

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

*The global journal of
golf design and development*

ISSUE **61** JULY 2020





Sustainable Turf Farms

ASIA'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF CERTIFIED TURF GRASSES



Our new Zoysia grasses offer:

- Outstanding playability
- Stunning aesthetics
- Low inputs = less fertiliser & mowing
- Environmental friendliness = Less water & chemicals
- Extreme salt tolerance



TifEagle



Sports Turf Solutions is also a leading supplier of Floratine Growth Products, Bernhard Grinders, Wiedenmann Turfcare Machinery, Trimax Mowers, Shibaura Machinery, Tru Turf Rollers, E-Z-GO, EcoBunker and SandTrapper throughout South East Asia.

Distinguished Zeon Zoysia projects include: Hoiana Shores Golf Club, Vietnam | KN Golf Links, Vietnam | Myohta National Golf Club, Myanmar
Seletar Country Club, Singapore | Laem Chabang International Golf Club, Thailand | 99 East Langkawi, Malaysia
West Lakes Golf and Villas, Vietnam | Parahyangan Golf Club, Indonesia | Plus over 20 more projects at various stages of development.



www.sportsturfsolutions.com

+65 6484 3640 | brad@sportsturfsolutions.com

Find us on:



Golf for the masses



ADAM LAWRENCE

Over the years GCA has profiled many transformational golf projects, where a visionary architect has taken a golf course that was basically failing and, by making it better, and crucially more fun, to play, has turned it round. Two frequently cited examples are Sweetens Cove in Tennessee by Rob Collins and Tad King and the revitalisation of the Winter Park muni in Orlando by Riley Johns and Keith Rhebb. These projects demonstrate an understanding that good golf architecture lies at the heart of successful golf businesses: make a course that people really want to play, and the battle is mostly won.

While undoubtedly triumphs, these projects were not socially revolutionary. Winter Park is in the most affluent suburb of Orlando, and Sweetens Cove – perhaps the closest to a true Everyman project – has (finally) prospered as an affordable daily fee course because of huge attention from both social and mainstream media.

I don't believe that golf has to be upmarket to be either good or successful. The small towns of Scotland, where every man and his dog plays golf and the game is deeply embedded in the community, are the example I would like to see propagated around the world. Why couldn't a run-down muni in a down-at-heel part of a large American city be rebuilt, not for millions and millions of dollars by anonymous architects masquerading as a 'signature' Tour player, but by one or more of the breed of exciting golf designers now at work? And the result used to bring golf to a truly new and broad-based audience?

As regular GCA contributor Vaughn Halyard put it: "It is essential to empower the surrounding community with participation in the equity and wealth created by any such efforts. Much urban blight exists because of historical redlining and financial discrimination. The risk of gentrification from such efforts is high and must be addressed. Building a gold mine in ghetto while preserving the poverty should be antithetical to the new American way."

Municipal golf brought the game to the masses: now I'd like to see architects bring the best of golf to those same people. Is this a pipedream? Maybe, but I firmly believe it could work given a chance.

Adam



PITCH or POSTCARD?

...What's your angle?



Golf Course Solutions

Great golf courses lie in the hands that build them.

The Industry has accepted the need for innovation to provide solutions for the many challenges it faces. Our Company leads the charge providing these solutions through our engineered products and 'out of the box' thinking.

Historically, the connection for people between synthetic solutions and beautiful golf courses has been difficult to

make. We face skepticism on a daily basis. We are golf purists too and yet have started our initiative to help preserve and grow the game. We prove that our knowledge and skill coupled by our artistic passion makes it today's reality.

KEVIN HOLINATY

President, Southwest Greens Construction



SOUTHWEST GREENS®
CONSTRUCTION

Mastering the Art of Synthetic Turf Installations

+34 616 582 787 • info@southwestgreens.eu • southwestgreens.eu

SWG Construction, construction arm for SWG International,
a Division of Shaw, a Berkshire Hathaway Company





The art and science of our approach can be summed up in these three words. These words define the primary goals for every course designed by **Golfplan: Dale & Ramsey Golf Course Architecture** and are part of the reason that our golf courses continue to be so successful.

Our reputation is the result of four decades of experience designing and building over 200 courses all over the world including the award-winning **Chee Chan Golf Resort** in Thailand and **The Club at Nine Bridges** in South Korea. Let's talk about what we can do for you.

