



Threads Crossing the Warp

MODULE 14 -2

**Collection of Representative Patterns and Designs in
the Balkans**



Partners



ΧΑΡΟΚΟΠΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
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Traditional patterns and designs in Romania

The design of traditional textiles is important in order to understand the local creation, to decipher the messages conveyed by the craftspeople through the objects created. The patterns are not placed randomly on the textile, all represent the environment where he/she lives, his/her spiritual beliefs and the beliefs concerning the creation and the ways of the world.

Each line woven on a textile, being it of interior design or traditional costume, represents a symbol, which once deciphered, gives us an overview of the local creation and helps us understand the means used to create it.



Pictures:

Textiles from *Mărginimea Sibiului*, Juliana Fabritius Dancu, Watercolor, inv.no 2661. ASTRA Museum's Drawings collection.

Traditional patterns and designs in Romania

Weaving was done in the family and was a woman's basic activity. Everything from everyday clothes, and festive items, to textiles used to decorate the home, was created by the housewife. Women were the ones that cultivated flax and hemp on small patches of land. From sowing to harvesting, it was the peasant woman who cared for these cultures. Another raw material is wool, which once sheared from the sheep was spinned and dyed until the thread was perfect to be used in the loom. The spinning of goat hair (coarser than sheep hair) was done on a special wheel; the wheel and technology was found in Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and only in some villages from Southern Romania, which proves that the craft was brought from the south of Danube.

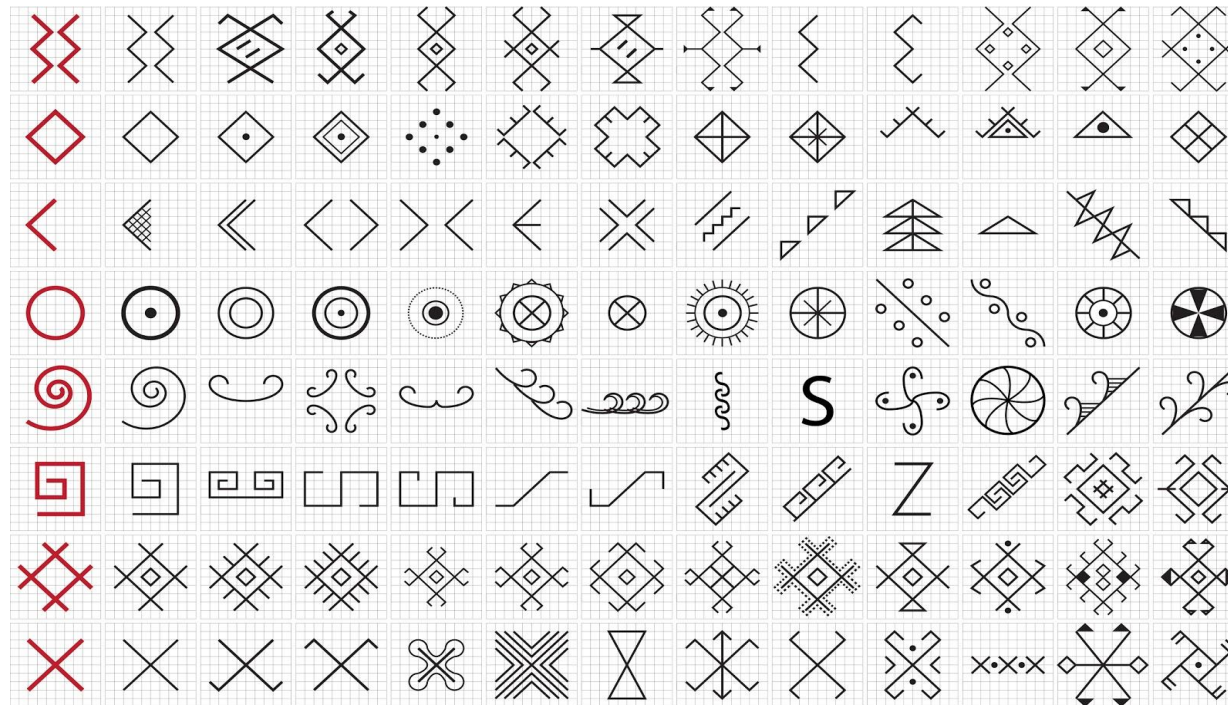


Pictures:

Mother and daughter from *Lupeni, Hunedoara County*, inv.no. 47949. ASTRA Museum's Photography collection.

