

SYMMETRIC GALLERY

SYMMETRY IN FIJIAN MATS

Mats are functional utilities in which all the production and processing of the raw material, panadanus, are exclusively carried out by women. Mat designs are always in black and white - brown is normally not used.

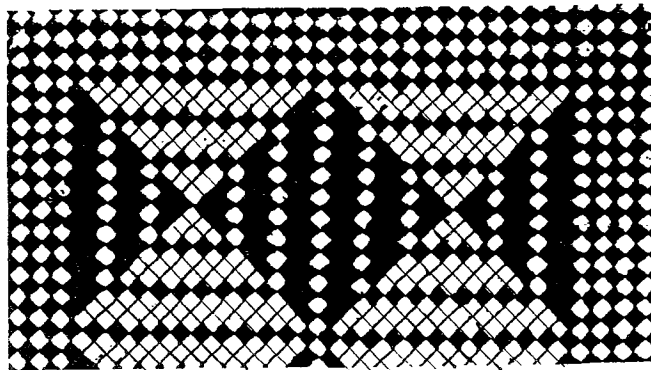
Young women learn existing designs by observation and by 'trial-and-error' to achieve quality weaves and designs. Special designs particular to a geographic area are seen in other areas when women marry, re-settle, or travel.

Mats are used for floor covering, sleeping, ceremonies, and as items of exchange. Women without mats were traditionally deemed 'poor', and women without mat weaving skills were deemed unsuitable for marriage.

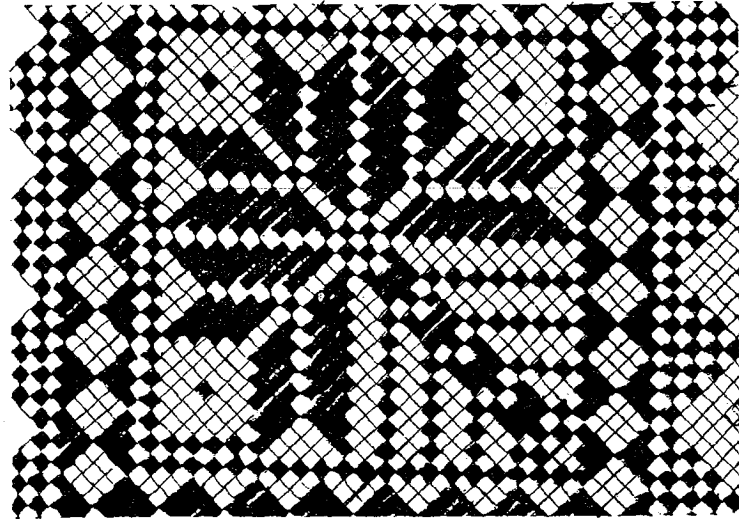
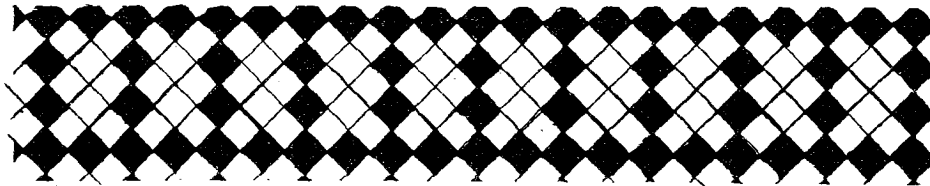
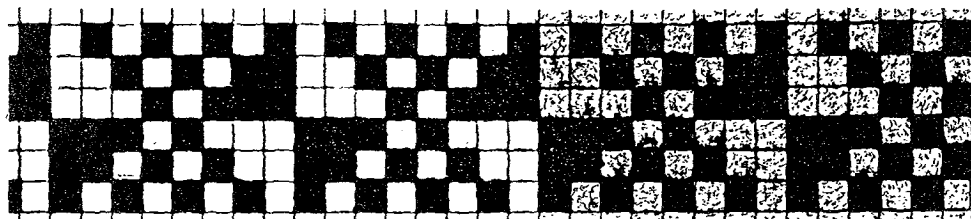
Cema Bolabola
University of the South Pacific,
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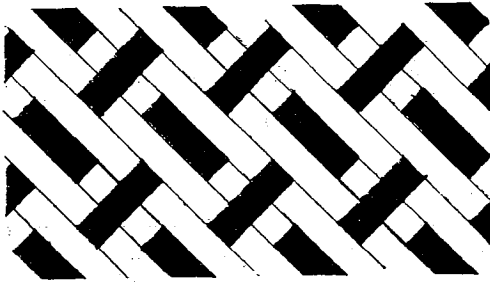
The enclosed here patterns are based on the works of the late Makereta Sotutu. This section is dedicated to her memory. - (Eds.)

