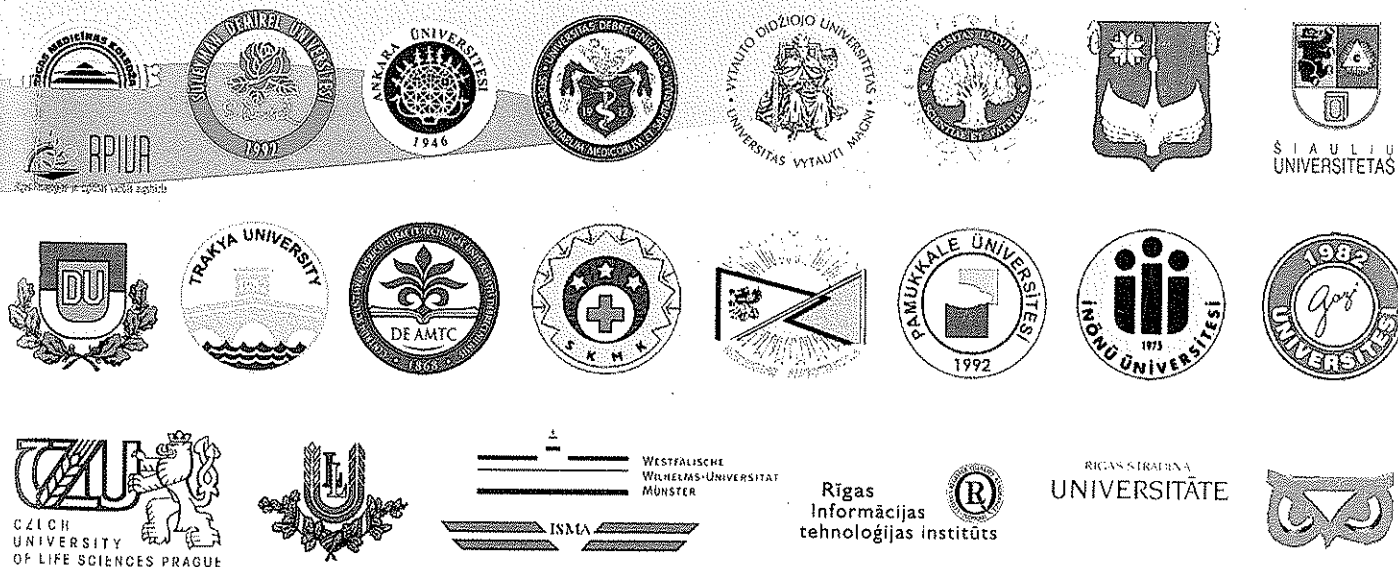


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THE USE OF TRADITIONAL BULDAN WEAVINGS IN INTERIOR DESIGN

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Abstract

Buldan is one of the centers of traditional weaving in Anatolia. Outsourcing is the production system used mostly in Buldan. The production of traditional plain weavings is decreasing. Examples include the peştemal (waist cloth), üstlük (headscarf and waist cloth), yarım (headscarf), and Buldan cloth. The sustainability of production of these weavings depends on using new textile designs. The information has been got through face-to-face interviews with some textile manufacturers and weavers in Buldan. In this paper, traditional Buldan weavings and their use in interior design are presented by photographs.

Key words: traditional Buldan weavings, interior design

Introduction

Weaving has been carried out in Buldan for centuries. D.Quataert (1993) and S. Faroqhie (2004) state that in the late XIXth century Buldan was an important weaving center in Anatolia.

Buldan is located in southwest Anatolia in Turkey. The district's economy depends on family and workshop weaving. Weaving in Buldan is carried out by home-based family entrepreneurs (Erdoğan, Özgen, 2005). Every home has the appearance of a workshop. Each member of the family, the mother, father, children, and old people, works in every phase of weaving. Most people who live in Buldan work in warping, weaving, embroidering, sewing, marketing etc.

Outsourcing is the production system used mostly in Buldan. The weavings are produced according to the preferences of textile manufacturers in Denizli (Erdoğan, Tağı, 2006), but in the last decade some companies have been established in Buldan.

Home textiles exportation value is 1.71% (1.815.592.422,99 USD) of total Turkey's export in 2007. However this value decreased to 1.38% (1.760.088.778,49) in 2008 (Anonymous, 2009). From past to present no definite data about the amount of textiles produced in Buldan is known. But H.Ödel (2006) estimated Buldan's home textiles exportation value as 1.000.000,00 USD in 2006.

In Buldan, most weavings produced are towel weavings. These include bath towels, bathrobes, kitchen towels, and beach towels. Traditional Buldan plain weavings include the peştemal, üstlük, yarım, Buldan cloth, and bed sheets.

