

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wood-carving-kerala-0>



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala  
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and  
Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

### Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wood-carving-kerala-0/introduction>

## Introduction

Kerala being rich in its culture and traditions attracts tourists from all over and is named as one of the hundred great trips of twenty first century. It holds many handicrafts, art forms and traditional forms standing out with beguiling gesture. Kasaragod District is one of the districts of the Indian state of Kerala. It is an astonishing place which has hills, shrines, forts and is complete ecstasy. Theyyam is an exceptional dance art performed in front of shrines. These are witnessed in mostly northern part of Kerala, Kasaragod district. The structures of the village shrines are very interesting and are almost all similar to each other. Maallam, the top part of the shrine has two small pillar like columns, Vyali (god/goddess to protect the place where the rites are performed) is placed in middle of those pillars which look alike in all village shrines. The pillars and the Vyali are mostly of wood. The wood is teak wood or jack fruit's sometimes. The top part of the shrine and the interior roofing of shrines are built with wood.

Kasaragod has many temples and the woodcarvers do work for temples' as well. The temple woodcarvers are well-versed and experienced people. The sketch of complete outlook of the wooden carvings are done on a sheet of paper before starting to work on wood. Once the sketch/blueprint is ready, carvings are started portion by portion. The doors, roofing and detailed designs of temple carvings that are in need to be focused on, are segregated among the carvers. The wood that is used is teak wood and here in Kasaragod they even work with the jackfruit tree. The temples mainly are Vishnu temples so order works will be relating to scenes of Dashavataram (Matsya avataram, kuruma avataram, Varaha avataram, Narasimha avataram, Vaamanam avataram, Parusharama, Sri Rama, Sri Krishna, Buddha and kalki). Lakshmi, Ganapati, Sarasvati and Lord Shiva, Vishwakarma, Raashi chakra 12 signs, stories/scenes of Ramayana are generally carved. Each temple has its forms and carving styles so it is done accordingly. Maram kaettupani means carving in Malayalam.

At Kasaragod, one of the carvers named Rinesh, from Vishwakarma family shares that his father dealing with the wood business from generations, cutting, winding and more wasn't really into woodcarving but he (Rinesh) got interest to learn the art of carving. The people around his place who used to work on wood influenced and he started practicing from seniors around and learnt the art of wood carving. Experimenting new designs with ones learnt he enhances his learning on wood carving. He does more of temple works and is born and brought up in Kasaragod. He gets order work from in and around Kasaragod. He has worked on doors for temples and Vyali, (the carved wooden face with its tongue out, the god protecting the place which can be seen on Mallam) for temples. The skills of artist adds to the three dimensional carvings. Temple carvings are done and installed (Prathishtapana) according to Vastu and other relating elements/rituals. The woodcarvings for temple is generally carried on at temple place itself but sometimes the work is carried to artist's studio.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala  
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and  
Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

### Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wood-carving-kerala-0/introduction>

Each work takes its time depending on intricate works that needs to be focused on. The door on with Lakshmi goddess to be carved takes ten days approximately to complete with a team of two members. The work of carving the door is split among the two carvers, one person works on the base that is rough chipping off of the wood after drawing and the other person works on the detailing. Graphs are drawn on the picture which is referred. Graphs help them to get exact measurements for the drawings to be drawn. By referring each square one will be able to get the exact drawing finished. After transposition of the drawing on to the wood, carving is begun. The face part of crocodile is all done in one piece of wood, Pillars of temple (wooden ones) snakes' carvings are found together at the temples. The rails/logs are attached to one single wood on interior roofing of shrines. People only come in mornings to worship. Theyyam dance art starts from shrines. The Daivasthanams is the place of god, and also called as Boothalayas and are found in Kasaragod particularly. People offered idols with weapons in turn of their prayings earlier. The worshipping is done by Eerava community. Bhadrakhali – the female form is believed to remove enemies and protect people from bad things. Ugra rupam – gods found is one of the Gods found in protecting form. Daivasthanams are abode of gods and sometimes the weapons are kept and worshipped, symbolizing protection. These shrines are built in forest areas, as a part of nature. These forest areas are chosen to build to avoid frequent visits of people and other disturbances.



Senior artisan is sculpting the wooden log for the Bhoothalaya.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wood-carving-kerala-0/introduction>



The detailed wooden Vyalu is the excellent work of the experienced craftsmanship.



Work place of the wood carving at Kasaragod.



Artisan is crafting the rounded pillar for the Bhoothalaya.