The following mat designs with Fijian names and English translations were taken from the book by the USP Fiji Center: *Na ibe vakasomo: E vica na somo mai na vei yasa i Viti*, Suva, Fiji: USP Fiji Centre, 1990, vii + 46 pp.

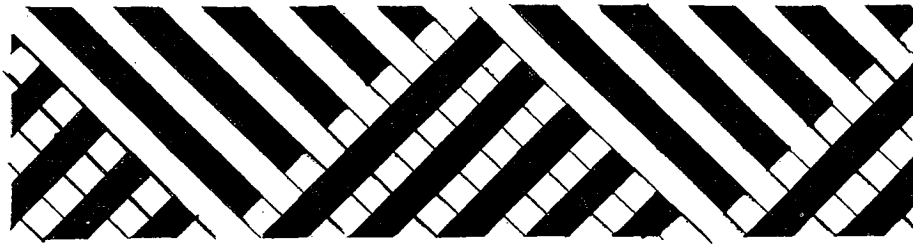


Daimani: Diamond.

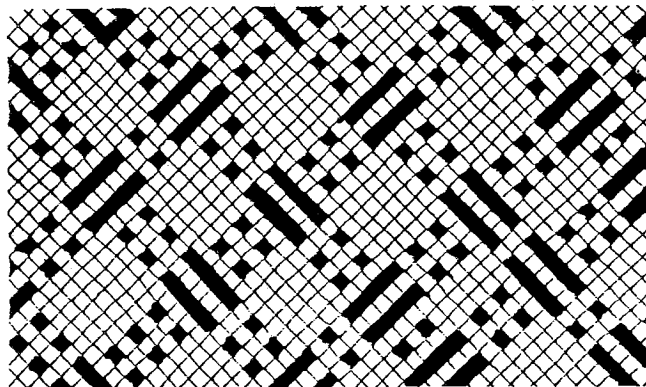
*Drau ni lauci: Leaf.**Kalavo: Rat.**Kuba: Reed.*



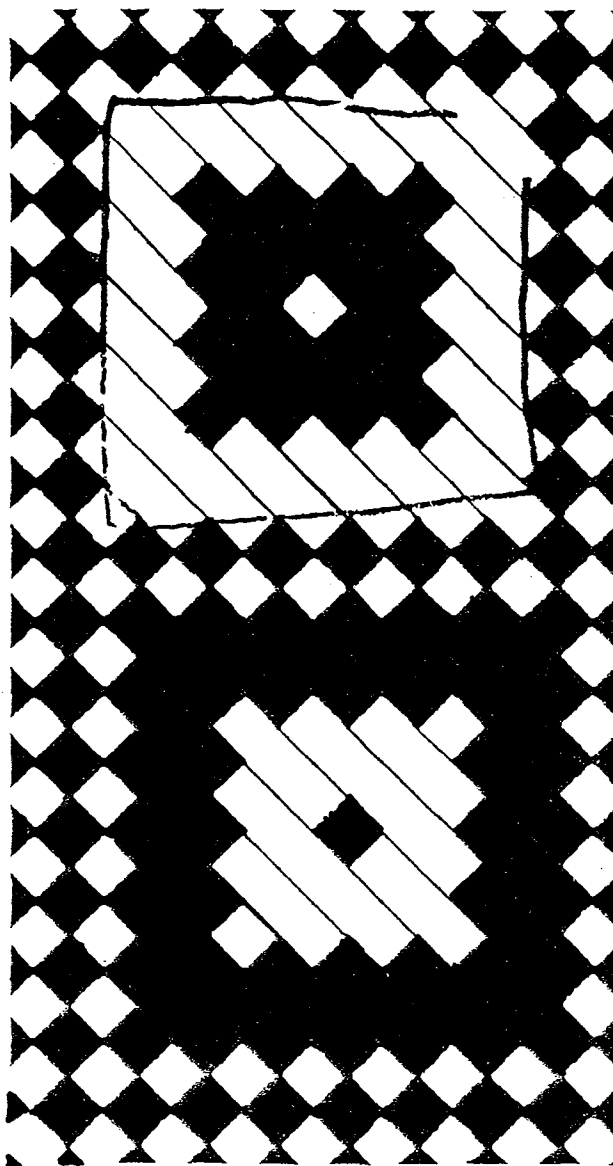
Vakadivilivili.



Vakano: Ono island pattern.



Vulaqeti: Cardigan/blanket.



Waqa-Ni-Iloilo: Reflection.