

# CARPET MAKING

One of the labor-intensive artistic crafts in Uzbekistan is carpet making and felting, the traditions of which go back to the ancient times. Cattleman has been rich for wool products and they mostly used wool of sheep and camel since olden time. Hand-made carpet making is laborious work and it demands from the weaver great effort, taste and skill. In pre-Mongolian period carpet items produced by Turkic tribes of Oghuz origin were especially popular. Later, during the epoch of Timurids, it is possible to observe active interaction of Iranian and Turkic carpet-making traditions. However, starting from the XVI century carpet items produced by Uzbek tribes from Dashtiqipchoq became widespread in Mawarannahr. In general, it could be told that this kind of historical symbiosis of carpet-making traditions of different Turkic peoples constitutes (forms) ethno-cultural basis of national carpet-making of Uzbekistan.

Carpet of Uzbekistan, in terms of execution technique, can be divided into the following techniques:

1. Making felts by pressing wool.
2. Making fabric carpets (*janda*, *alocha*, *arabi* and others) on the technique of weaving fabric from wool yarn.
3. Making feather carpets with complex ornaments.

One of the complex types of carpet making is making feather carpets. They are created by making knots from yarns and obtained amazing ornaments. The edge of the knot

is placed on the right side of the fabric and cut off. Weft yarn is led after each line and fixed to previous yarn. Then the carpet is washed with special chemical substance. Carpets were made in different sizes. Accuracy of the pattern, beauty of the carpet and harmony of the colors of Central Asian carpets increased their value. Various types of carpets are made in different regions of Uzbekistan. Carpets produced in Andijan and Samarkand as well as carpet items used in decorating Karakalpak *yurts* were the most popular ones. In carpets of Andijan, as a rule, central area is ornamented with repeating cruciform motif, the edge — with a leading motif called “wave”. From among piled carpets of Samarkand, high-piled fluffy carpet called “*julkhirs*” (a bearskin) stood out with its originality. Carpets in different form and design are used in household, but mostly they are intended to be a good present. Nowadays, as a kind of traditional handicraft carpet making is developing in governmental and private enterprises.



