Ceiling

Place of origin: Toledo (province) (made)
Date: c.1490 (made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown (made)
Materials and Techniques: Pine wood, covered with gesso, painted and gilded
Museum number: 407-1905
Gallery location: In Storage

Description at accession:
"Vaulted ceiling of carved pinewood, painted and gilt; in some parts the painting is on a canvas priming. From a palace at Torrijos near Madrid, built for Gutierrez de Cardenas and his wife Teresa Enríquez, whose arms are shown in the spandrels. The ceiling is octagonal in plan, fitted by means of spandrels to a square room. In the apex is a stalactite pendant within an octagonal panel, from which eight ribs radiate; the ribs are intersected by cross-bars, the surface being thus divided into sixteen panels, which together with the top panel are filled in with geometrical arabesque ornament enriched with leafy and floral designs; under the whole is a frieze of stalactite ornament. Each of the four slightly coved spandrels contains a shield of arms of the families referred to, on a ground of interlacing branches; between each pair of spandrels is a panel of matted ornament with conventional S-shaped device in the middle. With the vault are portions of plaster work, representing parts of the frieze of the wall which supported the vault. Hispano-Moresque; late 15th century."

A measured diagram (original on accession register) shows an elevation of the ceiling 'Plano para la colocacion di los artonados'

Historical context note
For contextual information see also:

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O297196/ceiling-unknown/