

Object Summary



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Gilded and Polychrome Painted Carved Wooden Ceiling Cornice

18th - 19th century

Syria

Ottoman

Wood, polychrome pigments

Overall: 72 x 180 in. (182.9 x 457.2cm)

Originally created for another room of Shangri La, these carved wooden brackets now occupy the four corners of the Ottoman gallery. The ceilings of traditional domestic reception halls in Damascus are typically very tall, a feature designed to retain cool air throughout the day. When the former “Damascus Room” (now the Qajar Gallery) was retrofitted into one of Shangri La’s guest rooms in the 1950s, the ceiling was too low to include these ornate elements. They were installed almost 25 years later when Doris Duke installed the former “Syrian Room” (now the Ottoman Gallery) in the late 1970s-80s.