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Tools and Raw Materials

### 3. Making Process

### 4. Products

### 5. Video

### 6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wood-carving-kerala-0/introduction>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Incarnations of lord Vishnu are been carved on the wooden slabs.

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

## Tools and Raw Materials

The tools that are required for wood Carving are:

- **A set of Chisels:** It is used to carve and give depths to the wooden board.
- **Hammer:** It is used in chiseling out the wood.
- **Pencils and Pens:** It is used to draw the reference lines to carve.
- **Papers:** On which drawings are usually done and is cut along the outline.
- **Scissors:** It is used to cut papers.
- **Knife:** It is used to cut tricky drawings drawn on paper.
- **Scale:** It is used to measure the length of the wood.
- **Straight Gouges:** It is used to mark outlines before chipping wood.
- **Wood:** Teak wood and wood of jackfruit are used.
- **Wood Polish:** It is used to give quality look.



Stencil used for carving the same design on wood.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>



Timber of Jackfruit wood used for constructing Bhoothalaya.



Wood carving tools.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Tools used to carve intricate minute woodcarving.



Flat sharpened blades, which are used in fine detailing.

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>



A different type of screws and bolts, which has a different design at their bottom, is used for the decoration purpose on the carved wooden slabs.



Tools that are used in wood carving.



Some of the other tools that are used in chiseling the wood.



L-shaped scales used in measuring and scaling of wood and screwdriver.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Scale, pen, compass and pencil are used in drawing of required measurements on the wooden log.



Saw tool used in cutting of the wood/timber.

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>



Measuring tape used in measuring the wood.



Sand paper used in smoothing the wooden surface.



C-clamp tool used in holding the two things organized firmly.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Different types of motors.



Re-saw machine that is used for cutting of the logs.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>



Variety of chisels used in sculpting of the wood.



Planer machine.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Spindle moulder used for cutting the log in different designs.



Lathe machine used for crafting the wooden log in symmetry in the axis of rotation.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala  
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and  
Sandhya B.

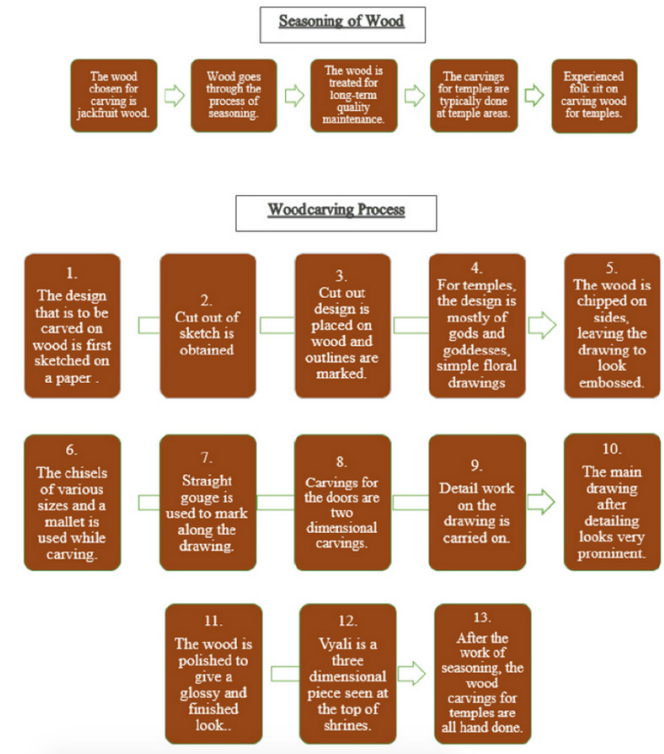
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

## Making Process

The design that is to be carved on wood is first sketched on a paper with a pencil or pen. The paper is cut along the sketch edges with a sharp knife. Cut out of sketch is obtained. This cut out design is placed on the wood to be carved and outlines are marked. For the temples, the design is mostly of gods and goddesses, simple floral drawings, or scenes of Dashavataram, or figures relevant to the temples. Marking along the cut out, the wood is chipped leaving the drawing to look embossed. The chisels of various sizes and a mallet is used while carving. Straight gouge is used to mark along the drawing first and then with help of bigger chisel the space next to the drawing is chipped out making the drawing look embossed. This kind of carving is seen in Kasaragod, particularly carvings of doors are done in this manner and it is two dimensional. Once the sides of drawing is chipped off and the design is visible embossed, detail work on the drawing is carried on. The main drawing after detailing looks very prominent and clear. The wood is polished to give a glossy and finished look. Once the carvings are done, hinges for the doors and frames are attached. The basic process of cutting wood log into planks is done in timber yards after seasoning, after seasoning they are treated for long-term quality maintenance. The carvings for temples are typically done at temple area. The three dimensional idols are also carved, the skills of carver enhances the carving. For temples generally, experienced folk sit on carving wood. Vyali (the god/goddess protector of the place) is a three dimensional piece. In Kasaragod shrines, carvings of snakes, crocodiles and Vyali are seen.



