

R.E.D. project

ROOTS OF THE EUROPEAN DESIGN RESEARCH

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Culture



Corn Husks

- husks of a corn cob used for making utility or decorative objects

The raw material base for rise and spreading of corn husk production was the South of Slovakia with climate conditions suitable for growing corn. Corn husk weaving developed mainly at the end of the 19th century.

Corn husk was used in wickerwork. In the middle of the 20th century, production of utility objects was enriched with the manufacture of figurines depicting the village environment. The ULUV (Centre for production of folk art) artist Kamila Rauchova-Riclova made use of women's dexterity processing corn husks and made successful souvenirs; she made several designs for them in 1957. The most skilled craftswomen developed them coming up with more motives and complements (miniatures of tools, furniture and so on).

The ULUV artist Janka Menkynova developed another technique which allows for more efficient usage of corn husks of lower quality, more plastic expression and new solutions of weaving of a round bottom with a technique of spiral weave and continually added base. It was materially realised by Judita Kralova in 1978 who also solved the issue of colouring the corn husks.

