

Architectural Features & Ornamentation Glossary



This illustrated glossary of traditional Maldivian architectural features and ornamentation has been prepared by the Maldives Heritage Survey Team. Our work aims to systematically inventory and document endangered tangible cultural heritage in the Maldives – including mosques, Muslim grave markers, the remains of Buddhist stupas, and other historical structures and physical objects – through digital photography, 3D scanning, and GIS to create an open-access online heritage database. The materials documented through this work are critically endangered, facing both natural and human threats that jeopardize the survival and accessibility of historical information for this vital node in pre-modern global economic and religious networks. The project, based at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, is led by R. Michael Feener and funded by Arcadia. Work in country is done in partnership with the Maldives Department of Heritage, with additional support from the Earth Observatory of Singapore.

This document provides references for some of the most significant forms, features and ornamental designs found in pre-Islamic ritual sites, old mosques, mausolea, and cemeteries as well as in vernacular domestic architecture. It is intended as a research tool for scholars and students interested in the material culture and built heritage of the islands, and particularly as a resource to be used when working with the records made available through the MHS Project Database.

We would like to thank Mariyam Isha Azeez for her work on compiling these materials, as well as Mauroof Jameel and Muhammad Kamal for their expert contributions and advice.

Pronunciation Key:

Dhivehi (ދިވެހި Divehi), the official language of the Maldives, has several dialects. The terminologies used in this glossary are the most common ones amongst the people of different atolls.

a - as in up

aa - as in arm

i - as in if

ee - as in eel

u - as in put

oo - as in cartoon

e - as in egg

e' - as in hey

o - as in of

oa - as in born

A_{an'ga}

اَنسَرِي



Openings made in walls for air circulation and ventilation; these come in different shapes (circular or rectangular shape is the most common type).

Adharaadha Gon'di

اَدْرَااَدْهَا
غوندي



Wooden chair (with or without armrest; often with turned timber legs) used for everyday household seating purposes.

Ahkkan Valhu

اَهْكْكَانْ
فَالْهُ



Octagonal well; commonly built with flat coral-stone slabs, constructed using tongue and groove system (and without mortar or adhesive).

Akiri

اَكِيرِي



Small, naturally broken pieces of coral, used as a flooring material for courtyards and open spaces in house compounds.

Alamaari

اَلَامَاارِي



A free-standing wardrobe or large cupboard.

Alhi Un'dhun

اَلْهِي اُونْدُونْ



Locally made hearth dug on the ground of a kitchen "**badhige**". Just before the month of Ramadan, a layer of fresh leftover ash is applied over the exterior surface and left to harden in order to make it stronger. Above the hearth is "**dhumashi**" where heat from the hearth is used to dry fish etc.

Arabi Liyun

اَرَابِي لِيُونْ



Arabic calligraphy ornamenting architectural features, gravestones, and other objects.

Anhen Mahaana
Gaa

اَنْهَنْ مَاهَاَنَا
غَاا



Grave stone, of which the summit (boa) takes the shape of a rounded arch, traditionally marking a female Muslim burial.

Avahaara Gon'di

اَوَاهَاَارَا غُونْدِي



A wooden chair used as a toilet by sick or elderly people as well as by pregnant women and those recovering from childbirth.

Baalees Kaali

بَاالِيَسْ كَالِي



Pillow shelf; a wooden shelf made from dry timber wood and hung from the roof with rope; used as a shelf to store extra pillows.

Badhige
 بَدْحِیْجِی



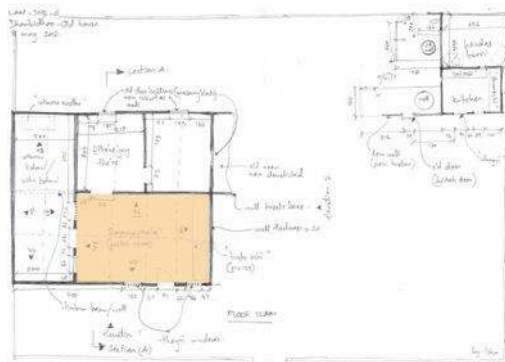
Kitchen used for cooking purposes; often found as a separate building away from the main house building. Building materials vary from palm frond thatch or coral rubble walls, corrugated iron roofing sheets or coconut thatch roofing. Smoke is extracted through small openings on walls.

Ban'daha Ge'
 بَنْدَاہَا جِی



Simple hut made from local timber and coconut thatch, often found as a separate building in the backyard of a house.

