

# REEDS & WOOL

Patterned Screens  
of Central Asia

from the Sommer-Krieger Collection of Kyrgyz Reed Screens



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This exhibition was organized by  
Dr. John L. Sommer from the Reed Screens  
in the Sommer-Krieger Collection, the  
collection was produced by Museum Museum,  
Burlington, North Carolina, Karolyi,

Reeds & Wool Exhibit Team:  
John L. Sommer, Guest Curator  
Chuck Regier, Exhibit Development  
Renee Regier, Graphic Design  
Reed & Wool, Interpretive Text  
Scott Krieger, Production  
Exhibit Exam, O'Brien's Programming

Companion Book:  
The Reeds and Their Reed Screens  
by John L. Sommer

Reed & Wool exhibition was received from  
Dr. John L. Sommer  
Museum Museum  
Burlington Museum  
Burlington Arts Center

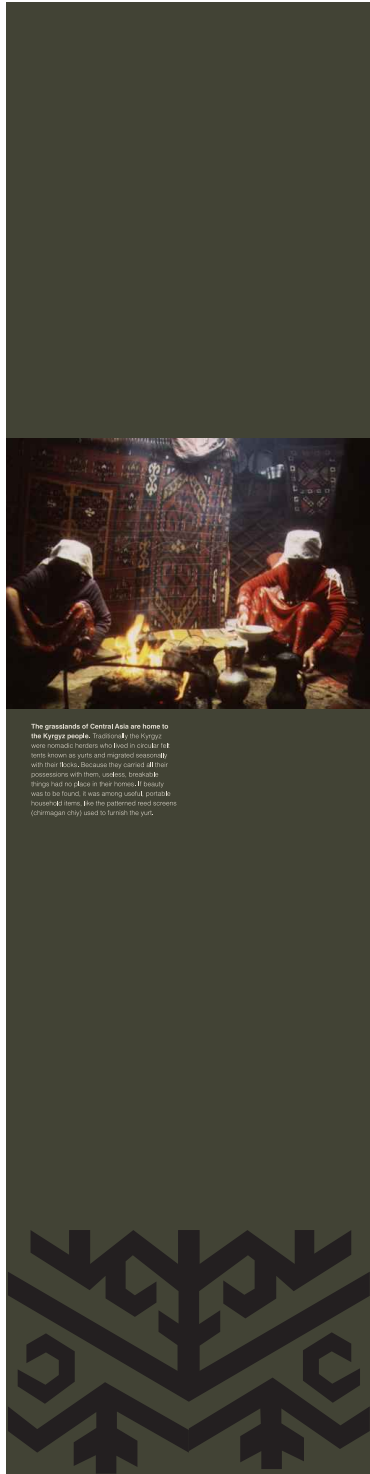


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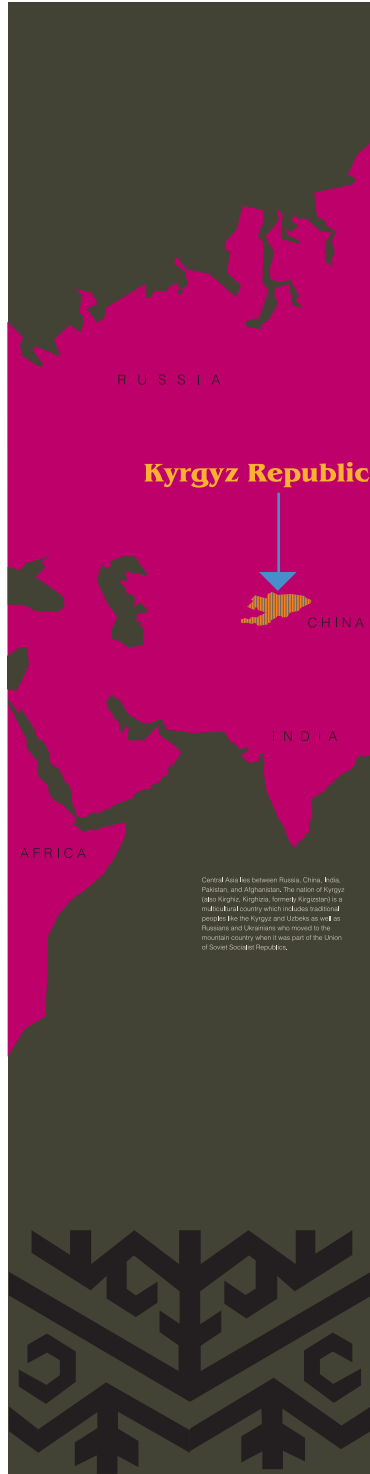