INIMITABLE TRAFFIC RABBIT

Chee Chan Golf Resort, Thailand


Golfplan
Dale & Ramsey
Golf Course Architecture

USA +1-707-526-7190 • golfplan@golfplan.com • www.golfplan.com





Golf's greatest grasses



David Doguet meets with golf consultants for the project onsite at Seletar Country Club, Singapore



The perfect grass solution

For over 30 years, Bladerunner Farms has been searching for the perfect grass for golf. With the world's largest privately-owned zoysiagrass research facility, we have developed a family of grasses that require less water, less fertilizer and fewer inputs overall than others, while providing the highly playable surfaces required for golf. Our zoysiagrasses – available from a worldwide network of licensed growers, detailed on our website – have been selected for multiple high-profile projects around the globe, including the Olympic Golf Course in Brazil, Bluejack National in Texas and The Grove XXIII in Florida.

**Bladerunner Farms has a global network of suppliers.
Click below to discover where to purchase:**

WHERE TO BUY



bladerunnerfarms.com
+1 888 719 4455

TEE-2-GREEN®

**PENNCROSS
BENTGRASS**

Turning the page...

INTRODUCING PC2

The Next Generation of Pennncross

- Hails from Pennncross: (Best Selling Bent of All Time)
- 7 Decades of Research & Proven Results
- Versatile Use - Greens, Tees, Fairways, & Divot Repair
- Improved Spring Green-Up, Density, Leaf Texture & Overall Performance



PURE  **SEED**

www.pureseed.com



GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE



Golf Course Architecture is published with the support and guidance of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the European Institute of Golf Course Architects, and GEO Foundation.

ISSN: 1745-3585. Printed in Great Britain
by Buxton Press.

© 2020 Tudor Rose Holdings Ltd. All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be stored or transmitted
or reproduced in any form or by any means, including
whether by photocopying, scanning, downloading
onto computer or otherwise without the prior written
permission from Tudor Rose Holdings Ltd.

Views expressed in *Golf Course Architecture* are not
necessarily those of the publishers. Acceptance of
advertisements does not imply official endorsement
of the products or services concerned. While every
care has been taken to ensure accuracy of content,
no responsibility can be taken for any errors and/or
omissions. Readers should take appropriate professional
advice before acting on any issue raised herein.

The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject
advertising material and editorial contributions.
The publisher assumes no liability for the return of
unsolicited art, photography or manuscripts.

It is assumed that any images taken from sources which
are widely distributed, such as on the Web, are in the
public domain. It is recognised though that since such
images tend to be passed freely between sources it
is not always possible to track the original source. If
copyrighted material has ended up being treated as
public domain due to the original source not being
identified please contact the publisher, Tudor Rose.



When you have finished with
this magazine please recycle it.

Adam Lawrence
Editor

Richard Humphreys
News Editor

Brett Hochstein, Brandon Johnson,
Marco Martin
Contributors

Bruce Graham, Libby Sidebotham
Design

Chris Jackson
Website Development

3's Greenville, The Addington, Mark Alexander,
Bob Atkins, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Beau
Welling Design, Toby Breatly, Cavendish Golf
Club, Clayton, DeVries & Pont, Getty Images/
Chris Condon, Country Club of Orlando,
Ben Cowan-Dewar, Ely Golf, Faldo Design,
Golf Design India, Golfplan, GolfTek, Caspar
Grauballe, Andrew Green, Greg Norman Golf
Course Design, The Grove, Brett Hochstein,
Indiana University Athletics, Riley Johns,
Laguna Golf Lãng Cô, Larry Lambrecht, Jeff
Lawrence, Mafer Golf, Marco Martin, Kevin
Murray, Domaine de Murtoli, Louis Palser,
Pine Hills Country Club, Agustín Pizá, Forrest
Richardson, Drew Rogers, Ron Krater Studio,
Swan Golf Designs, Tanah Merah Country Club,
William Watt - Caddie Mag
Photography

Toby Ingleton
Publisher

Benedict Pask
Publication & Sales Manager

Ritwik Bhattacharjee
Circulation

Stuart Fairbrother
Production Manager

www.golfcoursearchitecture.net/subscribe
Subscribe



Tudor House, 6 Friar Lane
Leicester LE1 5RA
Tel: +44 116 222 9900
www.tudor-rose.co.uk
Published by Tudor Rose

