



In San Francisco, the distance covered in the Venice walk is equivalent to that of a walk from the entrance of the St. Francis Hotel, through Union Square, past the Naval Monument, across Stockton Street, and into Maiden Lane to the Circle Gallery, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright—really a very short walk.

Detail, map of San Francisco's retail district (1 inch = 200 feet). Source: Department of City Planning, City of San Francisco, 1983.

shorter than another has astonished some of the most experienced city designers.

I do not have answers to explain all variables that alter the perception of time, but I found some

interesting hints in the writings of the philosopher William James:<sup>4</sup> "Our heart-beats, our breathing, the pulses of our attention, fragments of words or sentences that pass through our imagination, are what