



Tus Kiyiz Treatments

In Mongolia, Kazak tus kiyiz are hung around the inside walls of yurts, often forming a backdrop for beds and sitting areas. The ragged bottom edge is traditional. It has symbolic importance in Kazak culture. It's also normally hidden from view behind a bed.

In an American house, however, it looks unfinished and many people want to find a way to “complete” the design. The picture above shows a treatment we like. The tus kiyiz owner, an architect, replaced the original red border with a sand-colored quilted fabric available at a local fabric store. The quilt stitching, by happy circumstance, matches the pattern of the original. He turned the tus kiyiz upside-down, and added a broad band across what had been the ragged bottom. It hangs above his hearth and serves the same purpose as in a Kazak ger – to provide a bright splash of color.

Other treatments we've seen include the addition of a black or red band across the ragged side. One owner added nothing, but stretched hers taut in a simple wooden frame.