"LIGHT TOMORROW WITH TODAY"

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING



TRADITION - LA QUINTA, CA



ARNOLDPALMERDESIGN.COM

+1 (407) 876-1068

SPONSORS



Golf Course Architecture
By Caspar



Arnold Palmer Design Company

With a storied history of projects in over 37 states and 25 countries, Arnold Palmer Design Company senior architects Thad Layton and Brandon Johnson bring an unparalleled depth of knowledge, expertise and Mr Palmer's influence to every project.

www.arnoldpalmerdesign.com

Bladerunner Farms

Bladerunner Farms is the world's largest privately owned Zoysiagrass research facility and boasts a global network of licensed growers. For 30 years its mission has been developing the most sustainable environmentally friendly grasses on the market.

www.bladerunnerfarms.com

Golf Course Architecture By Caspar

By Caspar is the design firm of golf architect Caspar Bay Grauballe, whose aim is to help improve the beautiful game of golf by creating and refining exciting and spectacular golf courses. By Caspar aims to develop golf courses with a clear and unique signature – a signature that enables clubs to attract more players.

www.bycaspar.com

Golf Optimum

Golf Optimum's Michel Niedbala has over 30 years of experience in golf course development worldwide.

www.golfoptimum.com

Golfplan

David Dale and Kevin Ramsey have designed over 200 courses across the world, providing clients with market-oriented design solutions through an approach that is innovative, user-friendly, and environmentally and financially sustainable.

www.golfplan.com

Harradine Golf

Donald Harradine founded the family's golfing practice in 1929. Harradine Golf has designed, remodelled, constructed or supervised construction of 200+ courses in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Many have won awards and some host PGA tournaments.

www.harradine-golf.com

Hunter Industries

Hunter Industries manufactures innovative irrigation systems and solutions. Family-owned and based in San Marcos, USA, it offers over 1,000 products including a spectrum of water-efficient solutions for golf, sport turf, commercial, residential and high-end irrigation systems.

www.hunterindustries.com

Kafka Granite

Kafka's most popular solution for golf courses is its Wax Polymer Pathway Mix. This resilient, non-erosive wax coated aggregate can be installed on even steepest of slopes. Wax Polymer Pathway Mix combines decomposed granite or crushed stone with an engineered polymeric wax to create an aesthetically pleasing, durable, and dustless pathway.

www.kafkagranite.com

Kyle Phillips Golf Course Design

The Kyle Phillips design philosophy stems from the belief that golf courses should have their own character and personality derived from the site's existing natural features, as well as its location and history.

www.kylephillips.com

Profile Products

Profile Golf provides the leading soil amendments for construction, renovation, and maintenance projects on courses around the world. It offers complete consultative resources and high end hydraulically-applied mulch products for erosion control and vegetative establishment.

www.profileproducts.com

Pure Seed

Pure Seed is the global leader in turfgrass genetics. With award-winning plant breeding, Pure Seed is dedicated to developing the world's best turf varieties.

www.pureseed.com

Rain Bird

Since 1933, developing and manufacturing innovative irrigation products has been Rain Bird's sole focus. Rain Bird Service Team's sole focus is irrigation and water conservation. We call it The Intelligent Use of Water.

www.rainbird.eu

Robert Trent Jones II

With headquarters in Palo Alto, California, Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects is a global golf design firm that has created more than 275 courses in over 40 countries on six continents.

www.rtj2.com

Southwest Greens Construction

The official construction arm for Southwest Greens International, responsible for all major golf course construction projects. The Southwest Greens product is the preferred putting surface for more than 40 professional golfers on the PGA and LPGA Tours.

www.southwestgreens.eu

Sports Turf Solutions

Sustainable Turf Farms is a subsidiary company of Sports Turf Solutions and is the largest producer of certified turf grasses in South East Asia.

www.sportsturfsolutions.com

Stirling & Martin

Blake Stirling and Marco Martin have successfully designed golf courses for 30 years. With a motto of 'SM-art Golf', the firm provides clients with a complete range of design services, construction supervision and budget control, ensuring high levels of satisfaction.

www.stirlingmartingolf.com

Tee-2-Green

For over 50 years, Tee-2-Green has led the field with game-changing bentgrass like Penncross, the A's and G's, and Pure bents. We set the standard for quality and purity with groundbreaking varieties bred to improve playability, resist disease and tolerate extreme conditions.

www.tee-2-green.com

Toro

The Toro Company provides innovative, efficient solutions to help homeowners and turf care professionals worldwide enrich the beauty, productivity and sustainability of the land.

www.toro.com



GOLFOPTIMUM

*To take
pride of doing*

MICHEL NIEDBALA - GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

For more information, contact **Golf Optimum**, French Touch Architecture
contact@golfoptimum.fr | +33(0)474 96 66 83 | +33(0)672 90 80 93

CONTENTS

ON THE COVER

The par-three seventh hole on Coore & Crenshaw's new Sheep Ranch course at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Oregon. Read more on page 22.

