

GANCH CARVING

Ganch carving is one of the traditionally developed artistic handicraft art. It is used in decorating and plastering walls and ceiling of the houses, making architectural details, creating decorative shapes and curved ornaments and images. From time immemorial, it has been used for decorating palaces, *madrasahs*, mosques and residential houses of rich citizens. Its main centers were located in Khiva, Bukhara, Tashkent, Samarkand, Andijan, Namangan and Kokand. There are two types of decorating in *ganch* carving: *ganch* decoration is carved on the plasterwork or decoration made with the form is installed on the surface. Making the decoration using the form (mould) gives an opportunity to make them in a large scale. Nowadays many enterprises produce *ganch* ornaments in big amount with the help of forms.

Abundance of *ganch* in the territory of Uzbekistan and its easy usage was the reason of the development of this branch and it's formation as special profession from ancient times. The branch was developed by organically linked with the creation of majestic buildings, development of architectural applied and fine art. From time immemorial *ganch* was widely used along with stone, brick, ceramic and wood. *Ganch* carving schools are divided into: Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent and Khorazm school of carving. Each school has it's own direction. According to the meaning the *ganch* ornaments can be divided into plants, geometric shapes, flower girih, symbolic and others.

By the 1990s a distinct school of *ganchkors* (*ganch* carvers) got formed in Tashkent, which participated in finishing the interiors of various buildings as "Turkiston" palace, "Navruz" Marriage Palace, buildings of "Oliy Majlis" and Stock Exchange Center, as well as in various theatres, subway stations and other buildings of independent Uzbekistan.

At present *ganch* carving remains one of the leading types of folk decorative and applied arts of Uzbekistan, and its role increases in designing the architectural buildings. In addition, contemporary *ganch* carvers of Uzbekistan are working on decorating interiors of various buildings located in foreign countries (for example, in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, France, Malaysia, etc.).