Traditional patterns and designs in Romania

The old Romanian design was dominated by geometrical patterns (straight lines, diamonds, crosses, broken lines, waves), symbolic patterns placed in line or in geometrical compositions, as symbols of protection, the indigenous background being geometrical. In time the woven patterns were influenced by the Oriental ones, which reached these parts through different ways, especially through the royal courts. A border which surrounds the central field and new motifs appear: flowers, birds, horses, humans creating, especially on the wall carpets from Oltenia (Southern Romania), a fairytale world.



Pictures:

A board created by Sewn Signs, a reproduction after Virgil Vasilescu in "The Romanian Semiotics "
<http://semne-cusute.blogspot.com/2012/07/semnele-primordiale.html>

Traditional patterns and designs in Romania

For weaving, women used raw materials found in the household: animal fibers (sheep wool, goat hair, silk) or vegetal fibers (hemp, cotton, flax). One type of material did not exclude the other, many fabrics were created from animal and vegetal fibers. The same applies to the composition of the decorum, sometimes the geometrical patterns alternated with floral, vegetal, or animal motifs on the same textile.

The variety of motifs and patterns used in decorating Romanian textiles can also be found in the richness of the traditional interior, created through textile pieces: icon and beam towels, wall hangings, pillow cases, table cloths, carpets, bed linens, blankets and many more.



Pictures:

Interior from Răşinari, Sibiu County. Juliana Fabritius Dancu, Watercolor, inv. no. 92. ASTRA Museum's Drawings Collection.

Traditional patterns and designs found in the collections of ASTRA Museum, Sibiu

The Costume and Textile collection of the ASTRA Museum of Transylvanian Civilization comprises representative pieces that reflect all the ethnographical areas of the country, thus offering the possibility to have a clear image of the Romanian traditional costume, and also of the way in which the household interior was organized. The mission of the collection is to be both the repository and to facilitate the community's access to the Romanian values found in Transylvania, to go beyond the traditional (as it was in the past), by instigating the visitor to perceive the value of traditional cultural goods at the confluence of old and new, traditional and modern, national and international.



Pictures:

Interior from Spermezeu, Bistrița Năsăud County, household found in ASTRA Museum. ASTRA Museum's Photography Collection.

Traditional patterns and designs found in the collections of ASTRA Museum, Sibiu

The collection comprises numerous woven pieces, both from the category of clothing items and those that have a household utility that present the vast patterns and motifs used in Romania. The chosen motifs (geometrical, floral, vegetal, birds, etc.) their chromatic and composition render the artistic and symbolic message of the creator.



Pictures:

The Album *From the Romanian decorum*, Sibiu, 1976

Geometrical patterns on the towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection.

The traditional Romanian interior was decorated with a variety of textiles to represent the aesthetics and spiritual beliefs. The woven, long and narrow wall towels, decorated with colored symmetrical motifs at the ends, adorned the icons, ceramic plates, the door and window frames. The function of the towel evolved from the simple practical utility to decorating the interior living space.



Pictures:

Left. Icon towel, inv. no. 1 T. Center. Icon towel, inv. no. 14 b T. Right. Icon towel, inv. no. 152 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on the towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection.

In the traditional Romanian culture, the towel had a complex purpose, extending its function from the practical (food preparation, bodily cleanliness) to the decorative (decorating the household and complementing the traditional costume) and ritual (in man's rites of passage).



Pictures:

Icon towel and detail, inv. no.11643 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles



Floral patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection.



Pictures:

Left. Towel, inv. no. 6182 T. Center up. Table cloth, inv. no. 6408 T. Center down. Towel, inv. no. 181 T. Right. Towel, inv. no. 1120 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Floral patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Towel and detail of the towel, inv. no. 6268 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Floral and geometrical patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum Collection



Pictures:

Left. Towel and detail of the towel, inv. no. 11743 T. Center. Towel and detail of the towel, inv. no. 11915 T. Right. Towel, inv. no. 1909 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Avimorph, floral and geometrical patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Towel and detail of the towel, inv. no.11917 T. Right. Towel, inv. no. 9433 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Avimorph, floral and geometrical patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Towel, inv. no. 1946 T. Towel, inv.no. 2490 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Avimorph, floral and geometrical patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Towel, inv. no. 911 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on towels from ASTRA Museum's Collection

On the walls of Romanian households we find a special group of textiles, that of beam towels, whose purpose was to embellish the space, without a practical purpose. The beam is a wooden bar placed in the upper part of the room onto which were placed richly adorned textiles.



Pictures:

Left. Beam towel, inv. no. 5615 T. Center. Beam towel, inv. no. 5616 T. Right. Beam towel, inv. no. 6406 T.
ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on wall carpets from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Everyday's life need for thermal insulation due to local temperatures led to the covering of exterior walls with protecting textile materials called wall carpets/wall hangings. These are weaved in two or four shaft from a woolen textile, with vividly colored geometrical patterns placed in alternation.

