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## TADELAKT OVERVIEW

**Kreidezeit Tadelakt** is a Moroccan plaster rendering technique. A special lime plaster is applied and compressed with polished 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 even in Hammams or Turkish Baths.

**Tadelakt is addictive** The shiny surface of **Tadelakt** exudes a particular fascination. **Tadelakt** produces an earthy, homely ambiance and one is compelled to touch the surface. The way the material is applied produces a fascinating slightly wavy, living, naturally shiny surface. The colour tone of **Tadelakt** is not like a uniform 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, Turkish 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 knead 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. Nature has provided the Moroccan people with a local 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 local Moroccan material has many quality variations and does not possess an ideal consistency. 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 new **Tadelakt** product with consistent raw materials has been developed.

**Kreidezeit Tadelakt** is a material that has most of the Moroccan properties, but by optimising the granularity, the material is easier to smooth out and will not develop cracks.

To order Tadelakt or for further information and details about Tadelakt training courses contact:

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