

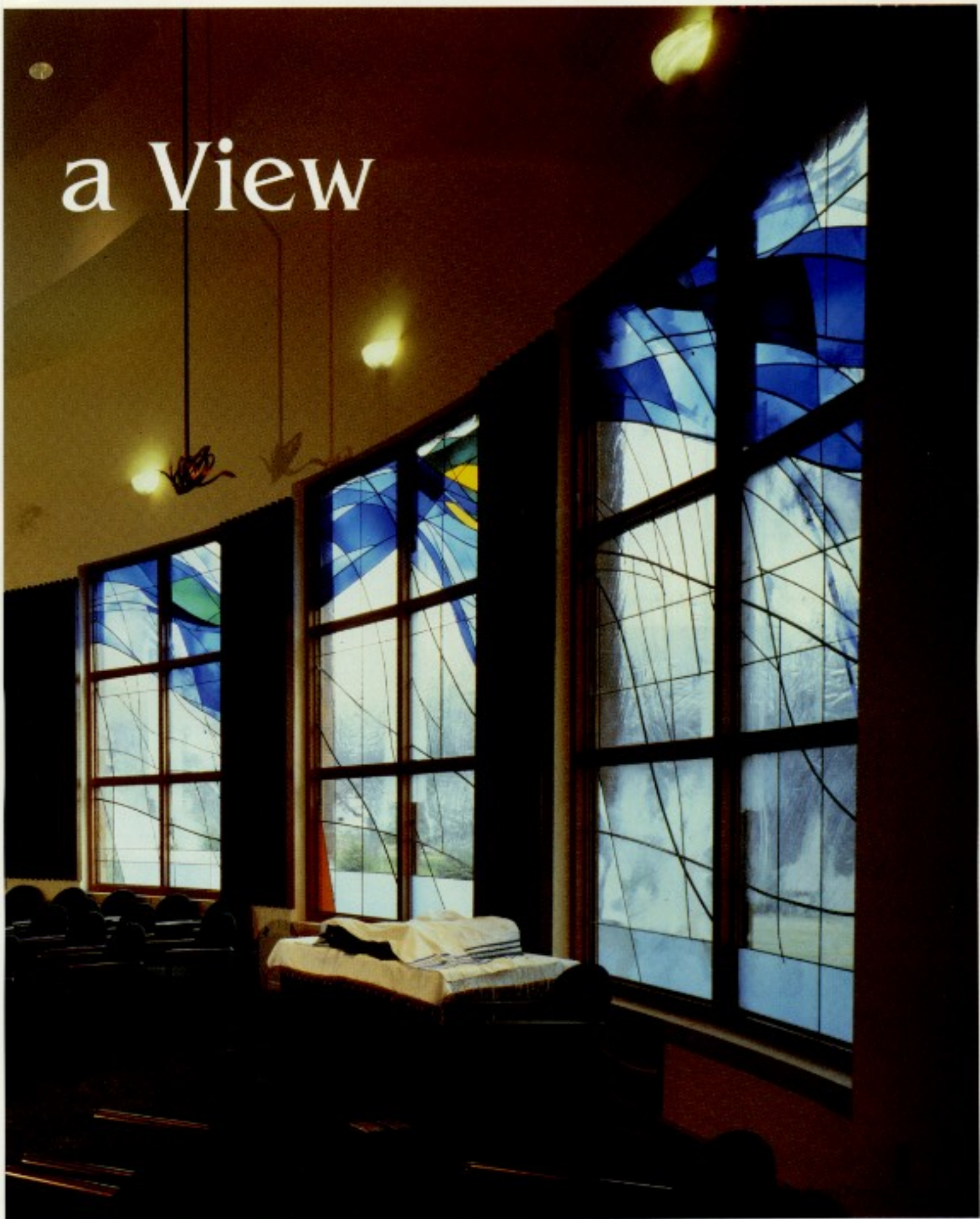
A photograph of the interior of a synagogue. The ceiling is a dark, curved dome with several recessed lights. Below the ceiling, a row of four large, multi-paned windows is visible. Each window is filled with a colorful stained glass design, primarily in shades of blue, white, and yellow. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouettes of rows of seats in a sanctuary.

Synagogue with

“Praised be the Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes light and creates darkness, who ordains peace and fashions all things. With compassion, He gives the light to the earth and all who dwell there...”

—quoted from the *Gates of Prayer*.

a View





The beauty of the world, the beauty of light and the beauty of the glass join to make a sacred space for worship in the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue in Minnetonka, Minn-esota. It was important for Queens, New York-based artist Ellen Mandelbaum to include a view of the lake as part of the glass design; thus opaque, translucent and clear glass were all used to hide the view or let the world shine through.

"The view changes with the changing light," Mandelbaum said, "sometimes projecting colorful images into the room. Morning colors illuminate the largest windows, where the Ark is to be placed. At sundown, smaller windows project light."

The chapel's ten windows, which increase in size from six to twelve feet, represent the Minyan (the ten worshippers needed to begin prayer) getting larger and larger as the faithful arrive and prayers can begin. A rectangle the exact dimension of the first window is repeated, painted in each of the other windows. Never changing, it shows the increase in size. The continuous reamy design which flows from left to right was inspired by the river of light Abraham is



Number five of the Ten Chapel Windows. Photos by Saari Forrai Photography. Window fabrication by Keith Studios, Minneapolis, MN.

said to have seen.

"The beauty of the world — mountains, waterfalls, majestic works of Creation mentioned in the prayers and in the Bible — are the inspiration for the window wall," Mandelbaum said. The eighteen-foot-square



window wall serves as a doorway to the chapel. Through it, one can see the chapel windows. It acts as a second layer in space to relate the chapel windows to the view outside. "The doors at the center feature smaller divisions and are intuitive interpretations of particular acts of creation," Mandelbaum said. "These are stories told in my own personal handwriting, painted on opal and opak glass whose colors show up clearly in this hallway lacking transmitted light."

"To keep it in perspective," Mandelbaum said, "the most important thing for me was to help create a holy space that works, and I was most gratified on my last visit to the synagogue to look into the chapel from the window wall. I saw it full of children celebrating a children's Sabbath service. There was robust singing. (The) chapel seemed full to overfull with joy."