

Object Summary



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Carved Marble Jali (Screen) Window with Floral Motifs

1935-1938

India (Agra and Delhi)

Modern

Marble

Overall: 57 x 30 in. (144.8 x 76.2cm)

This jali, or pierced stone screen, is one of four located in the bathroom of the Mughal Gallery. They have been placed in the windows to filter the light and provide privacy. Their botanical decorations are based on examples from marble dado (lower wall) panels at the Taj Mahal. The flower depicted on this jali may be a narcissus (daffodil). The rooms that today form the Mughal Gallery were originally Doris Duke's private bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. They were referred to as the 'Mughal Suite' because of their architecture and decoration draw inspiration from the monuments of the Mughal dynasty, which ruled from 1526 until 1858 CE in South Asia. The inlaid marble, pierced stone screens and other decorative elements of the Mughal Suite can be compared, for instance, to the decoration of the Taj Mahal, the tomb built

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by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan between 1631 and 1648 CE. Doris Duke would have seen the Taj and other Mughal buildings during her travels in India in 1935. Her version of Mughal architecture was created for her by the workshop of Rai Bahadur Seth Lachhman Das in Agra, India, working to the designs of Francis Barrington Blomfield, a British designer based in Delhi. The carved marble elements arrived and were installed in Hawaii in 1938-39.