

TADELAKT FROM MOROCCO

RESCUING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Tadelakt is an old stucco technique from the region of Marrakesh (Morocco) still used by local craftsmen. Thanks to its great functional and decorative features, it has also captured the attention of new trends in modern architecture.

Tadelakt is an ancient technique based on the use of lime plastering produced by artisans in the old wood kilns of Marrakech.

The limestone rocks were cooked in special ovens and the product obtained, particularly resistant to water and humidity was anciently used to waterproof water tanks. Taking into account its property and also its aesthetic value, the use of this filler was then applied to coat and decorate Hammams and private bathrooms (sinks, showers, tubs) and also the floors. The stucco is applied to a simple structure in plastered masonry.

The technique of Tadelakt consists in the following steps:

- the production of lime, obtained by the calcination of impure limestone, baked in wood-fired kilns and olive palm, for about 30 hours. At the exit from the oven the lime is stifled with water, sieved with a sifter of 2-3 mm and bagged for its use;
- the production of stucco, mixing lime with water, without the addition of sand;
- the artisanal application of stucco on the walls, with a thickness of 1-2 cm, using a wooden float; the plaster is then compressed with river stones and sealed with natural black soap based on olive oil.

The use of natural black soap further waterproofs the material and the walls become particularly resistant to direct contact with water. Processing the plaster with river stones gives a smooth, shiny appearance to the wall, and undulations create a particular decorative effect.

Numerous architectural studios propose the use of this technique to treat and decorate bathrooms of high aesthetic profile houses. There is also a wide range of international training for the use of the Tadelakt technique.

The most important aspect is that the artisans of Marrakesh have retained this technique, based on local knowledge and local materials, so that it can be still used and they can also



pass it on to young people as an ecological and valuable profession for the future.

The international success of Tadelakt, in fact, can help generate enterprises and employment for young craftsmen who know how to valorise the use of these techniques with respect for tradition and for the use of local materials. A territorial quality brand for these *knowledge and crafts* could greatly enhance their economic and cultural value to local populations.

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[Tadelakt-art.com](#)

[Ecohabitar.com](#)

[Ibizartes.blogspot](#)

[Stucandtadelakt.com](#)

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[Microcementodesign.es](#)

[Terra-naturforum.com](#)

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