16

Our Tee Box section includes news from Caversham Heath, Bandon Dunes and MacKenzie's layout at Cavendish, and we talk with Rees Jones about BallenIsles

44

Brandon Johnson shares four of his favourite golf course features

48

Brett Hochstein reflects on his experience at Askernish

52

Residential projects can bring the public closer to golf, says Marco Martin

54

Richard Humphreys finds out how golf construction work around the globe has progressed amid the coronavirus outbreak



64

We profile the Kyle Phillips course at Domaine de Murtoli in Corsica

68

Toby Ingleton hears from the principals of Clayton, DeVries & Pont about their plans for The Addington

74

Golfplan has reinvented Seletar CC in Singapore following a land acquisition

80

Adam Lawrence reports on the distinctly Donald Ross feel of Ron Forse's work at CC of Orlando

84

Forrest Richardson's renovation plan for BellAir Golf Club in Arizona includes a 'zero hole'

Golf Course Architecture *by* Caspar

Creating and Refining Classics of the Game

Having been brought up and lived most of my life in Denmark I have been influenced by many of the great Danish designers and architects combining functionality and aesthetics.

"I bring this with me to the courses I design together with a strong passion for getting the absolute best possible solutions for my clients.

My mission is to develop golf courses with a clear and unique style that enables the clubs to attract more players". - *Caspar Bay Grauballe*



Nesfjellet Golf - Norway

Caspar has been commissioned to design a 9-hole extension of Nesfjellet Golf Course. The course is situated at a small popular ski resort just two hours outside Oslo.

As part of extending the ski resort the golf course is also going to be extended from 9 holes to 18 holes. The new part of the golf course will form the backbone around which mountain cabins will be developed.

The course is laid out in the lower parts of the site allowing views of the course from the surrounding cabins. A creek runs through several of the holes creating strategic carries in many places. The area also has several environmentally interesting bogs that will be preserved and used as features on the course.

During the summer the course will be part of the resort's increasing focus on making it attractive throughout the year. Around the course running and MTB tracks will be laid out to support the active lifestyle of the visitors to the resort.

In winter the course forms the perfect base for cross country skiing, which is the national sport of Norway.

Djursholms Golfklubb

Djursholm is one of the oldest golf clubs in Sweden located just outside Stockholm with 27 holes and a very active membership.

Quickly following the Development Plan Caspar created in 2019, the decision was taken to implement the plan on the main 18 holes in the summer 2020.

The aim of the plan is twofold: One aspect is the focus on the design and strategy. The other is the upgrade of the grasses on the greens and surrounds together with making it possible to maintain it at the highest standard.

"I wanted to make the course reflect its age - something which had been lost over the years through changes and alterations. Implementing a more classical style of bunkering with clear references to the 1930's and ensuring that the course becomes fun and attractive to play was my main focus for the design." - *Caspar Grauballe*

The plan calls for 4 new greens and all the green surrounds to be redesigned. All the greens and surrounds will be turfed with the best tested cultivars of grass to warrant the best surfaces for the players. A full upgrade of the irrigation system will be carried out at the same time.

All the work is planned to be carried out from the middle of July and for the course to re-open in the spring next year.



www.bycaspar.com

Tel. +45 26143434 - caspar@bycaspar.com

MAIL BOX

Dear Editor

The discussion about slow play in your pages recently caught my attention. It seems to me that, since we were able to start playing golf again after the Covid-19 shutdown, courses have been extremely busy, but play has been moving at an excellent speed. What is the secret? Two-ball play!

At the older established British clubs which demand that all play is in two-balls, pace is always extremely rapid.

