

Object Summary



Polychrome Marble Inlaid Floor and Wall Panels

c. 1800

Syria (Damascus)

Ottoman

Marble, stone inlay

Overall: 312 1/8 x 15 in. (792.8 x 38.1cm)

The floor and wall panels of the Ottoman Gallery were created from historical marble panels as well as modern panels custom-made for this space. Created as the “Syrian room” for Shangri La, the floor was created to accompany the acquisition of an interior of an ‘ataba — or reception hall — from Ottoman Damascus, dating to the middle of the 1800s. The elaborate, geometric designs of the marble tiles were created using a technique called opus sectile, or “stone mosaic” in which mother-of-pearl

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is inlaid to marble. Arriving in unmarked boxes, the jigsaw-like pieces were assembled by workmen of Hawai'i - and some of the resulting motifs very closely resemble traditional Hawaiian quilt patterns more than typically Ottoman geometric design.