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

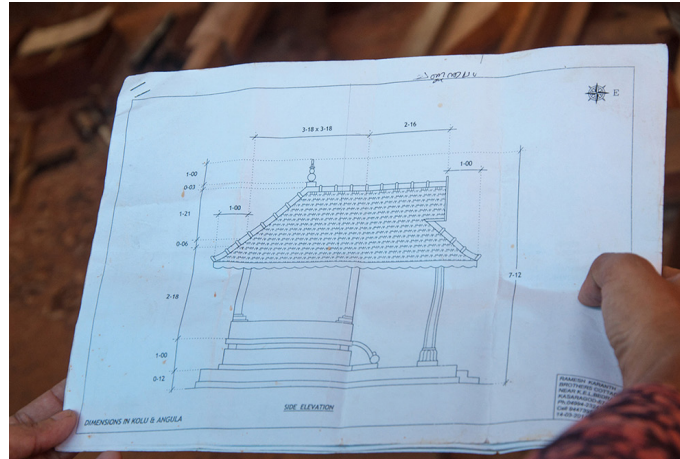
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>



Initially the sketch of the Bhoothalaya is made.



Then the wood is cut in linear motion to the required measurements in re-saw machine.



Wooden logs are cut and accumulated for the construction.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>



This wood is further cut in curvy shape whenever it is necessary.



Round shaped pillar is made in the next level, through the help of the lathe machine.



Later the wood is sculpted.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



A pillar of unique design is carved for the temple decoration and also as a support to wooden roof.



Further foundation of the roof is made at Bhoothalaya's sanctum.



This wooden foundation of the roof is then fixed at the top of Bhoothalaya.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



This image portrays the magnificent outer look of the wooden roof of Bhoothalaya.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



The detailed wooden vyali on the top of the roof is made and installed.



The close up of the roof from the exterior.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>



Structure of the Village shrine (Bhoothalaya) that is under construction.



Later the desired sketch for the Village shrine's door is measured for carving on wood.



The desired sketch is made on the paper.



Then the extras of the paper are cut off from the help of the sharp blade.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Later the stencil is placed on the wood and the outer sketch is made.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>



The detailed sketch is drawn on the wood.



Then the sharp pointed chisel is used for sculpting.



A glance of completed sketch on the wooden door.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>



Layer by layer very delicately the wooden door is carved.



The door that is under the process of sculpting the chosen design.



Then the artisan makes the minute carving.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



The designed screw bottoms are used for making an impression on the wood for the decorating purpose.



After carving is completed, it is rubbed nicely in sand paper for the smooth finishing.



Close-up of the detailed wooden carving.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Intricately carved wooden slabs that are used for Bhoothalaya doors.



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala  
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and  
Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/products>

## Products

The products of Kasaragod wood carving can be mostly seen in temples. The doors are carved with Gods and Goddesses. The Mallam, the top part of the temple has wooden carvings that are three dimensional (Vyali protecting the place and people around the shrine). Since the woodcarvers take up works relating to temples one gets to see the works of woodcarvings on the doors, top part of the shrines and pillars installed at temples. The face on top part of the shrine is Vyali. Crocodiles and snakes' carvings can also be seen. The inner roofs of shrines are of wood. The inclined timbers are all attached to a single beam that runs parallel to the ground. The roof system is designed for both structural stability and traditional architecture.



The close up of the Bhoothalaya's top/crown.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/products>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Beautifully constructed wooden Bhoothalaya.



Intricately carved wooden door of Bhoothalaya (daivasthana).



Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and  
Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/video>

## Video



Wood Carving for Temples - Kasargod, Kerala

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. **Video**
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

## Wood Carving - Kerala

The Art of Woodcarving, Kasaragod Kerala

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

### Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woodcarving-kerala/contact-details>

## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B. at **NID Campus, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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

### Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator

Project e-kalpa

R & D Campus

National Institute of Design

#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road

Bengaluru 560 022

India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

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

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. **Contact Details**