Beyru Ge'
 بَیْرُ جِی



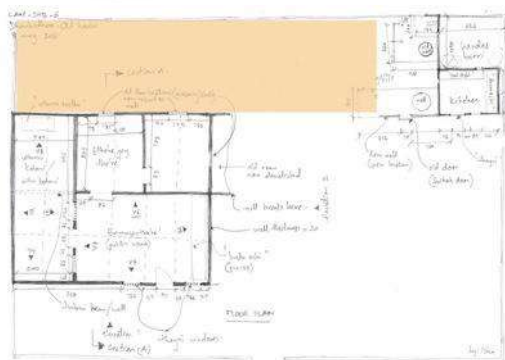
The first or outer public room space of a dwelling where visitors are received and entertained; most commonly used as the dining and sleeping space for men, children and guests.

Beys Foshi
 بَیْس فُوشِی



Wooden medicine box used by traditional healers (**hakeem**). Generally containing substances including frankincense, deer horn, ambergris, nuts, black and red coral, as well as medicinal gums and resins.

Bihdhohfaraaiy
 بَیْذُوحْفَارَايِی



Backyard of a house, where buildings including open air toilets (**gifili**), kitchen, granary or store house (**ban'daha ge**) are located are located. This space is also sometimes utilized to plant fruits or vegetable trees.

Billoori Loova

بیلوری لُووا



Glass panels (clear or frosted); used as louvers on windows or fanlights.

Bisthaana

بِسْتِهَاَنَا



Low built wall around grave(s) to mark a boundary. These were traditionally constructed of coral-stone and finished with lime-mortar (modern versions made of cement). Most commonly built in rectangular and oval shapes.

Bodu Ashi

بُودُ أَشِي



'Literally meaning 'Big platform'; it is a long, wide wooden bench like platform used for seating, eating, or sleeping purposes (mainly by men). It is found in the first or outer public room "**beyru ge**" of the house, and runs lengthwise from wall to wall.

Boli

بُولِي



Sea-shells, in particular the cowrie shell (*cypraea moneta*) used as commodity and currency traded across the Indian Ocean until the twentieth century.

Budhu

بُذْهُ



A term generally used to refer to statues or other figural images associated with pre-Islamic traditions in the Maldives.

Dhaala
ދަލާ



Veranda surrounding up to three sides of the prayer hall in traditional Maldivian mosques.

Dhaala Filaa
ދަލާ ފިލާ



Flat wooden planks on either side of the entrance steps inside a **dhaala**. Usually made of sturdy timber and finished with a transparent lacquer wash. This space is used by men for seating before or after prayers, often while carrying out conversations.

Dhaani
ދާނީ



A thin metal container attached to a pole; used for drawing water from wells. Old and rare "**dhaani**" are made from dried and hollowed sea-coconut shells and timber poles.

Dhagan'du Tinu
ދަގަނުދު ތިނު



Corrugated iron sheets used as a common roofing material since the 1980s, even on renovated older structures.

Dharuge'
ދަހަރުގަ



A small hut built to store wood for any household need.

Dharu Un'dhun

دھارو اُن دھن



A woodfire stove dug on the ground.

Dhagan'du Theyri

Kudadhoru

دھگن دھو تھیری



Window with iron or any metal baluster; often found in residential buildings, but sometimes in mosques and other structures as well.

Dhan'di Baththi

دھن دھو باٹھی



Tall free standing, portable oil lamp; made from copper or brass, or any other metal.

Dhigu Gon'di

دھگو گون دھو



Long bench like seat/chair used for everyday seating purposes. Found commonly at the entrance portico (**fenda**) of old houses.

Dhigu Kani

دھگو کانی



Vertical posts fixed on both sides of a mosque's entrance doo

Dhimaa En'dhu

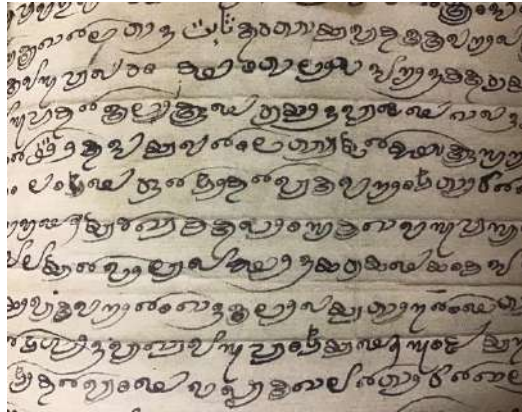
ދިމާ ޢަންދު



Special bed (usually a **roanu furi en'dhu**), sometimes placed near the wall on a side of the main entrance door

Dhives Akuru

ދިވެހި ޤިސްމު



Dhives Akuru is a syllabic script used to write the Dhivehi language from the twelfth to the seventeenth century, when it was largely displaced by the Thaana script. Dhives Akuru was, however, used for some purposes in the Southern atolls up until 1940's.

