



The distance covered in the walk in Venice equals that of a walk many Berkeley students take daily from the corner of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft to Wheeler Hall (along the dotted line). This walk appears much shorter than the walk in Venice.

Detail, map of the Berkeley campus (1 inch = 200 feet). Source: University of California, 1987.

same four-minute walk applied to these fourteen city maps appears to take different amounts of time. In most cities, traveling the distance that is actually equivalent to the walk in Venice appears to take less time. In some of the cities, walking this distance comes close to the time it takes to walk in Venice.

For a designer, these comparisons are important. The dimensions and placement of urban elements influence the perception of time.

Thinking about time's embodiment in the physical world might bewilder most of us. The failure to grasp the elements that make one walk appear longer or