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Reeds & Wool panel layout  
scale: 1" = 1'



4



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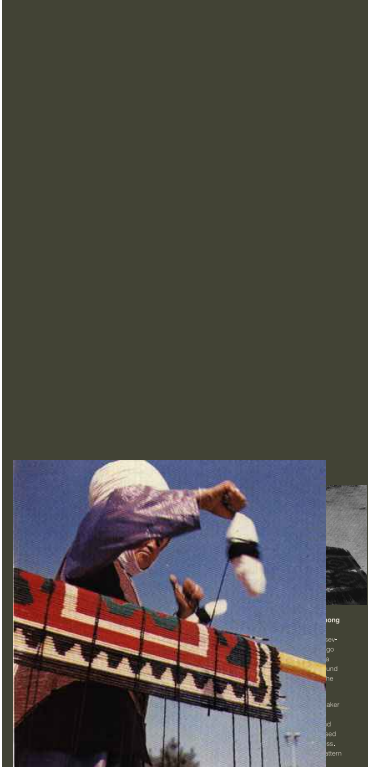


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Reeds & Wool panel layout  
scale: 1" = 1'



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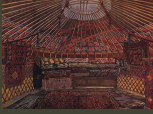


Making reed screens is a Kyrgyz women's art. Girls and young women learn the craft from their mothers and grandmothers by helping them. Whipping reeds with wool is often a winter activity. A woolen lining patterned screen takes two to three months to create.

Patterned screens are a traditional wedding gift among the Kyrgyz. Screens are also traded by northern Kyrgyz to Kyrgyz people further south, where screen making is less developed.



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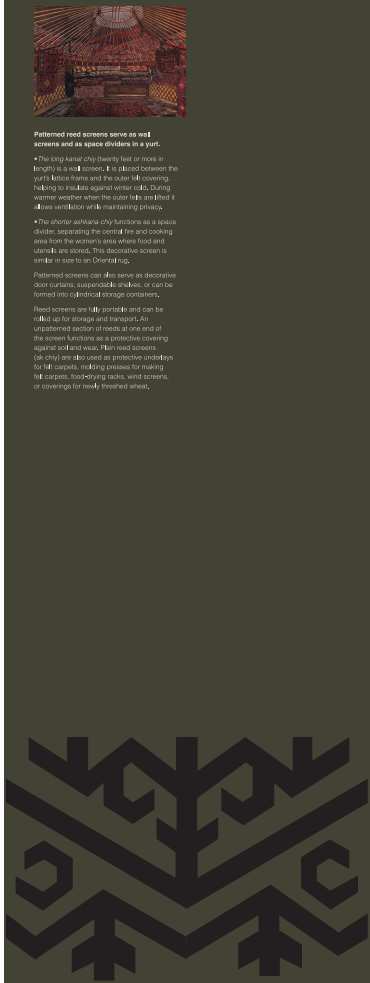


Patterned reed screens serve as wall screens and as space dividers in a yurt.

- The long *kanat chy* (twenty feet or more in length) is a wall screen. It is placed between the yurt's interior rooms and is used for covering, helping to insulate against winter drafts. During warmer weather when the door flaps are flung it allows ventilation while maintaining privacy.
- The shorter *sashkara chy* functions as a space divider, separating the central fire and cooking area from the women's area where food and utensils are stored. This decorative screen is used in its use to an Oriental rug.

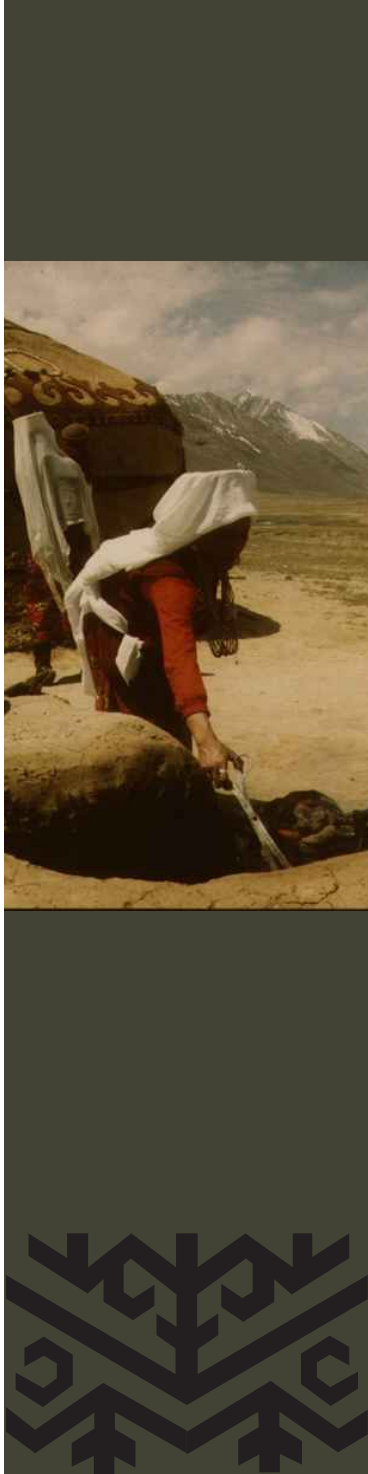
Patterned screens can also serve as decorative door curtains, suspendable shelves, or can be formed into cylindrical storage containers.

