MODERN ELEGANCE IN NATIONAL FABRICS

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Abstract. The article analyzes the artistic and practical potential of Uzbek national fabrics — atlas, adras, bekasab, shohi and alacha — in contemporary clothing design. It describes the traditional ikat (abrbandi) technique, the visual and tactile qualities of these fabrics, and modern methods of using them in everyday, office and evening wear. The study shows that national fabrics, combined with modern cuts and technologies, can create an elegant and competitive style recognized internationally.

Keywords: national fabrics, atlas, adras, bekasab, ikat, abrbandi, Margilan, elegance, contemporary design, textile heritage.

Introduction

Uzbekistan has been famous for its textiles since the time of the Great Silk Road. Silk and half-silk fabrics woven in Margilan, Bukhara, Samarkand and other centers were valued far beyond Central Asia. Today, these fabrics are experiencing a new life: they appear not only in folk costumes but also in the collections of modern designers, in interior design and in accessories.

The purpose of this article is to show how national fabrics can express modern elegance and what design principles help to achieve this.

Main part

1. Main types of Uzbek national fabrics.

Fabric	Composition	Characteristic features
Atlas (khan-atlas)	Pure silk	Shiny surface, bright ikat patterns, soft drape
Adras	Silk warp, cotton weft	Matte, denser, ikat patterns, comfortable for daily wear
Bekasab	Silk and cotton	Striped patterns, traditionally used for men's robes
Shohi	Silk	Thin, light, often plain or with fine pattern
Alacha	Cotton or half-silk	Striped, simple and practical fabric

The most recognizable of them are atlas and adras, decorated using the ikat technique, known in Uzbek as *abrbandi*. Before weaving, the warp threads are tied in bundles and

dyed several times, so the pattern appears on the threads before the fabric exists. The soft, "cloudy" edges of the pattern make every piece unique.

2. What makes national fabrics elegant today. National fabrics have several qualities that meet the demands of modern fashion:

- *Natural composition* — silk and cotton are breathable and eco-friendly.
- *Handmade uniqueness* — no two pieces of ikat are exactly the same.
- *Expressive color* — bright, rich palettes allow a garment to stand out without complex decoration.
- *Cultural story* — each fabric carries history, which today's consumers value.

3. Design principles for modern elegance. To make national fabrics look elegant in contemporary clothing, designers often follow these principles:

1. *Simplicity of cut.* Since the fabric itself is richly patterned, the silhouette should be clean: straight dresses, wrap skirts, wide trousers, minimal blazers.
2. *Balance of pattern and plain surfaces.* Ikat is combined with plain silk, linen, wool or denim to avoid visual overload.
3. *Accent details.* A collar, cuffs, belt, lining or a single panel of atlas can make a classic garment distinctly Uzbek.
4. *Harmonious color.* Modern collections often use softer ikat palettes — beige, grey-blue, olive — alongside traditional bright colors.
5. *Quality finishing.* Careful seams, correct interfacing and lining preserve the drape and shine of the silk.

4. National fabrics on the modern stage. Uzbek ikat has attracted the interest of international fashion houses and collectors, and works by Uzbek designers using atlas and adras are presented at fashion weeks and exhibitions abroad. In Margilan, workshops such as the Yodgorlik silk factory preserve the traditional technology and welcome visitors, and the international festival Atlas Bayrami promotes national fabrics worldwide. Local production also supports craftswomen and small family businesses, which makes national fabrics part of the country's economic development.

5. Prospects for young designers. Young designers can develop this direction further by experimenting with new forms: knitted elements combined with adras, digital printing based on ikat motifs, zero-waste cutting of expensive silk, and upcycling old atlas garments into new items. Such approaches keep the spirit of the fabric while meeting modern requirements of sustainability.

Conclusion

National fabrics are a treasure of Uzbek culture and a strong resource for modern fashion. Their natural composition, handmade uniqueness and expressive patterns correspond to the main values of contemporary design. When combined with simple cuts, balanced compositions and quality finishing, atlas and adras create a refined, elegant style that is recognizable all over the world. Preserving and creatively developing these fabrics is an important task for the new generation of designers.

References

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