moldavian carpets present the context of the people's existence in the correlation: past-present-future at daily microstructural level and macro- with the divinity. They were chosen with great care according to the aspirations of each craft, determining their authenticity and unrepeatability.

The natural raw material, but also the chromatic solution using traditional dyeing technologies with dye extractions from natural resources contributes to diversification, while being of great interest for research studies.



Traditional culture is the foundation on which modern culture and art were formed. Thus, the spiritual cultural heritage passed down from generation to generation contributes to the continuous development of creation by capitalizing on the chromaticity, complexity and elegance of the motifs of folk art.

The carpet, from the most remote times, represented a fundamental condition of any interior decoration that was wanted to be as comfortable as possible, but also aesthetic. Today, based on the dimensional, compositional, chromatic diversity of traditional Moldovan carpets, designers often use the constituent elements of carpets in the contemporary design of products. Traditional Moldovan carpets are a great way to add character, style and personality to any environment. The deep and rich colors, the dynamics of the compositional elements, their symbolism leave unforgettable impressions. The advantage of these carpets is that they integrate organically into contexts, completely different interiors, in a variety of decor styles, such as classic, rustic, eclectic, eco and even in contemporary design. One of the "major advantages of authentic carpets is that they are made of natural materials, and today's designers and decorators pay special attention to naturalness" [4].

With the globalization, the traditional Moldovan carpets crossed the borders of the Republic of Moldova being appreciated and used as decoration elements in many European countries such as: France, Germany, Italy, etc. Their use in the interior decoration makes the interiors look more spacious, vivid and expressive (fig. 4).

Authentic carpets can serve as a raw material for making decorative objects (pillows, panels) and upholstery furniture: chairs, chairs with backrests, sunbeds, armchairs, clothing etc. (fig. 5, 6).

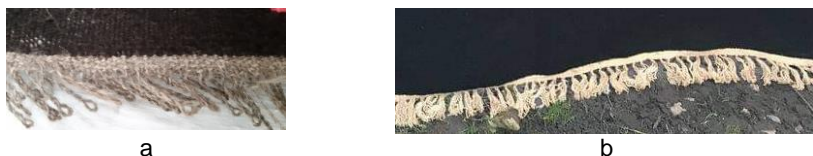


Fig. 2. Types of warp: a - wool; b - cotton

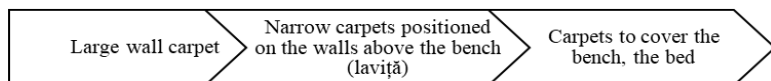


Fig. 3. The diversity of carpets arising from their functional purpose [1]



Fig. 4. Traditional Moldovan carpets in the decor of the modern house

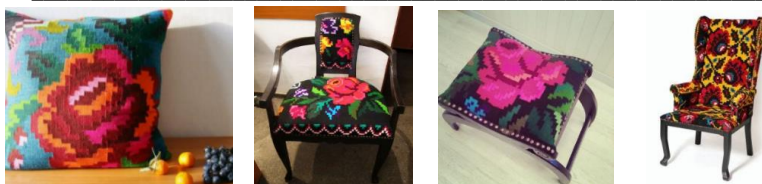


Fig. 5. Use of traditional carpet elements in interior decoration objects



Fig. 6. Elements from the Moldovan carpet in Dolce & Gabbana outfits

We note that, currently, there is a revitalization of interest in traditional carpets, for secular methods and traditions dedicated to making carpets, which through a good organization and sharing of good practices can ensure the continuity of traditions and traditional values.

CONCLUSIONS

Personalization, aesthetic diversification of products, ecology, sustainability, unity through diversity as current development trends, including product design, can be ensured through traditional art, considering the multitude of integrated values: semantic, chromatic, compositional, form, etc.

Traditional carpets from the Republic of Moldova, due to its imperious presence and resistance over time, have retained their refinement and usefulness, their characteristics derived from the use of natural materials and ancient techniques. The stories reproduced by weaving traditional carpets, their aesthetics are inspiration for the generation of valuable new products that will ensure the continuity of this synergistic heritage.

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