Reed screens are lightweight and can be rolled up for storage and transport. An unpatterned section of reeds at one end of the screen functions as a protective covering against soil and wear. Flat reed screens (or chy) are also used as protective underlays for felt carpets, including presses for making felt carpets, footstooling racks, and screens, or coverings for newly finished wool.

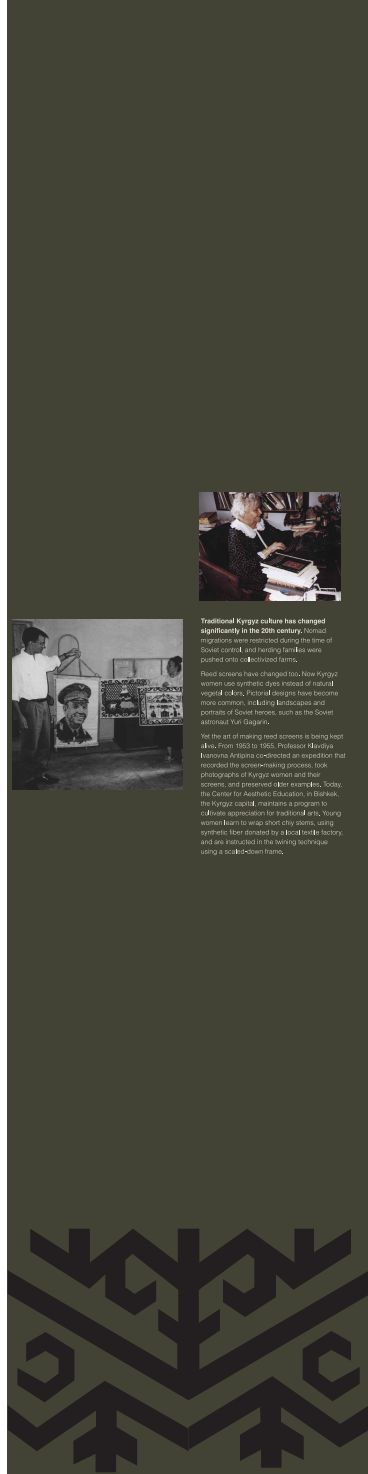


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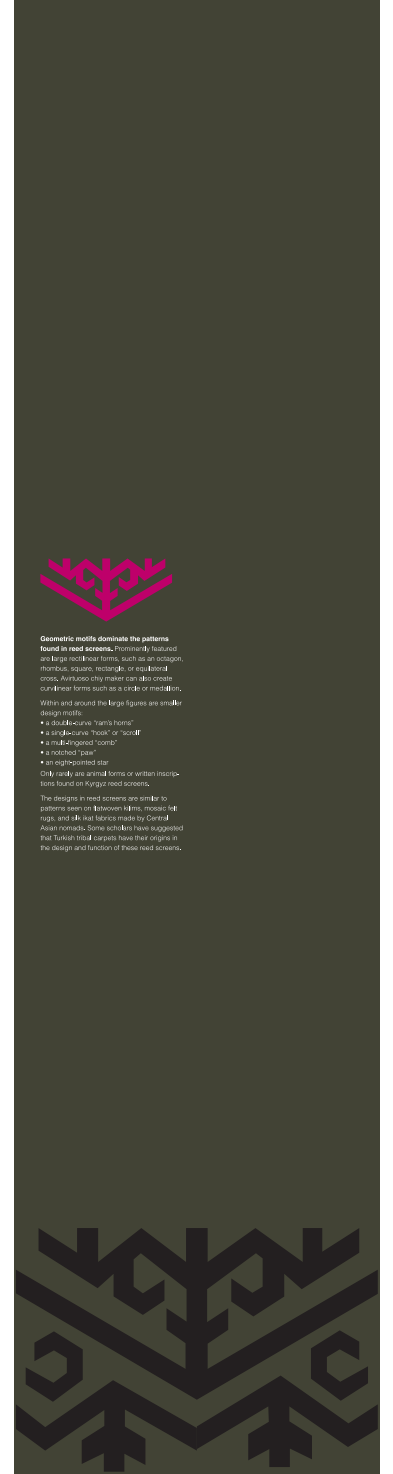
Reeds & Wool panel layout  
scale: 1" = 1'



