Main characteristics/features

Lamphun brocade Thai silk refers to silk fabric woven in bas relief motifs, created by using a heddle to lift and depress selected warp threads to obtain a motif. Twisted silk threads are used as warp and weft, and supplementary silk threads are added to create designs.

Production and processing

The production is complex but always follows ancient methods. After having used the mulberry leaves to feed their silkworms, practitioners of sericulture (silk making/cocoon producers) process the silk filaments from the golden yellow cocoons to get the long, soft and lustrous thread that boasts high tensile strength and elasticity. These threads are then dyed, before being woven.

A timber is used for the weaving loom structure, on which the shuttle is inserted manually. The silk thread is wound around a bobbin. The process begins by winding the wire in coils. The silk pieces are prepared according to the width and length required. The number of threads is used to calculate how much wire is needed.

Geographical area

The Lamphun brocade Thai silk production area is located in Lamphun Province, which is situated in the north of Thailand.

Link between product and territory

During the time of Queen Chama Devi, Lamphun was known as the Golden Land of Lanna. However, the birth of Lamphun brocade silk took place at the time when various ethnic groups were migrating to the region. In around 1811 Phaya Kavila, the Governor of Chiang Mai, ordered the migration of the Tai Lue people from Muang Yong into Lamphun. Among them were many nobles, who brought with them various branches of knowledge, one of which was the unique weaving method. In this kind of weaving, silk threads are used instead of cotton. After a hundred years, Dara Rasmi the Princess Royal revived silk brocade and the old weaving methods, creating silks with intricate and beautiful patterns. The expertise of this type of weaving was then ascertained, and Lamphun brocade became as it is known today - an elite cultural heritage passed down through the generations.