I am not suggesting that every course should go two-ball only – I recognise that it's not practical for most, especially those that are run on a commercial basis. But it seems to me that setting aside some times for two-ball play would be a good thing for virtually any course. If, for example, courses said that all play on Saturday mornings before 11am should be in twosomes, then the busiest day of the week would not get as terribly slow as it so often does. It is worth a try!

Steven Thompson
Yeovil, England

Dear Editor

I am glad to see that so many golf clubs now seem to have grasped the importance of getting the landscape on their courses to be more natural. It seems to me that we have mostly emerged from a phase of so-called 'beautification' where clubs have thought that a golf course is a large garden, and that massive amounts of ornamental planting is a good idea. How wrong they are!

The best courses are the ones that most feel like going for a nature

ramble. It doesn't matter whether it is a hike through heath, sand dunes, desert or prairie – the wild feel of great golf is a central part of its appeal. To walk round a great links with the wind whistling through the dunes and the sound of the wild birds twittering is among the best experience that golf can provide. Maybe most courses can't offer this much, but they can all seek to be the best they can be.

Devon Mitchell
New York City, USA

Dear Editor

I understand why the professional tours want to get back into action as soon as possible after the coronavirus pandemic, but I really do not think

that playing sport without spectators is very sensible. For sure, gate money is not an especially important part of the economics of professional sport, but without fans, where is the atmosphere? The idea of a behind-closed-doors Ryder Cup is one of the most stupid I have ever heard – the fans are the Ryder Cup. Without them what is the point?

James McKeown
Durban, South Africa

We are delighted to receive letters from readers, and the best in each issue will be rewarded with a golf shirt. Send to 6 Friar Lane, Leicester, LE1 5RA, UK, or email us at letters@golfcoursearchitecture.net

GOPHER WATCH



Our last *Gopher Watch* proved more difficult than we expected – perhaps due to the recent removal of the sleepers from the famous bunker on the fourth at Royal St George's. Congratulations to Lynne Marwood, who was first out of the hat. A bit of a departure for this issue, as Sandy has been in lockdown and only made it as far as the local country park. He's identified a great spot for a short par three to a raised green in front of a royal residence. For a chance to win a GCA golf shirt, tell us which Queen was born there? Answers to gopher@golfcoursearchitecture.net.

McBroom redesigns Caversham Heath ahead of merger

The new Eyston course will be completed ahead of the club's merger with nearby Reading GC

Canadian golf course architect Tom McBroom is renovating the course at Caversham Heath Golf Club, which was originally designed by David Williams and opened in 2000, in preparation for its merger with nearby Reading Golf Club.

Reading GC's 96-acre site, currently home to a James Braid course, has been sold to Fairfax Properties, which is managing the plans for a housing development on a parcel of the land.

McBroom's revised layout for Caversham Heath will be named after the club's founder Jack Eyston.

"Caversham Heath is a good course, but it wasn't outstanding," said McBroom. "It had huge walks between greens and tees, and only one par three on the front nine [the eighth]. My plan sees a substantial reduction in the length of walks from green to tee, reducing playing time by as much as 15 to 20 minutes.

"The course will also be a bit of an 'inland links' with fescue grass and gorse... there's no heather anywhere."

Ely Golf began construction in June 2019 with the rerouting of the first hole and the building of a new green and bunkers.

"The first is effectively a brand-new hole, with tee boxes repositioned near to the clubhouse, and bending the hole uphill to the right rather than the left," said McBroom. "A new green is situated on the highest point of the property which affords a spectacular view of the Reading skyline."

The second is also new, a par three playing to the existing first green, which has been rebunkered on both sides.

"Another major routing change was the elimination of the thirteenth, which was an awkward uphill par three," said McBroom. "We reversed the direction of the hole and created a new driveable par four. The two driveable par fours [the fourth and thirteenth] create some much-needed variety to the overall hole mix."

Other work includes converting the par-four sixteenth into a par three and substantially changing the eighteenth hole – including relocating the green to a hillside below the clubhouse.

McBroom has been unable to be on site since mid-February because of the restrictions on air travel and UK quarantine. Gary Stangoe,



*Bunkers at Caversham Heath's new Eyston course
now feature a rugged and wispy look*



LIFE IS BETTER WITH **PILOT**[®]

Next-Generation Golf Irrigation



ALL-NEW PILOT COMMAND CENTER SOFTWARE MAKES GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE.