Dholan'gu

ދޮލަން ގު



Large, flat circular metal plate used for drying food in the sun, mixing food, cleaning rice before cooking, etc.

Dhon veli

ދޮން ވެލި



Fine white sand used as a flooring material for courtyards and open spaces, generally for exteriors, but sometimes for interiors as well. The same sand is mixed and used during the construction of buildings.

Dhoru

ދޮރު



Door

Dhoru Kure'hun

ٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲ



Motif of a small carved door, resembling entrance doors of old mosques. The motif includes an arched door, with columns on sides and a hanging key with a chain. This motif is often found carved on both exterior and interior coral stone walls, and as well as on **Laage** ornamentation.



Dhufaa Foshi

ٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲ



'Betel box' with compartments or containers for areca nuts, betel leaf, cloves, slaked lime, cardamom, cinnamon stick, tobacco leaves etc; often offered as a welcome to guests and presented after meals.

Dhumashi

ٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲ



Wooden trellis platform above the kitchen hearth to dry and/or smoke fish etc.

Dhundhan'di

ٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲ



Incense sticks; commonly used during religious ceremonies or in households during mawlid celebrations and Qur'an recitation. They were also often used at mausoleua (**ziyaara**) on religious occasions and other auspicious days.

Dhundhan'di
Jahaa Ethi
ፌረድ ስራ ስራ ስራ



Incense (**dhundhan'di**) holder, made in different forms and of various materials, formerly used at mausolea (**ziyaaraaiyy**) to burn incense for ritual purposes.

Dhunholhi
ፌረድ ስራ



Chimney; commonly built with rubble coral stone, and covered by a roof. Openings "aan'ga" are cut on the sides of the walls to vent out the smoke.

Dhunkiba
ፌረድ ስራ



A brazier used during religious ceremonies at mausolea (**ziyaaraaiyy**) to burn fragrant substances such as frankincense, ambgris, musk etc.

E
etu Furaalhu
ፌረድ ስራ



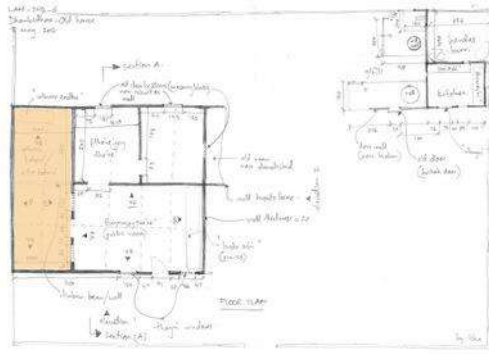
Terracotta tiled roof. **Eetu** terra cotta tiles were used for roofing purposes until corrugated iron sheets were introduced, starting in the 1980s.

Elhi Gaa
ፌረድ ስራ



Cement or concrete blocks used for common masonry work. These have replaced the coral-rubble used for many types of construction in earlier centuries.

Ethere Ge'
އެތަރެ ޖީ



Inner private room - space/room where the head lady of the house sleeps with younger children of the house.

Eveyllaa Akuru
އެވޭލްލާ އަކުރު

Awaiting image

'Ancient letters' used as the earliest known script for writing the Dhivehi language.

Fahaa Foshi
ފަހާ ފޮޞްޕި



Sewing machine

Fahjehi En'dhu
ފަހްޖީ އަންދު



Foldable bed of stretched fabric fixed onto a simple wooden frame.

Fangi
ފަންގީ



Dry coconut thatch woven together with coir rope; used for simple walls, partitions and roofing.

Fanthoshi
 فانتوشي



Dry cocunut thatch; used for weaving breathable walls.

Fe'ndaa
 فانداء



Covered portico where visitors are received and entertained. A common feature of this space is a swing seat at one end.

Fenlaitu
 فنلايتو



Fanlight.

Feyraa
 فيراا



Household tool used for removing husk from dry coconuts.

Firihen Mahaana
 gaa
 فريهن ماهانا
 गा



Fiyan Haru
فیان هارو



Wooden pole fixed to the kitchen wall, to store locally made pot-lids called "**fiyan**".

Foiyy Foshi
Bahatta Haru
فوی فوشی
باهاتا هارو



Coral stone brackets built into a mosque wall to support a shelf for the **foiyy foshi**. This provides elevation as a mark of respect for the religious texts stored inside.

Foiyy Gon'di
فوی گوندی



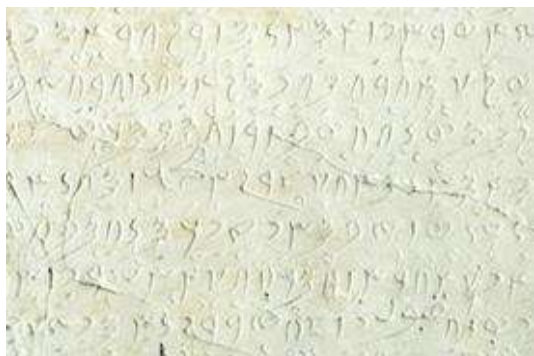
Small wooden foldable book holder used to hold copies of the Qur'an during recitation.

