

## Patchwork

Patchwork in Tajik called *quroqduzi* also is known as *tarkduzi*, *poraduzi*, *malofaduzi* and *kalamrezgi*.

Patchwork essentially is a form of needlework that involves sewing together pieces of fabric into a larger design. Often the remnant pieces of fabrics after making clothing or other items are converted into something different through patchwork needlework. The larger design made from pieces of fabric is usually based on repeating patterns built up with different fabric shapes, which can be different colors harmonized into group. These shapes are carefully measured and basic geometric shapes making them easy to piece together. Overall patchwork designs are incrementally pieced geometric shapes stitched together to form a larger random or composed design. The colored shapes can be randomly pieced or follow a strict order to create a specific

effect, e.g. value (light to dark) progressions, or checkerboard effects.

Evidence of patchwork – piecing small pieces of fabric together to create a larger piece and quilting layers of textile fabrics together – has been found throughout history. In Tajikistan also it has a long history of evolution and use. In choosing pattern patchwork designers chose either imaginative pattern or something from the environment. The patterns are called according to what they represent such as *quroqi chashm* – black and white patchwork resembling eyes.

In Tajikistan variety of home textile and clothing are made by patchwork such as mattresses, quilts, waistcoats, tablecloth and so.

Among Tajik patchwork items also carry symbolic meaning. For example, people hold belief that the patchwork clothing would ward off the person from an evil eyes or other super-



natural causes. There is also a traditional practice to make a patchwork coat for cradles of newborn babies, especially if the family has seen child death prior. The patchwork coats for children are usually made from the fabric pieces of elderly people in the family as a mean of evoking their blessings and protection to the child. Mothers would also make special patchwork sheet to cover the cradles to protect children from evil forces including illness. The same attitude applies to the newlyweds; mothers would make patchwork mattresses for the bride and groom. Sometimes they would make patchwork tablecloth from the bridal curtain or even with embroidery pieces.

The patchwork is obviously very innovative approach towards to recycling old fabrics into a new object, but also new fabrics are used to make patchwork. These days patchwork objects made from new fabric pieces are found in every household, especially in the homes of newlywed women.

Patchwork also has great aesthetic nature and many fashion designer use patchwork style to design costumes and clothing. In some families patchwork items are passed from generation to generation and revered as a memory of ancestors.