Pilot CCS is simple to use because it works the way you do. You can manage thousands of individually controlled sprinklers and perform all schedule changes from one screen in seconds. Simply update your course watering plan with a few clicks and turn your attention elsewhere — Pilot takes care of the rest.

GOLF IRRIGATION | *Built on Innovation*[™]
Learn more at hunterindustries.com/golf

Hunter[®]



The second hole (above) is a brand-new par three, playing to the area of the old first green. McBroom was influenced by St George's Hill and Sunningdale for Caversham's bunker design. Right, the redesigned third hole

general manager at both Caversham Heath and Reading, has been keeping McBroom, and the project team, updated with photos.

"We have almost completely finished the bunkering to a new style," said McBroom. "There are more aggressive faces and lines similar to classic heathland courses like St George's Hill and Sunningdale. What Caversham originally had was modern bunkers with a lack of variety – the club wanted them more rugged, wispy and organic."

EcoBunker has completed installation of its EcoSward liner in all 73 bunkers, despite occasional pauses due to bad weather and the impact of coronavirus. The company has worked on almost 120,000 square feet of hazard area for the project.

"Both the club and Tom have recognised that Caversham has the terrain and soil conditions suited to a more rugged heathland character, and



Photos: Ely Golf

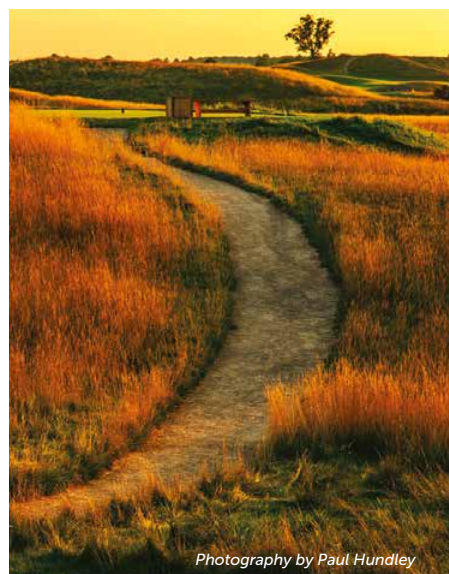
the first bunkers built last summer have now matured and are clearly delivering the team's vision," said EcoBunker's founder Richard Allen. "I think the bunkers work extremely well in this landscape."

"No one could imagine what was going to happen this year when we got hit with the pandemic," said Mark Ely. "Following the government guidelines on construction, we were allowed to continue working. One operator in each machine with no swapping over,

social distancing and sanitising has become the norm for a while. Luckily our material suppliers have been able to continue, which means work has continued as well as expected."

Construction is planned to continue until the end of the year with tees to be rebuilt, an irrigation pond expanded, plus a new practice range and new six-hole short course to be built.

The Eyston course is expected to be playable from March 2021, when Reading Golf Club closes.



Photography by Paul Hundley

652 Acres of Glacially
Sculpted Terrain

18k Rounds of Golf
Played Annually

1 Natural Crushed Stone
Pathway Solution

"Over the years Erin Hills has tried an array of products for our undulating walk paths. The Wax Polymer Pathway Mix from Kafka Granite provides a superior combination of ease of installation, durability, limited maintenance, and great aesthetics."

—Zachary Reineking, Director of Course Maintenance for Erin Hills

Dustless. Easy to Install. Erosion Resistant. Maintenance Free.



kafkagranite.com/golf
800-852-7415

RTJ II redesigns Tanah Merah's Garden course

Photo: Tanah Merah Country Club

Bruce Charlton and Mike Gorman have led the Robert Trent Jones II design team for the redesign of the Garden course at Tanah Merah Country Club in Singapore.

Their brief was to redesign the course into a smaller footprint, due to Changi airport – located adjacent to the Garden layout – acquiring land, including part of the par-four fourth hole and the par-five fifth, for an expansion.

The design team worked on reducing the distance of green-to-tee walks, while creating “more width in fairways where possible, added flexible teeing grounds that seamlessly blend into fairways, as well as introducing the ground game as an optional way to approach the green surface on many holes,” said Charlton.

“Players will notice and really enjoy a playable course with a great variety of holes,” added Gorman. “One of our primary goals was to create a balanced, fun and challenging course

that contrasts with the bigger brother, the Tampines course [which RTJ II reconfigured in 2018].

“We wanted to give members a completely different playing experience and enhanced shot variety for players with a great imagination to utilise on the Garden course.”

