



EXPLORING THE APPLICATION OF PHULKARI IN INTERIOR DESIGN

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Abstract: Mankind's instinctual yearning to beautify habitats has been with us for as long as they want to have shelter. This creative practice was since primeval times giving meaning to build spaces. The folk art and craft — art that develops its styles, techniques, and subject matters within the culture and history of a country & its people. This paper discusses the potential of application of the folk art and craft work of Punjab i.e. Phulkari in design. It begins with summarizing the fundamental techniques used and application they had so far in the field of art. The main objective is to analyze incorporation of phulkari work in the interior spaces and improve the performance of it in line with the humanitarian needs of the user. As phulkari is cultural craft it can lay vital foundation in art and architecture that can take up in developing inherently pleasing, elegant and lasting design. This is achieved by making sandwiched panels with phulkari cloths where the recycled paper is used to make threads of desired colors. Utilization of such art in interiors broadens the horizon of the artist and art itself, as this craft is practiced by young girls and women in villages of Punjab, this increase the scope of their employment and helps in empowering women to be entrepreneur with the skills they have been practicing since ages. As for the interiors every wall can be baag – “a garden” which is the gist of phulkari

Index Terms - folk art and craft, phulkari, sandwich panels, paper threads, sustainability, interiors, lasting design.

I. INTRODUCTION:

As art is a significant part of everyday life. It is not only the work of eminent artists in distinguished art museums, but it is also the art of distinctive societies and subcultures. India has always been known as the land that portrayed cultural and traditional vibrancy through its conservative arts and crafts. Punjab Arts & Crafts is highly acclaimed. Punjab is an ethnically rich north western state of India. The Arts and Crafts of Punjab include the array of handiworks. The artisans of Punjab are experienced and skilful.

Phulkari refers to the folk needlework of the Punjab. Although Phulkari refers to floral work, the designs contain not only flowers but also cover motifs and geometrical shapes. The main distinctiveness of Phulkari stitching is use of darn stitch on the wrong side of coarse cotton cloth with colored silken thread. The origin of Phulkari is believed that this embroidery was prevalent in various parts of the country as far back as the 7th century CE but survived only in Punjab. Motifs related to the ones found in Phulkari are also found in *Kashida* of Bihar and some of the embroideries of Rajasthan.

Methodology: The research follows the descriptive methodology about phulkari as conventional art form, to describe the kinds and process of making it and applied methodology in interior design inspired from sustainability in design



Figure 1: Phulkari craft work

II. PHULKARI – “THE ART OF EMBROIDERY”:

“PHUL” means “flower” and “KARI” means work. Also well-known as “Gulkari” a very complicated needle work, along with vivid coloured threads primarily red, orange, blue, green, etc. Phulkari derives its richness from the use of darn stitch in various directions (horizontal, vertical, and diagonal). The cloth used for making this, is usually in red or maroon colour and the thread used in the close needlework is made of silk in gold, yellow, crimson red, blue and green colours.

In the Phulkari work, the entire cloth is covered with close embroidery and roughly no space is left uncovered. The portion of cloth thus embroidered is called baag meaning a garden. If only the sides are covered it is called chope. The back ground commonly is in maroon or scarlet and the silken thread used is predominantly golden. Colour schemes show a rich sensitiveness. Some Phulkaris are embroidered with a variety of motifs of birds, animals, flowers and occasionally scenes of village life.



Figure 2: Phulkari embroidery stitching

1.1 TRADITIONAL DESIGNS:

In the conventional discourse on this traditional form of embroidery from Punjab, following four distinct styles are recognized:

- Phulkari: where motifs are embroidered thinly.
- Bagh: where embroidery is so close that one cannot see the base fabric.
- Chope: embroidery made on red khaddar, which is similar on both sides.
- Tool di phulkari: This is a type of phulkari, which is made on a lightweight fabric called tool.

1.2 CONTEMPORARY DESIGNS

It is not only the style of embroidery that has been simplified; the product variety has also diversified. The procedure is now simpler with the printing of motifs, followed by the embroidery.

According to the variety of fabric used it can be classified into the following categories:

- On light weight fabrics
- On cotton voile or opaque fabrics like crepe, silk etc.
- On khaddar or casement fabric to resemble Bagh of earlier times.

III. PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF PHULKARI COLORS:

All marvelous and lasting work in the art history with having artistic characteristics has gained a prominent place and a dignity and reputation. In the meantime, it is the architecture as a four-dimensional work can include all aspects of the life. Color is an essential building block of interior design. Phulkari Fabric adds colors to the interior, whether home or office. The colors can vary according to the place – bright, warm colors for homes and dark, subtle hues for offices. Fabric color in accordance with the furniture, since the merger of those two adds to the overall effect the theme of the interior. Generally offices go for basic, solid colored fabrics whereas one can look forward to fabrics of various patterns and designs for homes.

Color psychology is the theory that colors can influence how you feel, think and act. For example, deep red hues are connected with enthusiasm and energy, whereas cool blue shades are considered soothing and peaceful.

Red: bold and striking or warm and earthy, depending on the tone. Deep crimson hues create excitement and drama, whereas rusty shades can put in a comfy ambience, elevate energy.

