

Object Summary



Carved Marble and Parchin Kari (Semiprecious Stone Inlaid)

Floor with Floral Motifs

1935-1938

India (Agra and Delhi)

Marble, semiprecious stones

Object Summary

Overall: 141 x 225 in. (358.1 x 571.5cm)

Scrolling floral designs of inlaid carnelian and jade outline the marble floor of the master bathroom of Shangri La's Mughal Gallery. These botanical designs were created by contemporary artists, using the traditional technique called parchin kari, meaning "inlay" or "driven-in" work. This floral motif is thought to represent the bellflower (*Campanula*). Like many of the botanical images represented in this corpus, this floral design is based on an existing Mughal design. The precedent for this image is found on a dado (lower wall panel) within the Diwan-i Khas, or "Hall of Private Audiences" of the Red Fort in Delhi. Duke commissioned the Delhi-based firm, C.G. and F.B. Blomfield, to incorporate Mughal-inspired marble work into her bathroom of Shangri La. The work was carried out by contemporary craftsmen of the Agra-based firm, India Marble Works.