Fulhi Baththi
فولہ باتھی



Oil lamp made from empty glass bottles or jars, with a simple wick inside.

G_{abulhi}
Thaana
ٹھانا



An older variation of the modern **Thaana Akuru** script; sometimes used on Muslim gravestones.

Gaburusthaanu
گَبُورُوسْثَاانُو



Muslim cemetery, often traditionally located around mosque compounds.

Gathaa Fai
گَاثَا فَاي



Round, stuffed fabric ball on a wooden stand upon which threads are laid to weave kasabu embroidery on traditional dresses.

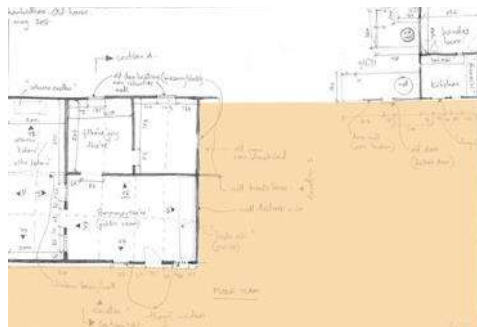
Photo Credit: Binthu Ahmed

Gifili
گِفِيلِي



Semi enclosed area open to the sky with a well as its central component. This space is also sometimes used to plant small house gardens.

Goathi The're'
گَاثِي تِهَرِي'



Courtyard or the open space at the front of a dwelling.

Gobu
گوبُو



A small door knob fixed onto the panel of old timber doors.

Gohh Kurehun
چو لاکر دس



Interlacing looped, knotted braid pattern, commonly found carved in coral or wood, or executed in lacquerwork on walls and door frames, as well as on gravemarkers.



Golhi Kurehun
چو لاکر دس



Linear quadrilateral motif, found patterned as carvings in both wood and coralstone.



H_{an'dasburi}
 رَسْرَسْدَسْبُرِي



Open area with deep organic soil, commonly found within the boundary of **gifili** where holes are dug with an iron rod and used to dispose of night soil. Home gardens of fruit and vegetable trees are planted in this area, which are used for domestic consumption.

Harimma Faaru
 رَحْرِمْمَا فَاارُو



A low, narrow wall demarcating a ritual boundary between some mosque buildings and the surrounding cemetery.

Hathareskan
 Valhu
 رَحْثَارَسْكَانْ
 وَالْهُ



A square shaped well, constructed with coralstone, cement, or concrete.

Haviththa
 رَوَيْثْثَا



Artificial mounds of coral stone and/or sand associated with pre-Islamic ritual sites.

Hirigaa
 رِيْرِيْغَا



Coral stone

Hirigaa Valhu

هیرگی‌والو



A well framed with coral stone slabs.

Hirigalu Vadaan

هیرگی‌وادان



Stone carpentry and intricate carvings done on coral stone. Floral, knot patterns, geometric interlaced arabesques, and other ornamental motifs are often employed.

Hinavaa Ge'

هیناوا گه'



Small building within a Muslim cemetery used for burial rituals.

Honassaagaa

هوناساگه



A flat monolith placed on the ground, before the first step of the entrance stairs leading into old mosques. Sometimes this 'stone' is connected to a path of stepping stones (**madi**) leading from a well for ablutions.

Holhuashi

هول‌هواشی



A large roofed platform made of coconut trunks or other material. These are often found near beach areas or other open public spaces where people congregate.

Hunigon'di
هڻيگون ڊي

Awaiting Image

A low stool fitted with a fixed blade on one end that is used for coconut grating.

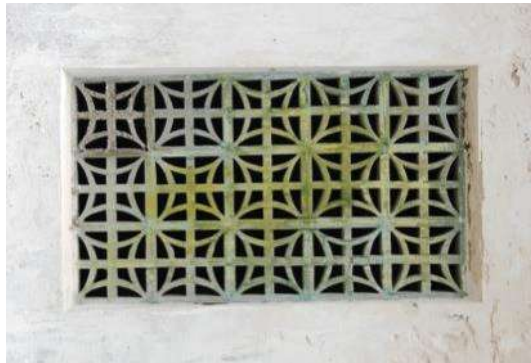
Iloshi Fathi
ايلوشي فاضي



Broom made from bundled stems of coconut palm fronds (**eekele**).

Photo Credit: M. Niyaf

Jaaali
جالي



Lattice work used in wall openings for ventilation and air circulation, as well as for ornamentation.

