

Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das>



1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Introduction

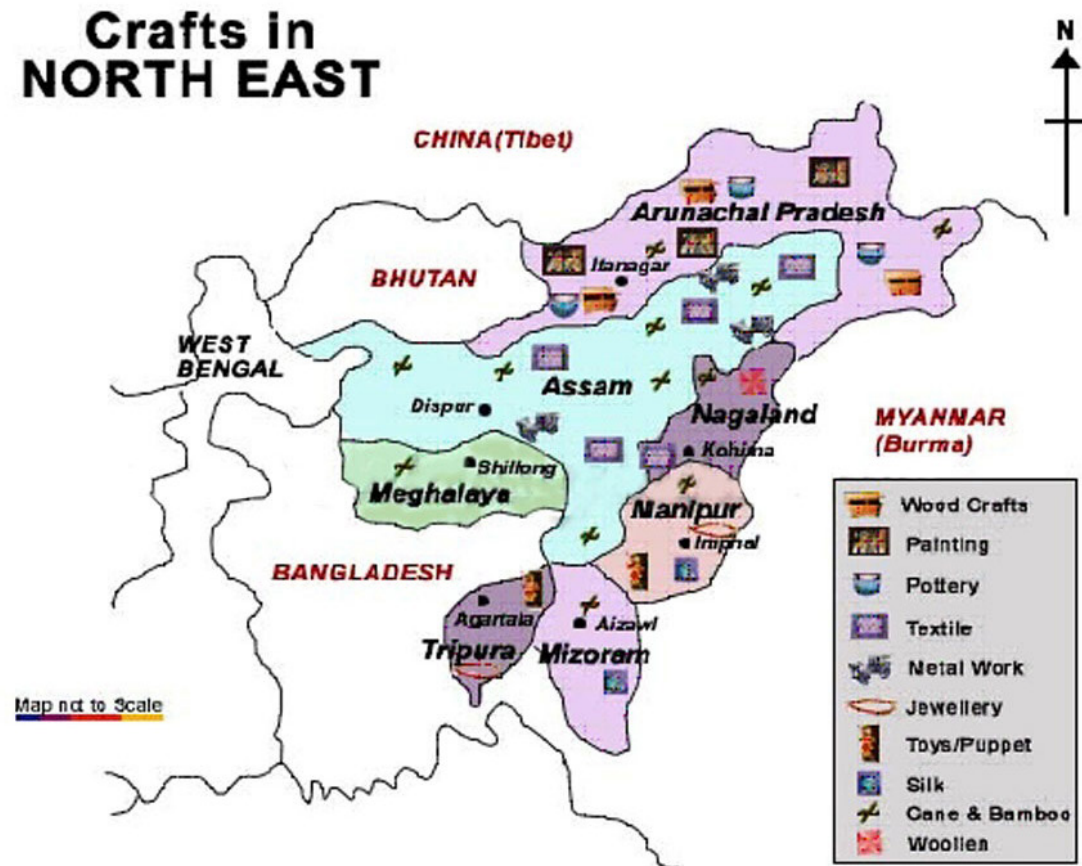
“The craftsman is not an individual expressing individual whims, but a part of the universe, giving expression to ideals of eternal beauty and unchanging laws, even as do the trees and flowers whose natural and less ordered beauty is no less God-given”

-Anand K. Coomaraswamy

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/introduction>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details



Source: Maplence India Limited 2001

Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/landscape>

Landscape

Cane and Bamboo crafts of Northeast India

Dramatic skies, blue hills and the endless expanse of textured greens form the poetic landscape of the north eastern region of India. Endowed with rich natural resources, the north eastern states are home to three hundred and fifty different species of Bamboo and Cane. These locally available giant grass in its different varieties have many local names like the Ajee, Aipo, Barak, Bhaluka, Esso, Jatti, Phulrua, Mooli, Seji, Taddora to name a few. From home to bridges: structures in bamboo are flung across the terrain; objects of everyday use- baskets, drinking glasses, smoking pipes, mats, hats, eating plates, windows, brooms, fishing basket reveal the usability of this variety of grass. Interestingly a thin string of bamboo may be used to cut the umbilical cord of a newborn child; the tender shoots of bamboo are eaten as food and the finely cut strips of bamboo are woven into fabric to be worn as dresses, belts and footwear. Through immaculate precision, and a temperament to create, skilled minds, using the simplest of hand tools create wonders with bamboo.



