REINTERPRETATION OF IRON FILIGREE IN INTERIOR WALL CLADDING USING THE TRADITIONAL SANJHI CRAFT

Aishwaryavishwakarma
SrishtiSrivastava
First year student, M.Arch (Interior Design), Department of Architecture, JNAFAU, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana
Asst.Professor, M.Arch(Environmental Design), Department of Architecture, JNAFAU, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana.

ABSTRACT
Filigree is an attractive type of work used in iron and silver jewel making. In this process twisted metal wire is used as base material, the articles have a lacy trellis-like appearance. Orissa has been famous for its spider web work and the filigree work is locally known as Tarkashi. Most of the designs are built up around flowers, creepers and leaves predominate. They have a unique method for fixing different components. The craftsmen, belongs to lohshilp community of India, practice this kind of craft which was first introduced to the state during Mughal rule and sanjhi is a unique kind of paper stenciling art found in Mathura. The art involves the composition and drawing of the picture on paper, its expert cutting with small, fine, custom-made scissors, and then the use of the stencil to create the images. The most striking feature of this is its play with light. So, combinations of both arts are represented using iron for wall cladding. Iron frame is the base for the cladding, the stencil art work is done on the frame and intricate filigree work with small design pieces made from thinner wires are fitted. The craftsmanship lies in fitting the small parts perfectly to the frame. The process includes stencil iron frame making and iron wire being drawn and then pressed to the frame in different shapes. For larger designs, smaller components are made and then welded together. Thin iron wires are carefully shaped and made into intricate designs. Fine strings of iron wires are produced by drawing it through a series of consecutive holes of very small diameter. These wires are then heated and wound around a charkha, and then later fixed together. These wires are then shaped into various designs and patterns. Filigree is thus a combination of different pieces joined together using iron wires.

Keywords: Interior, metal craft, wall cladding, filigree art.

INTRODUCTION
Wrought iron craft or lohshilp is the most unique and the oldest craft form in India and it is a traditional craft. The iron is heated and beaten to the desired thickness and shape and it has an aesthetic appeal in spite of its simplistic form. The first art originated from the iron smith community of tribes in which tools were made for farming and hunting. Over the years, the craft has beautifully evolved into an artistic form and so it has got worldwide appreciation. Wrought iron craft is mainly concentrated in Bastar district of Chattisgarh in Kondagaon village, Umargaon village and Gunagaon village being the main centers.

HISTORY
Bastar village of Chattisgarh is one of the richest areas in terms of iron ore deposits. Tribal, particularly of Gond and Maria, experts themselves in extracting iron from the iron ores, thus lot of ironsmith communities were formed in the tribal region where the community started addressing to the needs of the tribe by providing them tools for agriculture, jungle cutting tools, arrowheads and knives for hunting and the skill evolved with time as well as experimentation with material and technique leading wrought iron crafts.
Filigree is one of the most intricate types of metalwork, generally used on precious metals, like gold and silver and in art pieces created with small and detailed beads and twisted threads fused together or onto an object. Its fragility lies in the texture of lace. Traditionally, this technique is connected to luxury design and fine craftsmanship and the name, “filigree”, derives from Latin.

**Figure – 1: Wrought iron craft in tribal theme**

sanjhi is a unique kind of paper stenciling art found in Mathura. The art involves the composition and drawing of the picture on paper, its expert cutting with small, fine, custom-made scissors, and then the use of the stencil to create the images. The paper art is then placed on the iron thin frame later the shape is cut exactly using custom made iron scissors on the frame according to design. The most striking feature of this is its play with light. So, combinations of both arts are represented using iron for wall cladding.

**Figure – 2: Filigree work and sanjhi paper art stencil**

**TOOLS AND RAW MATERIALS:**

The raw material used for the craft is mainly from recycled iron scrap, taken from household or market. The main tools used and are made locally by the lohars themselves.

1. DhuknaSar (furnace): To heat iron ore piece so that it can be molded in high temperature
2. Muthli (hammer): used repeatedly to get the desired shape
3. Chimtas (forceps): to hold the hot iron piece while making
4. Chenni (chisels): used characteristically to shape, carve or cut a hard material such as wood, stone, or metal by hand
5. Custom made iron scissors:
6. Sandasis (Iron Tongs): These are holders used to hold crucibles while casting process and also for safer and easier handling.
7. Boring Machine: This machine is used to size the iron rods into required size as per the requirement.
8. Compass: Compass tool is used to give accurate circular shapes to the design.
9. Brass Brush: It is a metal brush used to rub on the final products for getting striking shining

**PROCESS**
• The process starts with scrap iron being beaten repeatedly when the metal is hot.
• It requires casting and molding in to thin frame and then using sanjhí technique the shape is drawn and cut using customized iron scissors where desired shape is given carefully, usually any kind of design can be done using sanjhí technique.
• Then unnecessary portions are cut away from the sheet to remove sharp objects.
• Then filigree art is done on the frame using embossing technique and on completion, varnish coat is applied to enhance the luster.
• Both hollow and solid figures are made. For making a hollow design, iron sheets are folded, cut and molded as per the need of the form. In a solid figure the main body parts are made first and then the detailing is done with the help of small chisels and thongs, at times using welding machines thin iron filigree wires are fixed to the frame.

![Iron Filigree work on doors and railings](image)

**Figure – 3:** Iron Filigree work on doors and railings

**USE OF PRODUCT IN INTERIOR DESIGN**

• Wrought iron filigree cladding can be used for different furnishings for living room spaces, bed room and dining.
• It can also be used as partition walls, from balcony railings to doors, fences and garden fences
• This kind of wall cladding can be used in retail stores such jewelry shops, clothing boutique, temple interiors and monumental structures.
• It can have a lot of say in the design process and should make sure the finished product is going to fit with the surrounding areas as it should match the theme of the room.
• The structure is delivered in separate pieces and then assembled onsite and this reduces the costs and also the time.
• Wrought iron filigree wall mountings can be used as decorative element on walls.
LONGEVITY OF MATERIAL

- Wrought iron filigree cladding in architecture - if properly maintained, the material is extremely resistant.
- More and more home and apartment owners are choosing to incorporate iron into their windows, balconies and outdoors areas if such intricate art is experimented on this low cost material.
- It is worth investing time and money into acquiring the correct equipment and knowledge to enable to care for the iron properly. Doing this its longevity will be inordinately increased.
- Maintenance of the product will also preserve the vibrancy of the decoration for as long as possible.

CONCLUSION

The project started with studying about the wrought iron crafts and its history aiming to preserve the ancient traditional art in this modern era by incorporating it in the interiors of a space in the present trend. Similarly, various elements of art forms were used in interiors can be decorated in this metal art style, trying different compositions and designs to suit the interior style, as the new innovative trend is the handmade engraved and embossed uniquely designed metal sheets which may be traditional, additionally, as abstract and contemporary wall claddings which are applicable on walls, ceiling, furniture, sculptures, and may even be used as column and beam covers. This way the art can be preserved and recreated in this modern era and inspire the future generation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my lecturer Asst. prof. Ar. SrishtiSrivastava, Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University, for their constant support and encouragement, who gave me the golden opportunity to work on such project, which also helped me in knowing new art form by doing lot of research and I came to know more about different techniques related to this topic. Furthermore, I need to thank my friends and family for their immense support and motivating me to give my best every time and no amount of praise can suffice their effort.

REFERENCES