

Basic Detail Report



Title Polychrome Marble Inlaid Fountain

Date c. 1800-1850

Medium Marble, stone inlay, mother-of-pearl

Description This octagonal, marble fountain was assembled from historic and custom-made marble panels. Like every surface of an affluent Damascene home, the fountain is adorned in intricate patterns of geometric forms and floral motifs. The technique used to create these designs is called opus sectile, or “stone mosaic.” The marble is inlaid with glimmering mother-of-pearl, gilding, and multi-colored stones, a style

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popular in Damascus beginning in the mid-1700s. The fountain occupies the 'ataba — or antechamber — of the Ottoman Gallery at Shangri La, created from architectural elements of a qa'a, or reception hall of a Damascus home. The 'ataba is entered from the courtyard. Residents and visitors would enjoy the bubbling fountain from the adjacent, raised seating area called the tazar.

Dimensions Overall: 22 7/8 x 48 1/2 in. (58.1 x 123.2cm)