1. Introduction
2. **Landscape**
3. Applications
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/landscape>

1. Introduction

2. **Landscape**

3. Applications

4. Mantu Chandra Das

5. Works

6. Contact Details



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/applications>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. **Applications**
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details

Applications

There are different categories of bamboo amongst the locally available ones - those green and soft varieties that are suitable for weaving and the other dry and hard variety which is suitable for turned and sculpted products. Amongst those suitable for weaving are Makhal, Phowra, Bahm and Mrithinga. Of these Mrithinga is the best suited and most popular variety for weaving. In the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland the bamboo is relatively of the softer and pliable variety. The predominant bamboo products of these regions are more of the 'weaving type' in which the craftsmen master. Using simple hand tools they weave a wide variety of bags, baskets, and belts, hats. The woven patterns are the unique features of the design of contemporary bags that are made extensively by most crafts persons in the Tripura. Locally called ek dhara (one up one down weave), dui dhara (two up two down weave), teen dhara, zig zag, co-star, biscuit design, pineapple, kukya (radial) design are easily recognized. Murri (border finishing), handle and binding combines the use of cane with bamboo. The craftsman is now more comfortable in using his traditional Dao with the Chowki along with newer hand tools like the Kainchi, measuring tape, fret saw and the hand drill.

The Barak – Sil Barak, the Nal Barak and the Sata Barak, are the variety used for turned and sculpted bamboo products. The bamboo available in the states of Manipur and West-Bengal are relatively hard. The entire region perhaps has bamboo houses of the most diverse designs.

For extended life cycle, pre-treatment of bamboo is a must and traditional techniques of using cow dung and Myrobalam along with the newer chemicals like boric acid and borax and sodium penta chloro –phosphate are still practiced. Dyeing techniques also include both vegetable natural dyeing or synthetic dyes in both hot and the cold processes. The demand for colored products is high and particularly bags and baskets fetch a very good price.



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/applications>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. **Applications**
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/applications>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. **Applications**
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/mantu-chandra-das>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. **Mantu Chandra Das**
5. Works
6. Contact Details

Mantu chandra das

Basketry and bamboo crafts of Assam: case study of Shilp Guru Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Shri Mantu Chandra Das is the recipient of the award of Shilp Guru in bamboo and cane crafts in the year 2008.

Mantu Chandra took up his first employment at the Bamboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI), Agartala, as a craftsman working on a daily wage of Rs.10 per day. He assisted in conducting craft training programs offered at the BCDI. For his contribution towards training of skilled people and the uplift of the craft, Das received the National Award as Master Craftsman in Bamboo and Cane Craft, instituted by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles in 1979.

The product ranges he designs and develops today have its share of labeled takers like Anokhee of Jaipur, FabIndia and Goodearth of New Delhi not to mention the various chains of emporia amongst all the leading state owned craft enterprises supported by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

Das was selected for the Festival of India in London in 1981 followed by the Ghent International Festival at Belgium later during the same year. Back home when the Government organized the World Bamboo Congress in Delhi in 2003, Das was again selected as the Master Craftsman - Designer for developing prototypes for a new range of bamboo products to be displayed in an exhibition. He was invited to participate in the international workshop on product development of environmental friendly products to commemorate the UNESCO- Seal of Excellence Award Ceremony in October 2004.

He won the UNESCO Crafts Prize in the year 2005 for Bamboo and Cane Weaving.



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/mantu-chandra-das>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. **Mantu Chandra Das**
5. Works
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/works>

Works

The Market for Cane and Bamboo craft products

The Market for Cane and Bamboo craft products in this region is very good. The items made include furniture, cradles for babies, headgears, rain-shields, baskets for transportation/ storage of items, containers, dishes/ saucers/ spoons/ fork, fish/ animal traps, tribal costumes and related accessories, musical instruments such as flute/ trumpet/ mouth organ/ cup violin, tobacco pipe, tribal implements/ weapons and Mats. Bamboo/ Cane is also extensively used for construction of traditional houses. There is requirement of furniture, partitions, basketry, tabletop office accessories and lighting fixtures' and other utilitarian products while 'Fancy items' baskets, planters, wall hangings, curtains, window screens on the one hand and small cups, mugs, and 'jewellery' also are in good demand.

Basketry is the one single item that is exported mostly to Mumbai, Delhi or Kolkata. Guwahati too now has a few exporters. 'Purbashree' operated by the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) with its outlets in Kolkata, Guwahati, Shillong, Bangalore and Chennai..

Various organizations are today operating under the umbrella of Ministry of Development Of North Eastern Region (DONER). These include institutions like the North Eastern Council (NEC) that outlines the overall plan for developmental activities of the region, Finance institutions such as North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) and the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) also looks into the development of the handicrafts and handloom sector of the entire region.

These centres have encouraged a certain degree of mechanization by setting up 'Common Facility Centres', which the government supports through incentives for the purchase of simple machines and improved design of traditional hand-tools.



1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/works>

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. **Works**
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

Shri Mantu Chandra Das

Bamboo Crafts of Assam

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shri-mantu-chandra-das/contact-details>

Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Ravi Mokashipunekar at [DoD, IIT Guwahati](#)

You can get in touch with Prof. Ravi Mokashipunekar at [mokashi\[at\]iitg.ernet.in](mailto:mokashi[at]iitg.ernet.in)

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
Department of Design
IIT Guwahati
North Guwahati
Guwahati 781039
Assam,
India

Telephone: +91-361-2582500, +91-361-2582451

Fax: +91-361-2690762

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

1. Introduction
2. Landscape
3. Applications
4. Mantu Chandra Das
5. Works
6. **Contact Details**