

NETTUR PETTI - JEWELLERY BOXES



The Nettur Petti, the jewellery caskets that were traditionally used by women of affluent households to store their jewellery, are named after their place of origin - Nettur, a village near Kozhikode. They are created using a combination of wood work, hand painting skills and manually shaped and chiselled brass joints, screws and locks;



Brass work done on the Nettur petti is similar in vocabulary and craftsmanship to the highly ornamental brass locks or the chithrathazhu which may be seen on the main entrance doors of many of the old houses of Kerala.

these products are the result of hours of strenuous and intense skilled labour. The boxes are first constructed out of rosewood and a local wood known as anjili and then painted. Each stage of this process is performed by hand, including the making of the nails used to fasten the wood pieces. After the box is varnished, the decorative polished brass elements are affixed onto it. Other than the velvet lined interior of the box and the elaborate brass fixtures that impart a sense of luxury to this already elaborately embellished product, the petti has remained relatively true to its original form.

Inset, 1 2 : A few of the numerous variations of the Nettur petti, the extent of detailing, the differences in the brass ornamentation, the intricacy of the painting on the wooden surface and the form of the petti contribute to the diversity of the craft product.

Production Clusters
Kannur district:
Nettur
Thiruvananthapuram district:
Thiruvananthapuram
Chakai

Products
Nettur petti - jewellery boxes
Chithrathazhu - large brass locks

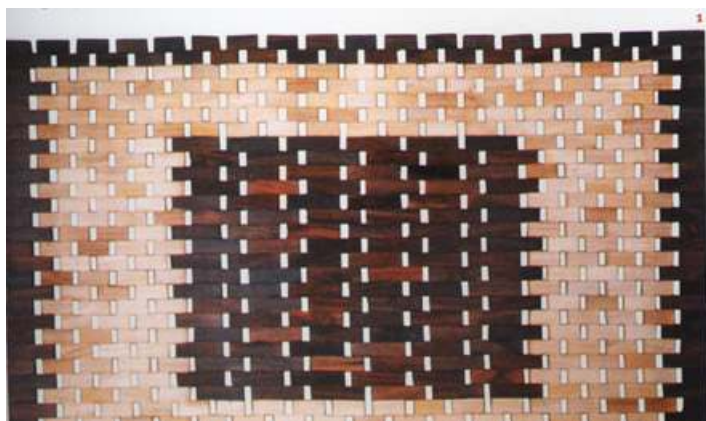
Tools
Hammers
Chisels
Brushes



SYMMETRIC WOOD STRINGING

Objects constructed by joining laminated pieces of wood are significant craft industry in Koyilandi or Quilandi and the surrounding areas of the Kozhikode district and are of recent origin. The basic forms are cut from slabs of laminated rosewood, coconut stem and soft wood and then strung together with the aid of a nylon thread to create

mats of various shapes and sizes. Due to the technique of construction, the range of patterns that may be created are restricted to highly stylized flowers, ovals and stripes.



Production Clusters
Kozikode district:
Koyilandi

Products
Table mats
Wall hangings
Coasters

Tools
Table saw machine
Nylon thread

1 A table mat constructed by the technique of symmetrical wood stringing.
 2 Two table mats; their appearance is as much a result of their highly stylized floral forms of the technique.