



Craft Complex "Arta Rustică", Clișova-Nouă

Anna was a young woman filled with excitement and anticipation. She had just received important news that she was eager to share with her beloved. News that led her on a journey of discovery about the rich cultural heritage of Moldovan traditional fine crafts and priceless artifacts.

"Rugs - Weaved stories"

Stories are the threads that connect the past with the present weaving the history of humanity. The patterns in old carpets are woven letters that are part of the nation's story.

As she gazed upon the textiles and blouses from the Ethnographic Museum, Anna was transported back to a conversation she'd had with a wise woman in Clișova-Nouă (Ecaterina Popescu): The woman's words echoed in her mind: „Old, carpets are the thread of communication between generations, they are to be seen as woven letters sent from the past through the present to the future.” Moldovan carpets prove that affirmation as they have held a significant place in history, particularly during trying times such as deportations, famine, and post-war depression. These woven works of art served as a lifeline, providing warmth, comfort, and a sense of personal space to those in need.

Here goes the story told by Ecaterina, the owner of Craft Complex "Arta Rustică" to Anna:

Once upon a time, in a small village in Moldova, there was a family with two girls who were passionate about weaving. They would spend hours in front of their looms, creating the most beautiful and intricate carpets the village had

Common borders. Common solutions.



ever seen. One such carpet, hung on a big wall, held a special place in their hearts. The Bolsheviks came and deported the family to Siberia, but the rug proved to be their saving grace on the harsh journey. It kept them warm and offered comfort in an otherwise cold and unforgiving world. When they arrived in Siberia and were housed with another family in a cramped room, the rug served as a partition, giving each family a sense of home and personal space.

Years later, the family was allowed to return to Moldova and took the rug with them to hang on the wall of their daughter's home. Eventually, the carpet found its way to the Museum of Craft Complex "Arta Rustică", where it became a prized exhibit. It was donated by a descendant of the original weavers who works at the museum as an artisan. She saw it as her duty to preserve the traditional fine craft of weaving and pay homage to her ancestors and their incredible story. The carpet remains a symbol of survival and perseverance and a thread of communication between generations, telling the tale of a family's journey through hardship and triumph.

Craft Complex "Arta Rustică", Clișova-Nouă

The Rustic Art Craft Complex, located in the picturesque village of Clisova Noua, is a testament to the preservation and promotion of traditional folk art. With its easily recognizable massive wooden gate, crafted by local artisans, the complex serves as a hub for those who appreciate the beauty of hand-made crafts.

Founded by the renowned craftswoman, **Ecaterina Popescu**, the Craft Complex "Arta Rustică" has grown into a multifaceted facility that includes a museum of authentic fabrics, a craft enterprise, a training center for folk crafts, and an exhibition hall showcasing traditional clothing and Bessarabian carpets.

At the complex the tradition left by the ancestors is respected. Here natural paints, extracted from leaves and flowers, are used on natural textiles, which gives the carpets warm shades of color, a naturalness that brings us closer to nature.

Common borders. Common solutions.



The employees of the Complex are keeping the technique of weaving carpets practiced hundreds of years ago: manual processing of wool, dyeing with natural colors, authentic ornaments and motifs are used.

Anna was amazed by the process and the atmosphere and could not stand aside when one of the weavers invited her to try to weave a carpet.

The emotional involvement of the weaver adds a personal touch, making the rugs not just a functional item, but also a source of comfort and joy. The positive energy of these rugs is believed to accumulate through the emotional involvement of those involved in their creation, from the gathering of raw materials to the actual weaving process. This energy contributes to the durability and longevity of the rugs, making them more than just a functional item, but also a cherished heirloom to be passed down through generations.

This experience brought her back in time without a time machine as she remembered her ancestors. For Anna's grandparents' generation, the carpet was not only a source of income and heat insulation in the room, but it also served as a form of therapy. Weaving the carpet was the only antidote to depression and a way to express themselves creatively. The carpet was a coloring book for them, and often their only source of income during a time when any rise to power meant a change for the worse. The rug was watched by family members night after night, like a TV series, before going to bed and in all these years, the carpet has never broken and never contained any episodes of horrors of the war.

Anna thought that the role of the Moldovan carpet in a house was actually a silent witness of the family's passage through life, where they learned to keep the red thread that connects them with those who were and those who will come...

Preserving tradition means ensuring its legacy lives on.

Hand-woven rugs do more than decorate walls or warm beds, they remain a constant reminder of bygone days and otherwise forgotten tradition. To descendants of these artisans who wove and hand-dyed the rugs, they are

Common borders. Common solutions.



priceless artifacts that offer future generations a sense of tradition and continuity.

Paying attention to each element, Anna understood that these exquisite creations are more than pieces of fabric, they are woven tapestries that tell the story of a vibrant nation and its communion with nature.

Just by looking at the carpets, the spirit of life can be felt, as one of the main patterns weaved is the "Tree of Life".

Symbols on Rugs as Written signs

Since the beginning of time, man has found inspiration, consolation and guidance through symbols. We find symbols in rugs from Islamic, Christian, Buddhist and Hindu weaving cultures. All of them speak of human values, surrender and faith. One of the oldest and most profound symbols is the "Tree of Life." As an ancient religious motif, this symbol is found throughout all of the world's weaving cultures. The Tree of Life represents immortality, longevity and resurrection. In Biblical scenes, it stands for the Garden of Eden. In the Muslim carpet design, it represents Paradise, along with its fruit which signifies sustenance and abundance. In Chinese rugs, the Tree of Life symbolizes immortality.

The pictorial shapes of the tree lead us into a fully philosophical world. The tree of life is the embodiment of the great force and vitality of nature, which represent Mother Nature.

Embrace the beauty and heritage of Moldova in every knot of these stunning works of art.

***A charming carpet, like a charming music,
cannot be depicted or explained by words ...
The carpet, like music, has its own language.***

Common borders. Common solutions.