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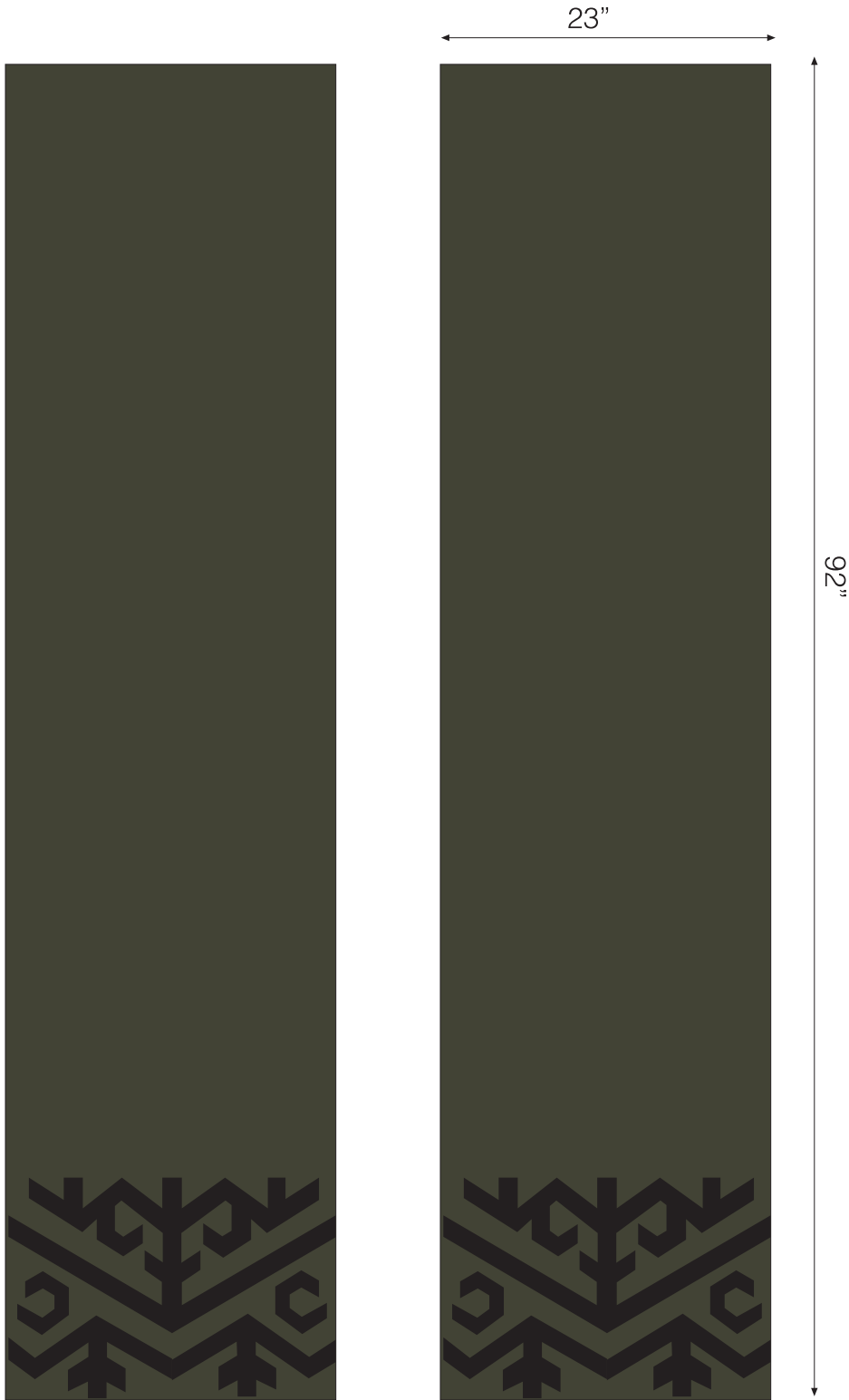


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12

Reeds & Wool panel layout  
scale: 1" = 1'



Five blank end panels

Reeds & Wool panel layout  
scale: 1" = 1'