

Artisans Reinvented: Nine Dot Squares looks inwards for a crafts resurgence

The second edition of Nine Dot Squares—slated to be held in Jaipur this weekend—seeks to act as a bridge between traditional crafts and contemporary design.



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Nine Dot Squares - Jaipur Design Show 2017, 2nd edition, is an interior and architectural trade show comprising workshops, interactive sessions, installations and live demonstrations to be held at Diggi Palace Jaipur

The event has also helped expand the artisan market. For instance, Jaipur-based Manoj Soni, who along with his partner does *tarkeshi* embroidery, inlay work and miniature paintings, used to work with a limited clientele till he participated in the Nine Dot Squares last year. "Now I am working with 10 to 12 architects from Jaipur and Bengaluru. Also, I am getting to use my skills in different contexts, while learning new techniques such as the use of gold leaf on walls," he says.

His sentiments are echoed by Kavita Chaudhary of Jaipur Rugs. "Not many people know that these rugs are handmade, they still think that these are made on the machine. We wanted to break that notion, so we got a loom installed at the show where the weaver demonstrated how he makes knots," she says. This year, her endeavour is to showcase unique and exclusive designs, while also highlighting the craftsmen behind these exquisite creations.