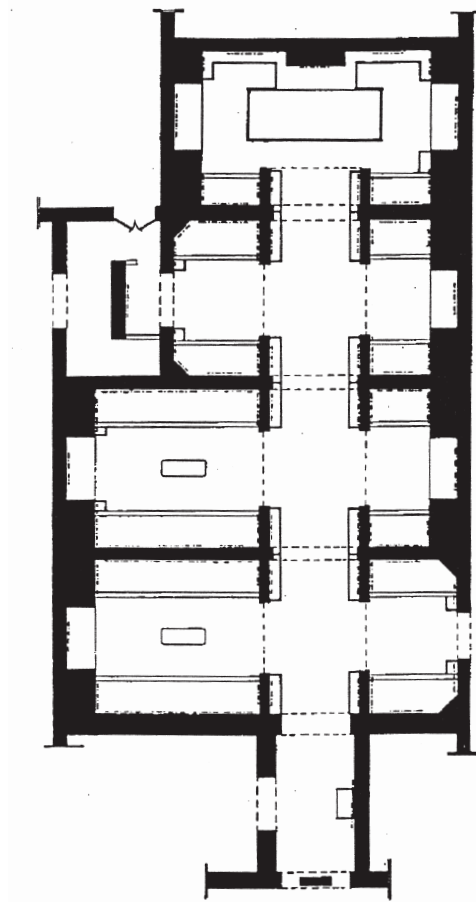
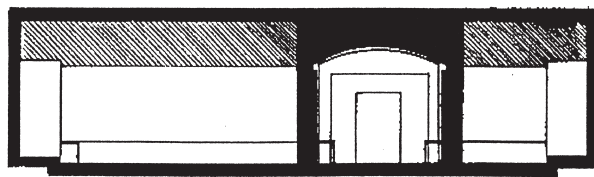




6 / THE MAIN CENTERS OF THE CARPET GALLERY
AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM



*Main centers visible in the plan, Carpet Gallery, San Francisco Museum. Each niche is a center, and each niche contains subsidiary niches. Each niche contains a carpet which intensifies the large centers.
Christopher Alexander with Bob Theis and Annie der Bedrossian, 1988.*



Cross-section of the Carpet Gallery, showing the central aisle in the middle.

In the carpet gallery built for the San Francisco Museum, the aisles form such centers. The ends of each aisle have a niche for a specially important carpet. Each side aisle strengthens the

central aisle. And each end niche strengthens the aisle which it ends.

The impact of light, and the basic importance which light has in shaping all rooms is



Exhibition of early Turkish carpets in the Carpet Gallery of the San Francisco Museum, Christopher Alexander, 1988. In this photograph we see the central aisle, looking along its length. The major centers open off from the central aisle, and the illuminated carpets themselves form the most vivid centers.



If you look at the plan on page 425, and imagine that you see nine major aisles at once, each like this photograph, each opening from the others, you may get some idea of the shimmering result of the multiplicity of centers.