The year-long project also saw all bunkers rebuilt, with BunkerMat lining and Durabunker edging, both of which were also on the 2018 Tampines project.

“The overall design objective communicated to us was for higher, more visible sand faces, sprawling sand lines with non-uniform shape, significant variance of vertical plane and a more definitive sense of individuality from bunker to bunker, whilst still maintaining the feel of clusters that fit together,” said Rhyddian Lewis, founder of Durabunker.

“Bunker edges are all synthetic in nature and all of fairly standard height,

sealing off the edges and installed directly on top of the chosen bunker liner to avoid any point of weakness in the interface between sand and bunker edge. This has given a crisp, permanent edge that will safeguard design integrity and offer a permanency that turf edges simply cannot hold a torch to. The ease of maintenance and longevity of the product was a primary driver to its inclusion in the rebuild.

“The bunkering has turned out to be a really strong feature of the golf course, being presented to the golfers very clearly and playing a big part in terms of the aesthetic experience of the golfer.”

The designers have arranged the new routing so that it can also be played as independent three, six or nine-hole loops: holes one to nine can be played as a ‘Garden Loop’; ten to fifteen are a six-hole ‘Sunrise Loop’ and sixteen to eighteen as a three-hole ‘Learning Loop’.



THE BIG PICTURE

The new Sheep Ranch course has opened for play at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Oregon, USA.

Tom Doak and Jim Urbina laid out 13 greens on the site – on a mile-long stretch of coastline north of the resort's existing courses – in 2001, while they were working on the resort's second course, Pacific Dunes. It became something of an insider's secret, with few golfers experiencing it, until the

resort hired Coore & Crenshaw to develop an 18-hole routing.

The design duo worked from the coastline inwards, with nine greens directly on cliff edges and clusters of teeing areas – such as for the second and eighteenth, and fifth and fifteenth – created in order to connect the routing.

The result is the resort's fifth 18-hole course, a par 72 layout that extends to

6,636 yards, which welcomed its first golfers in June 2020.

The foreground of the photograph shows the seventh hole, a 147-yard par three that also features on the cover of this issue of *Golf Course Architecture*. Its infinity-style green is wide open at the front but narrows towards the back, one example of where running the ball along the ground might be a sensible option on this windswept site.



Get to the Root of Your Course Renovation.

In the Ground

Profile Porous Ceramics (PPC) is the #1 inorganic amendment chosen for greens renovations and has been used on more than 1,000 courses, including many of the U.S. Top 100.

On the Ground

Profile offers FREE testing of soil, sands and trial mixes, and its agronomists are available to provide mix design recommendations and consultation.

By Your Side

Only Profile provides complete on-site project support through the entire renovation process.

"I've grown in greens on both straight sand and peat moss. What you get visually with PPC is terrific, not just in year one, but even after year two and three. I wouldn't go down without a fight trying to convince someone building a new golf course to really look into using Profile."

- Eric Bauer, Director of Agronomy, Bluejack National

Contact us for your **FREE on-site consultation and soil test.**

ProfileGolf.com

Call **(800) 207-6457** and ask to speak to a Profile Golf Business Manager.





Photo: Pine Hills Country Club

Cape hole is first step of ‘evolution’ at Pine Hills

Work is in progress on a project to rediscover the ‘Cape’ features of the closing hole at Pine Hills in Wisconsin, following the club’s appointment of Drew Rogers as consulting architect.

“The eighteenth doglegs around a fabulous ridge that is completely obscured by trees,” said Keith Robel, the club’s president. “With some repositioning of the tee boxes and some substantial tree removal, the bones of a dramatic Cape hole exist to deliver an incredible risk-reward hole to finish the course. It highlights one of the great land features of the course, opening views to the river valley below, and it fits more with the character of the rest of the course.”

Rogers said: “The great thing about this concept is that the hole is already there – the natural features, the drama of elevation, the innate strategic values – we just have to expose them. While the work is rather light and simple, the

effect will be exceedingly dramatic – really, a new hole in terms of classic architectural principles and providing inspired playing options.”

Robel and Rogers hope to complete work on the eighteenth this autumn. “Phase one is probably the most important because it is being seen as the momentum builder for the longer-term improvements,” said Robel.

“My appointment here is not to redo this course,” said Rogers. “My responsibility is to shine it, to fully expose its grandeur beyond what was previously thinkable. Sure, there will be a few adjustments here and there, but this work is not what I would coin as ‘renovation’, it is more of a very careful, well-guided, ongoing evolution.”