Jeli Thuluth
جلي ثولوث



A variant of Arabic thuluth script, commonly found in the calligraphic ornamentation of old mosques, as well as on gravestone carvings.

Joali
جوالي



Locally crafted recliner on a wooden or metal frame for a low, coir rope sitting hammock. This often comes in a set of adjacent seats.

Kaadu Foshi
ކާދު ފޮޝި



Large wooden box used to store rice, sugar, flour, coconuts and other staple food.

Kaage
ކާޖެ



Dining space - often in the **thalhan mathi** of a traditional house.

Kahaa Dhoru
ކާޙާ ދޯރު



A sliding door, normally designed with thick fixed frames and solid wooden door panels that slide from side to side.

Kasabu
ކާސަބު



Elaborately woven embroidery works on traditional Maldivian dresses and other textiles using colourful silk, cotton and metallic threads.

Kashi Veli
ކާޝި ވެލި



Coarse grained white sand, often used to cover the ground in yards.

Koshaaru
ڪوشارو



Granary where dry staples are stored. It is made of timber walls and floors, coconut thatch roofing. The structure is mounted on large coral blocks raised from the ground.

Kotari
ڪوٽاري



Room in a domestic structure.

Kuda Ashi
ڪڍا اشي



A small wooden bench-like platform used for seating, eating, and sometimes sleeping. This piece of furniture is often found in the public area of the house (beyruge).

Kuda Dhoru
ڪڍا ڌورو



Window

Bismi
بسمي



Ornamental roundel of the basmallah found carved into the coral stone of some old mosque walls and Muslim grave stones.

Kukulhu Ahi Kolhu
 ڪڪلھو اھي ڪولھو



Gable end of a house. Often this comes with openings "aan'ga" for circulation and ventilation of air inside the building.

Kuriboashi
 ڪوريبواشي



Metal ornament fixed onto the tip of a mosque or mausoleum (**ziyaaraaiyy**) roof ridge, as well as on flag poles.

Laafen kurun
 لاافن ڪورن



Woodwork covered with red and black lacquer work; featuring as ornamental roof beams and other features in mosques, as well as on traditional handicrafts.

Laage'
 لااچي



An elaborate coffered ceiling found above the central prayer hall of a traditional Maldivian mosque, often decorated with lacquer work.

Lakudi Theyri
 ڪاڊي ٽھري
 ڪوڊاڊھوري



Balustered windows; found both in residential and mosque buildings.

Liyaa Filaa
 لِيَاا فِلَاا



Flat wooden boards fixed onto the interior and exterior walls of mosques. These are decorated with lacquer work calligraphy and ornamental patterns.

Liye laa jehun
 لِيَا لَآ جَهُون



Turned timber craftsmanship.

Loa Fothi
 لَوَا فَوْتِي



Metal plates fixed on the front face of grave stones, bearing inscriptions.

Maa Kurehun
 مَآ كُرَهُون



Surface decorations of floral, vine, tendril or leaf motifs; either carved, embossed or executed in lacquer work.



Maaloodhu Fothi
 ٢٢٢٢٢٢



Fabric banners embroidered with colored silk thread and ornamented with Arabic calligraphy that were hung around **Maaloodhu haruge** on ritual occasions.



Maaloodhu
 Haruge
 ٢٢٢٢٢٢



A temporary wooden building set up for religious observances involving the ritual recitation of religious texts including **zikr** and **maaloodhu**. These buildings are open on all sides (covered with decorated banners) and can be assembled and disassembled as needed.

Madi (valhu madi)
 ٢٢٢٢



Floor base paved around a well which connects to the stepping stones or pathway leading to the **hoanassa gaa** and the entrance steps of a mosque.

Magaamfulhu
 ٢٢٢٢



The ritual 'abode' of a Muslim saint. These small chambers are generally unfurnished, but sometimes house a large scale used to weigh offerings (**nadr**), often in the form of coconuts.

Mahaana Gaa
دَڙَسَرِي



Muslim grave stones.

Mai Dhoroshi
دَڙَسَرِي



Main entrance door into a traditional house.

Makudi
دَڙَسَرِي



Piece of wood nailed to a door frame and used as a latch lock.

Malaafaiyy
دَڙَسَرِي



A large, round wooden container, turned and hollowed, and finished in coloured lacquer work patterned into concentric circles. This container is used for storing plates, betel sets, and food offerings.

Mas Gon'di
دَڙَسَرِي



A small wooden bench with legs, used for cutting fish.

