

Gurage Household Implements and Décor

In the absence of manufactured industrial products, Gurage households typically were stocked with practical implements and décor. Strings on pottery were used to hang fired clay pots on the walls, while knives, spoons, and forks were used to meet culinary needs. Shaped metal (mitad) curved pans were used for roasting grains, while clay pitchers were used to boil water for coffee. Three-legged stools (bortchema) were used to seat residents and guests around the floor circular fireplace. Fly whisks were hung on the walls, along with any miscellaneous objects. A sample of these items is illustrated below.



A house might be furnished with woven floor mats, a leather-clad pillow, and hand-held or standing water pipes



Woven baskets served a variety of purposes, including a low-standing table, a grain sifter, table baskets (mesob) for serving grains and coffee, and woven rings for holding clay pots.



Carved wooden items include coffee serving tables, ceremonial wooden shoes, wooden headrests, and wooden hair combs



Flywhisks (tchira) come in a variety of shapes and designs. Each has a loop at the end to hang up the whisk when not in use.



Shaped horn spoons, horn handle knives, machetes, axes, and digging tools, make up the range of household objects to meet everyday needs.



Household pottery include candlestick holders, coffee pots, clay drinking glasses, and assorted bowls for storing and serving food items



View of household pottery items