Pictures:

Left. Wall carpet, inv. no. 6565 T. Center. Wall carpet, inv. no. 55 T. Right. Wall carpet, inv. no. 13015 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on wall carpets from ASTRA Museum's Collection

These vary in terms of colors, structure and decorum according to the area of origin.



Pictures:

Left. Wall carpet, inv. no. 1679 T. Center. Wall carpet, inv. no. 7342 T. Right. Carpet, inv. no. 7343 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on table cloths from ASTRA Museum's Collection

Table covering has a well established symbolic, decorative and functional purpose due to the central positioning of the table, and to the need to protect the furniture. The patterns were at equal distances, symmetrical, on the whole surface of the piece.



Pictures:

Left. Table cloth, inv. no. 4491 T. Right. Table cloth, inv. no. 5391 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on table cloths from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Table cloth, inv. no. 3202 T. Right. Table cloth, inv. no. 178 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Geometrical patterns on pillow cases from ASTRA Museum's Collection

The decorating motifs of pillow cases are woven in the tapestry manner or are picked over the threads with motifs similar to the ones found on beam towels.



Pictures:

Left. Pillow case, inv. no. 11648 T. Center. Pillow case, inv. no. 5156 T. Right. Pillow case, inv. no. 5378 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Floral patterns on pillow cases from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Pillow case with detail, inv. no. 5156 T. Right. Pillow case with detail, inv. no. 5160 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Vegetal and avimorph patterns on pillow cases from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Pillow case and detail, inv. no. 5218 T. Right. Pillow case and detail, inv. no. 5219 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

The cross pattern on pillow cases from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Hand towel, nr. inv. 6405 T. Center. Hand towel, nr. inv. 6399 T. Right. Hand towel, nr. inv. 6406 T. ASTRA Museum's collection

Geometrical patterns on bed covers from ASTRA Museum's Collection

The bed textiles were woven in two or four shaft looms, the decorum being simple, white, stripped or with bicolor plaid motifs.



Pictures:

Left. Blanket, nr. inv. 5204 T. Right. Wool cloth, nr. inv. 6184 T. ASTRA Museum's collection



Geometrical patterns on bed covers from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Blanket, inv. no. 5412 T. Right. Blanket, inv. no. 5390 T, ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Floral and avimorph patterns on carpets from ASTRA Museum Collection



Pictures:

Left. Carpet, inv. no. 9433 T. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Traditional costume. Patterns on aprons from ASTRA Museum's Collection

The traditional costume is the most important group of textiles on which the woven motifs reach the highest degree of execution. In decorating the pieces of clothing we find the equilibrium between the restrictions of tradition and the external influences, the desire for a balanced aesthetic, and also the competition between young women belonging to the same community.



Pictures:

Left. Apron, inv. no. 4271 P. Center. Apron, inv. no.2432 P. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles Right. Cornelia Bodescu, craftswoman, attending the Traditional Crafts people's Fair, ASTRA Museum 2021. ASTRA Museum's Photography collection.

Traditional costume. Patterns on aprons from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Apron, inv. no. 3870 P. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles. Right. Girls from the community of Spermezeu, Bistrița Năsăud County, ASTRA Museum 2021. ASTRA Museum's photo archive.

Traditional costume. Patterns on aprons from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Apron, inv. no. 6447 P. Right. Apron, inv. no. 6496 P. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles

Traditional costume. Patterns on aprons from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Apron, inv. no. 4717 P. ASTRA Museum's Collection of Costume and Textiles. Right. Woven belts, at the Traditional Craftsmen's fair, ASTRA Museum 2021. ASTRA Museum's photo archive.

Traditional costume. Patterns on traditional bags from ASTRA Museum's Collection



Pictures:

Left. Bag, nr. inv. 2652 P. Center. Bag, nr. inv.11586 P. ASTRA Museum's collection. Right. Woven bags, from Bistrița Năsăud County, at the Traditional Craftsmen's Fair, in the ASTRA Museum 2021. ASTRA Museum's photo archive.

Traditional Romanian motifs and patterns in 2021

The art of weaving is continued today by traditional craftspeople, who from the old, traditional patterns create new valuable works of art. ASTRA Museum gathers a vast collection of artifacts and at the same time is the facilitator of cultural events that continue the art of traditional weaving.



Pictures:

The Traditional craftsmen's Fair, ASTRA Museum 2021. ASTRA Museum's photo archive.

Traditional Romanian motifs and patterns in 2021



Pictures:

The Traditional craftsmen's Fair, ASTRA Museum 2021. ASTRA Museum's photo