Mathaaranfilaa

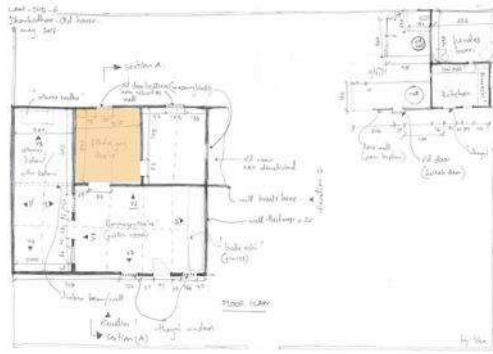
دَوَّخَرِ سَرِخَرِ



A wooden shelf or large wooden plank fixed and hung from the wall or roof beam to store household items.

Medhuge' The're'

دَوَّخَرِ سَرِخَرِ



Center space of a house; often used as a living area.

Mihrab

دَوَّخَرِ سَرِخَرِ



A niche in the wall of a mosque in the direction of Mecca, indicating the qibla orientation for prayer.

Mihrab Filaa

دَوَّخَرِ سَرِخَرِ



An intricately decorated wooden panel fixed to the **mihrab** wall of a mosque.

Mimbar

دَوَّخَرِ سَرِخَرِ



Pulpit in a mosque where the imam stands to deliver the sermon (**khuthubaa**) during Friday congregational prayers.

Miskithu B'eri

މިސްކިތު ބަރީ



Roof beams of a mosque, often decorated with Arabic calligraphy executed in red and black lacquer work .

Miskithu Jaali

މިސްކިތު ޖާލީ



Timber lattice window of crisscrossing diagonal design, found in some traditional Maldivian mosques.

Miskithu Than'bu

މިސްކިތު ތަންބު



Interior columns of a mosque, often made from turned timber and finished with lacquer. The bases of these columns are often made of coral stone.

Miskithu Dhoru

މިސްކިތު ދޯރު



Entrance door of a mosque with two heavy wooden panels sliding to either side on the interior, and with fine intricate carvings on the exterior side of door frame. Often ornamented in with **Goh Kure'hun**.

Miskiyy

މިސްކިތު



Mosque.

Miskiyy Foshi
މިސްކިއް ފޮޝި



Ornamented wooden box used to store copies of the Qur'an and other religious texts inside a mosque.

Mulhoashi
މުލްޙާޞި



A basket woven with dry coconut palm fronds, used for carrying things, throwing trash, etc.

Munnaaru
މުނުނާރު



A minaret. Minarets of different shapes and heights can be found at a relatively small number of old mosque sites in the Maldives.

Nala Filaa
ނަލާ ފިލާ



Horizontal frieze suspended from the outer edge of roof eaves.

O
dihanu
އިދިހަނު



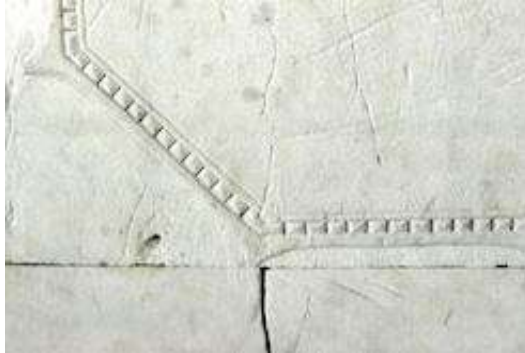
A stone vessel used for grinding traditional medicinal ingredients or sandalwood for cosmetics purposes.

Odi Haruge'
اڊي هارُجِي'

Awaiting Image

A large, roofed building generally built near beaches; commonly constructed using timber and with thatched roofing. Generally used for boat building purposes and to ground vessels for maintenance and repair.

Omaan Hiri
اوماان هيري



A smooth-grained type of porite coral stone; commonly used as cut blocks to build old mosques' walls.

Onu Hiri
اونو هيري



A coarse-grained type of porite coral stone.

Raa Badhi
راا بادھی



Toddy container; made from two fitted coconut shells lashed together with fine coir rope; used to collect and store coconut palm sap.

Image Credit: The Japanese National Museum of Ethnography

Roanu
روانو



Coir rope made from the husk of tender coconuts, buried in a swamp or shallow lagoon water for several months before being taken out and dried, then hand spun into strands of rope.

Roanu Kurehun
 مَرَسَرَا مَرَسَرَا



Braided pattern running as a border/frame around ornamental panels (highlighted in yellow).

Roanufuri En'dhu
 مَرَسَرَا مَرَسَرَا



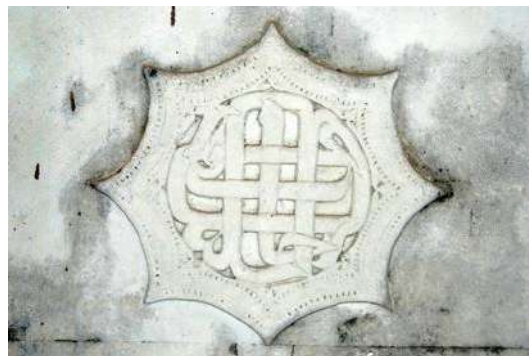
Timber frame bed with woven coir rope (Roanu). Commonly used as a dhimaa en'dhu.

