



Tadelakt is a Moroccan render technique. A special lime render is applied and compressed with stones. This results in a compact shiny surface. This lime material is not only used for exterior and interior walls but also for floors, bathtubs, showers, table surfaces and especially in Hammams.

Tadelakt is addictive

The shiny surface of **Tadelakt** exudes a hard to describe fascination, which almost nobody can escape. One is almost compelled to touch the surface. **Tadelakt** produces an earthly, homely ambience. The way the material is applied produces a fascinating slightly wavy, living, naturally shiny surface. The colour tone of **Tadelakt** is not regular like in normal pigmented render, but depends on the application. Where the material is more compressed, a darker colour tone will result. The surface of Tadelakt seems to change in colour tones depending on the lighting conditions.

History

There are no detailed documents about **Tadelakt** available, but oral information in Marrakech gives us the following details:

Tadelakt has been around since the middle ages. In the beginning the technique was used to waterproof cisterns which were used to collect drinking water. Later on it was used in Hammams, oriental baths and in palaces. Traditionally the Berbers who passed on their knowledge from generation to generation applied the **Tadelakt** technique.

Tadelakt comes from the Moroccan verb "dellek" which means to kneed or squash.

The Material

There is a natural deposit of limestone in the area of Marrakech. Due to the geological uniqueness of that area, the lime produced there has a special composition of minerals. With that, nature has given the Moroccan people a material that, when burnt and subsequently "extinguished" with water, results in a high density lime render.

When the lime render is coloured with lime compatible pigments and treated with black soap, these fascinating surfaces are the result. Research has found that this Moroccan lime is highly hydrophobic. With this and the compression technique, the end result is a strong and waterproof surface.

The Moroccan material has naturally occurring quality variations and does not possess necessarily an ideal sieve line. It has to be sieved at the building site and must be tried on a test area before every application. In most Moroccan **Tadelakt** applications we inspected, we discovered fine cracks.

Because burnt hydrophobic lime can only be stored for a limited time and transporting lime over great distances is not economical, a **Tadelakt** product with available raw materials was developed.

NATURAL PAINT Tadelakt is a material that has most of the Moroccan properties, but through optimising the sieve line, the material is easier to smooth out and will not develop cracks.