Orange: creates liveliness and warmth. Orange can feel overpowering, but softer peachy or terra cotta shades can be pleasant and soothing range hues are bright

Yellow: it's connected with sunshine, liveliness, bliss and imagination.

Green: Green brings to mind nature, sense of balance and synchronization. Deep emerald or hunter green can add strength and sophistication, while light spring or sage green is relaxing and helps stimulate focus and creativity.

Blue: it's connected with quiet and peacefulness. Deep navy or royal blues put in a masculine feeling, while light powder or sky blue hues are adaptable.

Purple: it's the color of royalty, and can stir creativeness and spirituality. Deep rich plum or violet can add a bold, exotic flair, while light lavender hues are soothing and brace well with grays and oranges.

Pink: Muted blush or grayish-pink hues can straight away soften any room, and darker shades of magenta add a punch of excitement.

Black: it is sophistication, stylishness and lavishness. It's most frequently used as an accent in the home, as all-black interiors can become monotonous and overwhelming very quickly.

White: it's the color of transparency and cleanliness. White interiors can feel fresh and contemporary

Brown: Brown accents such as wood tones, leather, and natural elements warm up a space. Brown shades are truly flexible, and go with any design style and mood.



Figure 3: Impact of textile colors on mood

IV. PHULKARI APPLICATIONS IN INTERIOR DESIGN:

Nowadays, embroidery is not simply a technique of cloth ornamentation but also a means for artists to convey their inner feelings and emotions through the conventional aesthetic concepts. The designs can vary from traditional, needlework, cross-stitch, etc. interior accessories which includes bed sheets, carpets; wall hangings, cushion covers and covers for furniture, walls, and ceilings. In modern-day society, embroidered textile is used for interior decoration items, to create a traditional and noble appearance. Phulkari (floral work) is a conventional craft which is the canvas of the cloth in precise geometrical motifs. They use a needle and thread with an indefinite color palette with skillful, artistic, and aesthetic appeal for the commercial purposes.



Figure 4: Phulkari embroidery in interiors

V. RECONSIDERING TODAY'S INTERIORS:

The embroidery art of phulkari can broaden its usage from simply being textile that adds colors to interiors and used as decoration to being wall panels. This vibrant embroidered cloth can be used in making sandwich panels, with the use of wooden plank and epoxy. This is achieved by making phulkari cloth laid above wooden wall panels and epoxy mixture being added on top to make it durable. The epoxy mixture gives smooth surface which is easy to maintain and adds aesthetics to the interiors. These panels can be fixed using stainless screws/pasted to wall by tile adhesives or conventional cement paste. Escalating its usage it can also be used to prepare 3d wall panels, in flooring, ceiling panels, etc. the phulkari cloth along with the acrylics can be used in partition walls and the glass doors.



Figure 5 Usage of phulkari panels on walls and interior decors

VI. THROUGH THE LENS O

VII. F SUSTAINABILITY:

The threads made of paper can be used for the embroidery. Recycled paper processed with natural starches makes the paper water proof and durable, they can be drawn into thin threads. These threads can be dyed into desired colors based on interior themes. The used paper due to lack of recycling are ending up in the landfills, the use of such paper in this creative way helps in saving the resources and reducing the cost of such prominent art forms. The use of bio-based thermoset epoxy can be helpful in the sustainable interiors. The process of the paper threads is as follows:

The use of sustainable methods helps in reviving the art which is in the dire situation of being lost. It also will lead to economic empowerment of women in the Malwa region of Punjab by providing them self employment opportunities, while, on the other hand, such measures will be advantageous in preserving the cultural heritage of Punjab. There is a dire need to study and tackle the issues and challenges faced by conventional handmade Phulkari embroidery sector so as to revive and sustain this conventional folk handicraft.

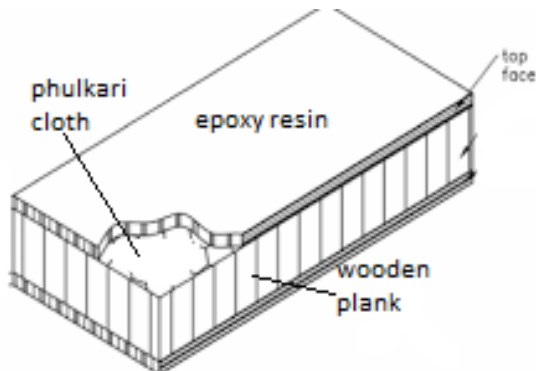


Figure 6: Sandwich panel of phulkari cloth and resin



Figure 7: thread making process from recycled paper

VIII. CONCLUSION:

The innovative process of stitching of phulkari has, from time immemorial, given significance to culture. Architecture, sculpture, and painting once belonged together. Indeed, they were very well intertwined at various points in history—in the early cultures of East and West. It is only during pretty recent times in human civilization that the separation of art and architecture has taken place, with this - numerous art forms are lost. The sustainable methods of using the arts like phulkari in interiors can not only help one to achieve desired aesthetics but also can save an art form from extinction.

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