

Basic Detail Report



Bent-Corner Bowl

Date

1780-1840

Primary Maker

Haida

Medium

Paint, red cedar, yew, sinew, (cut nail and wire repairs)

Description

The bulge-sided, bent-corner dish is one of the most remarkable wood technologies that human cultures have developed. A large container such as this one embodies a respectable amount of effort and accumulated experience to complete the task with this degree of perfection. The artist created the sides of this box from a single plank. To form the corners he cut three wedge-shaped grooves (kerfs) on the inner surface, soaked the plank in water, steamed it, bent it into 90-degree angles along the grooves, then lashed the two ends together with a cord. When filled with roasted salmon, cooked roots or mixed fruits and berries for feasting, the bulging sides would appear as a metaphor for the bounty of amassed resources being distributed by the host families.

Dimensions

Overall: 10 7/8 × 15 × 17 in. (27.6 × 38.1 × 43.2 cm)