

# 21ST-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE I

*The same depth, the same spirituality, can only be accomplished by us when we ourselves set out to do the same.*

If there is ever to be another great era of carpet weaving, as there well might be, it will only come about when 19th- and 20th-century commercial exploitation of art has given way, once again, to a period in which artists intentionally set out to produce structures which are pictures of the human soul — and when the artists have the knowledge and the seriousness of intention to accomplish this.

The same is true of buildings. Buildings, like carpets, are multi-centered structures which achieve unity through the interlocking of multiple centers, each reinforcing the others, until they become beings — just as it happens in carpets. In the great periods of building production, when Chartres, the Alhambra, and the great Chinese palaces and Japanese temples were produced, the same process of creating unity from a multiplicity of centers was the underlying and predominant process that serious builders knew about and followed.

Once it is understood that depth of structure arises from this multiplicity of centers, and once the artists, weavers, and builders commit themselves to this process again, then we shall be able to produce unity again, as surely as the masters of the 14th and 15th century did it in the great carpets of their era. But so far, those carpets still remain the pinnacle of human achievement in the creation of unity in space.

*From A Foreshadowing of 21st Century Art*