Sandhoah Filaa
 مَرَسَرَا مَرَسَرَا

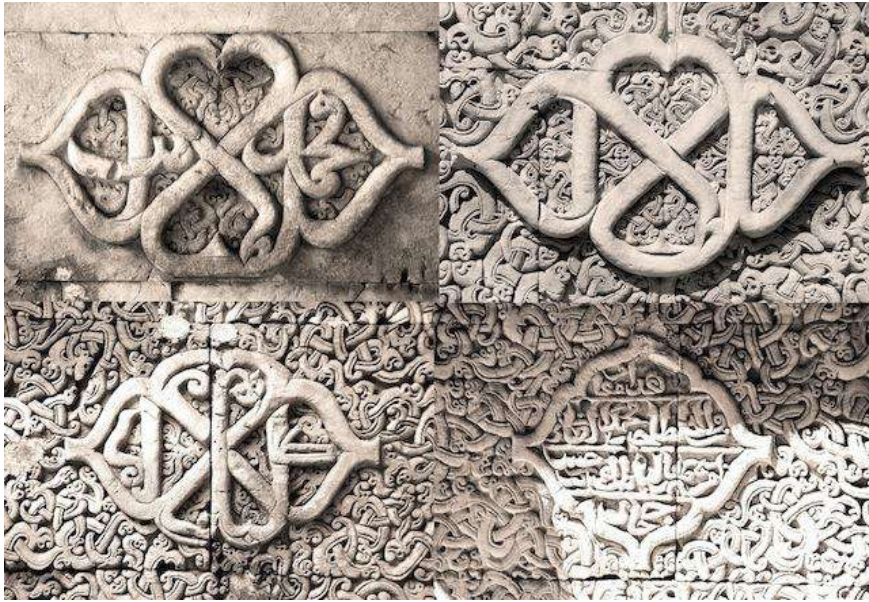


Large wooden planks (usually coconut timber) stored above the roof beams of a house, and used for the construction of the head of the household's coffin upon his death.

Sikka
 مَرَسَرَا



Carved seals found on the walls (generally on the eastern side) of old mosques and mausolea (ziyaaraiyy) bearing the name of the ruler who constructed the building, or was buried there.



Simenthi Ashi

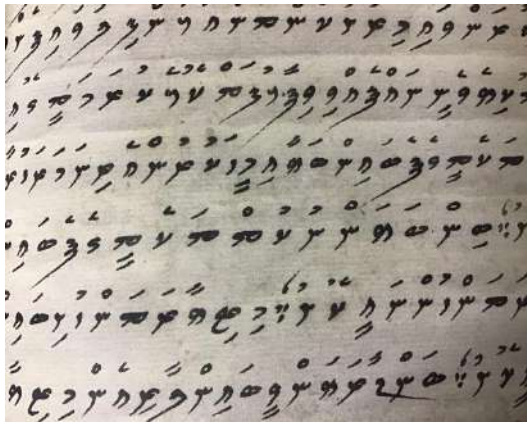
ސިމަންތީ އަޞްހީ



Low cement platform open to the public space at the front of a house, shop, or tea stall.

Thaana Akuru

ތާނާ އަކުރު



A script for writing the Dhivehi language, developed in the seventeenth century, and commonly used today.

Thalhan Mathi

ތާލްޙަން މަތީ



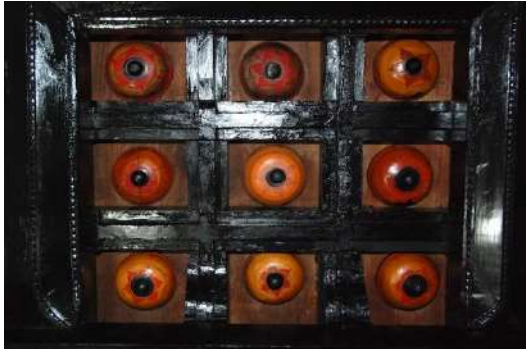
Open veranda (**fenda**) at the back of the house; commonly used by ladies for dining purposes and household chores such as preparing meals.

Thanndu
ٲٲٲٲ



A small piece of metal fastened onto a door as a latch/lock.

Thashi Falhi
ٲٲٲٲ



Round circular cups fixed into coffered ceilings and other ornamental features that serve to cover and enclose the wooden pegs used for construction.

