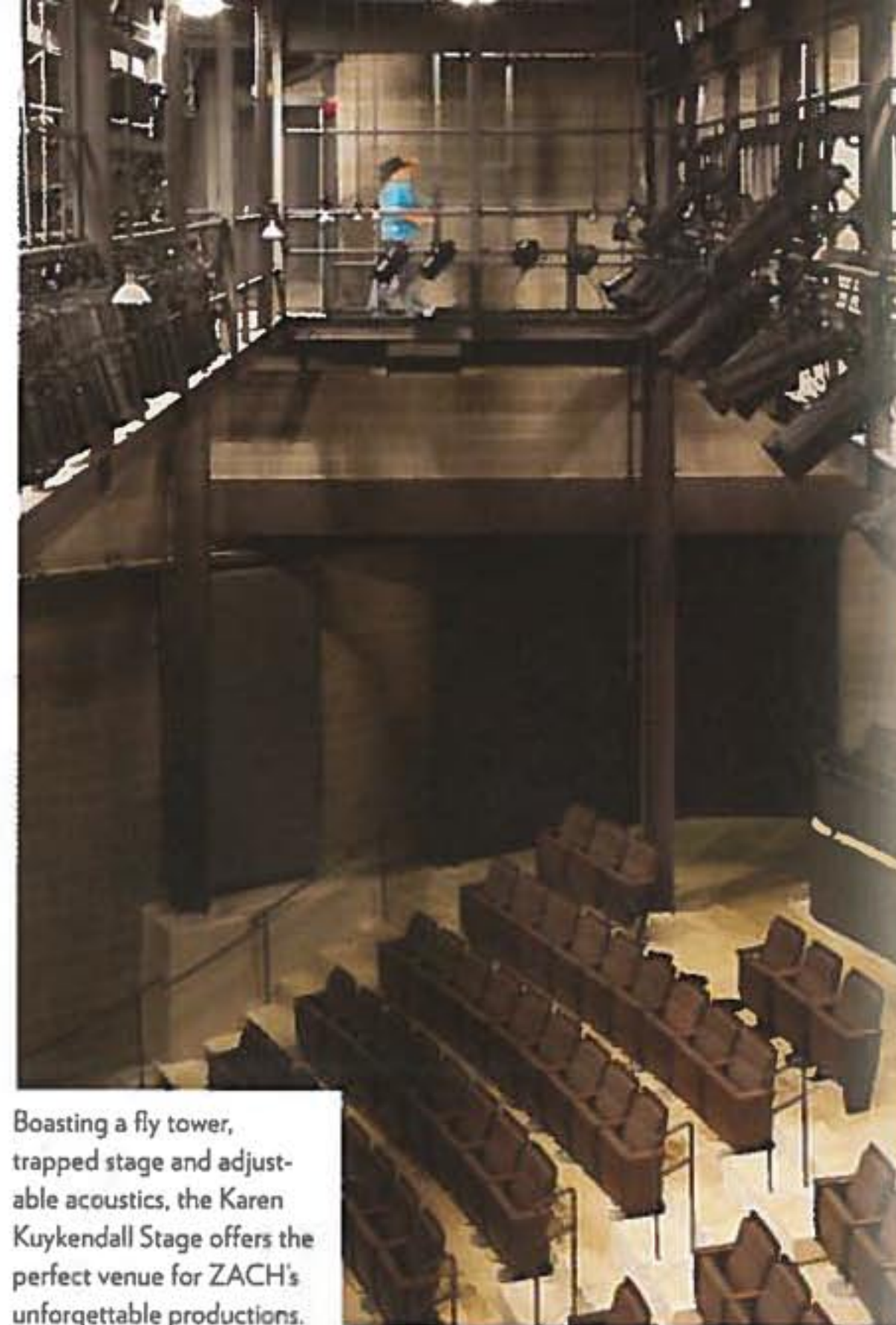


# The Topfer Theatre at ZACH

**ARCHITECT ARTHUR ANDERSSON OFFERS A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE CURTAIN AT ZACH THEATRE'S NEWEST STAGE.**



Architects Arthur Andersson and Chris Wise worked with ZACH Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, Dave Steakley, to develop a captivating space for ZACH's dynamic performances.



Boasting a fly tower, trapped stage and adjustable acoustics, the Karen Kuykendall Stage offers the perfect venue for ZACH's unforgettable productions.



During the day, the blue aluminum finish of the Topfer Theatre changes with the light, alternately blending with the sky and evoking the waters of Lady Bird Lake.

Recalling the inspiring experience of entering Paris' Palais Garnier, Arthur Andersson sought to capture a sense of enchantment and intimacy at the new Topfer Theatre.

The Topfer Theatre at ZACH is located at 1510 Toomey Road

At the heart of Zilker Park, past two curtains of glass, the Topfer Theatre at ZACH unfolds into a theatrical wonderland. "It's designed to be a journey," says Arthur Andersson of Andersson-Wise Architects. Though the theatre accommodates 430 guests—almost twice the capacity of the original Kleberg Stage—it evokes a sense of warmth and intimacy: once inside, guests find themselves in a lofty space of luminescent beeswax-covered plaster walls and masonite paneling, a playful nod to the materials often found in theatre sets. A staircase leads to the Juliet balcony, overlooking a plaza and rain garden, and as guests continue to ascend, they at last come to the beautiful Serra Skyline Lounge, with a view of downtown Austin. "It's as though you are going backstage and emerging onstage," Andersson observes. Theatergoers can also look forward to performances on the new, state-of-the-art Karen Kuykendall stage, which has been expanded and outfitted with adjustable acoustics to heighten the unique relationship between audience and performer. "I hope people feel a sense of kinship with their experience at ZACH," Andersson remarks. **L. SIVA**