

## TURKISH WOODCARVING AND KÜNDEKÂRİ

Wood art in Anatolia developed with the Anatolian Seljuks, künde-kârî and carved woodwork formed the characteristic of the period. This art, which continues by preserving its originality, gave the best examples of the use of künde-kârî, carving and inlay techniques in the Ottoman Period. In the art of wood inlay, which began in the 14th century, inlays were made with trees of different types and colors, and mostly pearl, ivory, gold, silver, bone and precious stones were used. The art of wood carving has been applied in many different areas of use, such as ceilings, beams, columns, doors, windows and cabinet doors, mihrab, minbar, lectern, drawer, chest, console, frame, table, coffee table, throne, sarcophagus and sultanate boats. Künde-kârî, which is a construction technique as well as decoration, was created by combining many small woods in a geometric scheme without using glue and nails. Thanks to this special technique, wooden artifacts have preserved their original form for centuries without being affected by the expansion and contraction of the wood caused by moisture and heat.



The richest examples of künde-kârî are door wings, window covers, lecterns, reading desks and minbars. These are the minbars of Konya Alaeddin Mosque (1155-1156), Beyşehir Eşrefoğlu Mosque (1296-1299), Aksaray Ulu Mosque (12th century), Birgi Ulu Mosque (1322), Manisa Great Mosque (1366), Bursa Ulu Mosque (1399). It is among the most beautiful examples of this art. The art of künde-kârî, in which precious works are created, has been simplified by the adoption of European-origin styles since the 18th century; at the end of this century, wooden materials started to be processed with machines. However, traditional techniques and craftsmanship continued from father to son. Today, there are very few skilled craftsmen who continue the art of wood with its traditional and cultural meaning.

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