It is known that the production of Buldan traditional weavings is getting decreased. To avoid this, different textile applications for these weavings must be

created. Some textile manufacturers and weavers in Buldan work on new and different textile products for interior design and daily wear. In this study, different application areas of traditional Buldan weavings are determined.

Material and Method

Material of this study is traditional weavings produced in Buldan. The information has been got through face-to-face interviews with some textile manufacturers and weavers in Buldan. Some contemporary use areas of traditional Buldan weavings were documented and taken photographs.

Results and discussion

In this section, some properties of Buldan traditional weavings and their new and different using areas in interior design are explained.

Peştemal (waist cloth)

Peştemal is a cloth used in traditional outerwear for women in Buldan. It is worn as a skirt. The width of the peştemal is the garment's length. The cloth's wide sides are the waistline and hemline of the garment (Atalayer, 1980). Today, the use of the peştemal as traditional women's wear is decreasing. Some old women still wear the peştemal.

The peştemal is also used as a Turkish bath waist cloth. Both are rectangular and of plain weave.

Cotton or silk threads are used as the warp and weft. Some properties of the peştemal are as follows: width 81.73 ± 1.33 cm, length 130.79 ± 1.64 cm, number of warps $62.96 \pm 0.98/5$ cm, number of wefts $73.69 \pm 1.32/5$ cm, weight of square meter 138.41 ± 6.04 g/m², and thickness 0.64 ± 0.02 mm (Erdoğan, 1996).

Today, the traditional Buldan peştemal is used as a table cover, coffee table cover, and curtains in interior design (see Figure 1), and as a bathrobe and beach clothing in new designs for wear.



Figure 1. use of peştemal as table cover

Yarım (headscarf)

The yarım is a cloth (garment) used in traditional outerwear for women in Buldan. It is a kind of headscarf (especially for covering the woman's head, shoulder to waist). The yarım and peştemal are worn together in traditional women's wear in Buldan. This cloth is rectangular, and of plain weave and tartan design consisting of especially dark brown/white threads. The weight of a square meter of this cloth is 92.94 g/m² (Atalayer, 1980). Silk or polyester threads are used as the warp and weft.

Today, weavers in Buldan weave yarım cloth only for their own needs. The use and weaving of this cloth are decreasing. It is used as a table cover in interior design (see Figure 2).



Figure 2. use of yarım as a table cover

Üstlük

The üstlük is a cloth (garment) used for covering the head in both traditional women's wear and menswear in Buldan. Sometimes men also wear this garment as a sash (Atalayer, 1980). It is square, and of plain and twill weave and tartan design consisting of especially white, orange, and yellow threads. Sometimes they are embroidered (with rayon threads).

Some properties of the üstlük are as follows: width 102.70 ± 0.87 cm, length 100.70 ± 0.76 cm, number of warps $81.40 \pm 2.39/5$ cm, number of wefts $74.33 \pm 2.58/5$ cm, weight of square meter 94.90 ± 2.90 g/m², and thickness 0.56 ± 0.02 mm (Erdoğan 1996).

Today, the use and weaving of this cloth are decreasing, but embroidered üstlüks are used in home textiles, for example bedcovers, coffee table covers, table covers, and couches covers (shawls) (see Figure 3).



Figure 3. a decorative shawl on couch

Buldan cloth

Buldan cloth is a crinkle fabric known to have been used for underwear and outerwear for centuries in Buldan and Anatolia. Its warp and weft threads are cotton with high-level twist. After weaving, the cloth is washed and dried. Therefore the fabric becomes crinkly. Buldan cloth has a plain weave. G. Atalayer (1980) states that Buldan cloth can be plain, tartan, or striped.

Some properties of Buldan cloth are as follows: width 101.06 ± 7.98 cm, number of warps $111.05 \pm 4.57/5$ cm, number of wefts $73.11 \pm 2.22/5$ cm, weight of square meter 126.86 ± 4.98 g/m², and thickness 0.61 ± 0.02 mm (Erdoğan, 1996).

Today, Buldan cloth is used for curtains, table covers, and coffee table covers in interior design, and for shirts, dresses, and nightdresses for wear.

Conclusion

Buldan is a traditional weaving center in Anatolia, but production of traditional weavings is currently in decline in the district. Traditional weavings are an element of cultural identity. European countries aware of this problem and take their precautions by giving financial support in rural areas. If textile manufacturers and weavers in Buldan get financial support from the government or volunteers, traditional weaving in this district can be sustained. Thus these traditional weavings can be preserved and the tradition passed on to new generations.

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