Thashi Kaali
ٲٲٲٲ



Simple plate rack made from dry wood and rope, hung from the wall in a traditional kitchen.

Thelhigaa Faaru
ٲٲٲٲ



Wall built of chipped rubble coral stone with lime mortar as an adhesive. During modern times cement is also commonly used.

Thin'bi
ٲٲٲٲ



Roof ridge.

Thona

ਥੋਨਾ



Short, turned timber wooden posts between the beams and ceiling of a prayer hall in a traditional Maldivian mosque; typically decorated with red and black lacquer.

Thoshali

ਥੋਸ਼ਲੀ



A thin covering of woven coconut leaves, used commonly as walls for more temporary buildings such as **ban'daha ge**.

Thun'du Kunaa

ਥੁਨ੍ਹਦੁ ਕੁਨਾ



Mats woven from natural fibres and coloured with natural dyes.



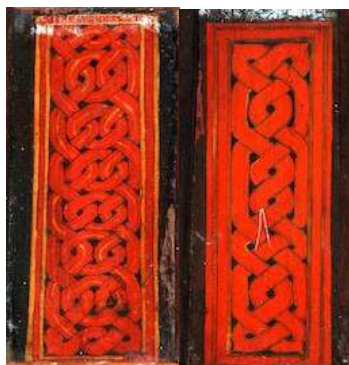
Tinu Furaalhu

ਟਿਨੂ ਫੁਰਾਲ਼ੁ



Corrugated metal roofing.

U
lhaali
Kure'hun
اڻوڙو لھاڻو



Interlacing looped, knotted pattern ornament found in lacquer work, as well as in wood and coral stone carving.



Un'dhoali
اڻوڙو



A swinging bed made of wood, suspended by ropes and commonly covered with large woven mats (**thun'du kunaa**).

Un'dhoalige
اڻوڙو گھر



A small hut to shelter an **un'dhoali**.

Un'dhoali Joali
اُنْدُوَالِي جُولِي



Swinging **joali** hung from trees; commonly found in open, public spaces.

Uthuru En'dhu
اُوْتُوْرُوْ اَنْدُوْ



A special bed facing north; inside the **ethe're' ge'** and used by the head lady of the house. It is used by her during labour, and it is where the younger children of the house sleep as well.

Uva Faaru
اُوْوَ فَاَرُوْ



Sandy soil mixed with slaked lime that is applied to surfaces as a plaster.

V_{aguthu gaa}
وَآْغُوْثُوْ غَا



Sun dial; several types can be found across the atolls, all of which include a gnomon and a dial plate.

Vahh Valhu
وَآْهْ وَآْلُوْ



Circular well.

Vaki Kure'hun

وَاكِي كُرْهُونْ



Claw-like ornamental motif found on walls and stair risers of old mosques, mausolea (**ziyaaraiyy**), and grave stones.

Valhu Dhohh

وَالْهُ دُوهْ



The area within the **gifili** with a well; used for bathing, laundry, cutting fish etc.

Valhu kotari

وَالْهُ كُوتَارِي



Enclosed bathroom with a well area; often adjoining the **ethe're' ge'** or **vihaa kotari**.

Valu Dhoroashi

وَالْهُ دُورَاشِي



A narrow entrance door at the back of the house; used mainly as a service entrance.

Veli gaa

وَلِي غَا



Coral sandstone.

Vevu
 ڤڤو



Bathing tank; round or square in shape with recessed steps inside; constructed with large blocks of cut coral stone. The entrance is sometimes marked by large slabs of stones.

Veyo Kurehun
 ڤڤو ڪورهون



Surface decorations of vine tendril or leafy motifs; often found in the background decoration of calligraphic panels.



Vihaa kotari
 ڤڤو ڪوٽاري



Room with a sand floor for labour and confinement.

Vohkolhu
 ڤڤو ڪولھو



Hanging oil lamp made from brass or copper; lit inside or near the **mihrab** of some older mosques. Some lamps hold three, five, or more wicks.

Ziyaaraiyy

حجّہ کریم



Mausoleum; ritual site marking the resting place of a Muslim saint. Until the mid-twentieth century, **ziyaaraiyy** were the site of regular ritual observances across the Maldives.

Ziyaaraiyy Dhan'di

حجّہ کریم دھن'دی



Tall flag poles found within **ziyaaraiyy** compounds that flew white flags.

Photographs by: Mariyam Isha'a Azeez & Ibrahim Mujah, Maldives Heritage Survey

Other Sources (with permission)

https://www.pikview.com/media/7w258TS_O7 Mariyam Niyaaf (image of Iloshifathi)

http://picbear.xyz/media/1365219808123084781_1584443531 - Binthu_Ahmed (image of Gathaafai)