Read more in our interview with Rogers and Robel at www.golfcoursearchitecture.net

Above, the tenth hole at Pine Hills. Left, Rogers’ plans for the Cape-style eighteenth hole, which will be his first project on the course

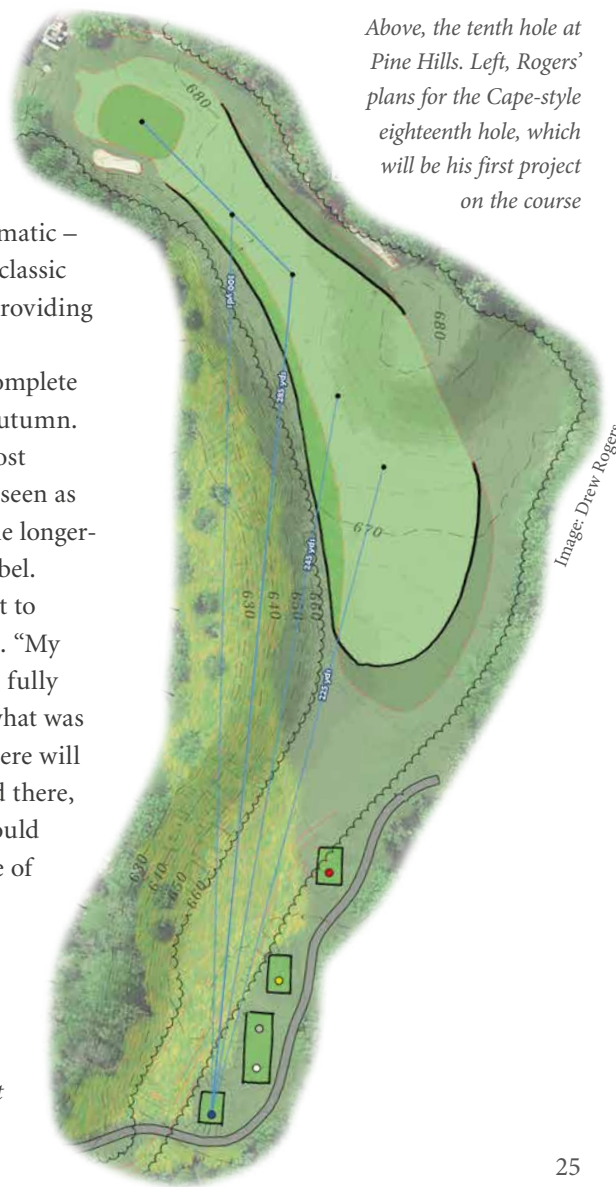


Image: Drew Rogers

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Gaunt returning MacKenzie style to Cavendish

Jonathan Gaunt has started a renovation project at Cavendish Golf Club in Buxton, England. The course, which opened in 1925, was designed by Dr Alistair MacKenzie, a precursor to his work with Bobby Jones for Augusta National.

The project will see Gaunt remodel bunkers to a MacKenzie style, reinstate contours and shapes on greens, bring back lost pin positions, and thin out woodlands to recover forgotten vistas across the course. Most bunker remodelling work will be completed by 2025, in time for the club's centenary.

The implementation of a woodland management plan has already started, with work focused on holes ten and eleven. "These are considered to be MacKenzie's highlight holes," said Gaunt.

A brook flows alongside and across both the tenth and eleventh. In January 2020, the process of opening views of this feature began with the clearing of scrub and non-native trees and shrubs.

"We have photographic reference as the course was photographed at the time of opening, so we are able to use this excellent archive as an influence," said Gaunt. "The styling of bunkers will be focused upon visibility from tee to fairway and from fairway approach to green. MacKenzie wanted his hazards to be visible to the golfer.

"What is exciting is the opportunity to reintroduce some of the old original bunkers that were filled in during the 1950s and 60s – these hazards will begin the path towards bringing back MacKenzie's legacy."

Read more about this project at golfcoursearchitecture.net



Photo: Cavendish Golf Club



*The eleventh hole, shortly after the course first opened
and (bottom) following clearing work in early 2020.
Left, MacKenzie's 1924 plan of Cavendish, and below,
the heavily-protected eighth green*



Photo: Cavensish Golf Club



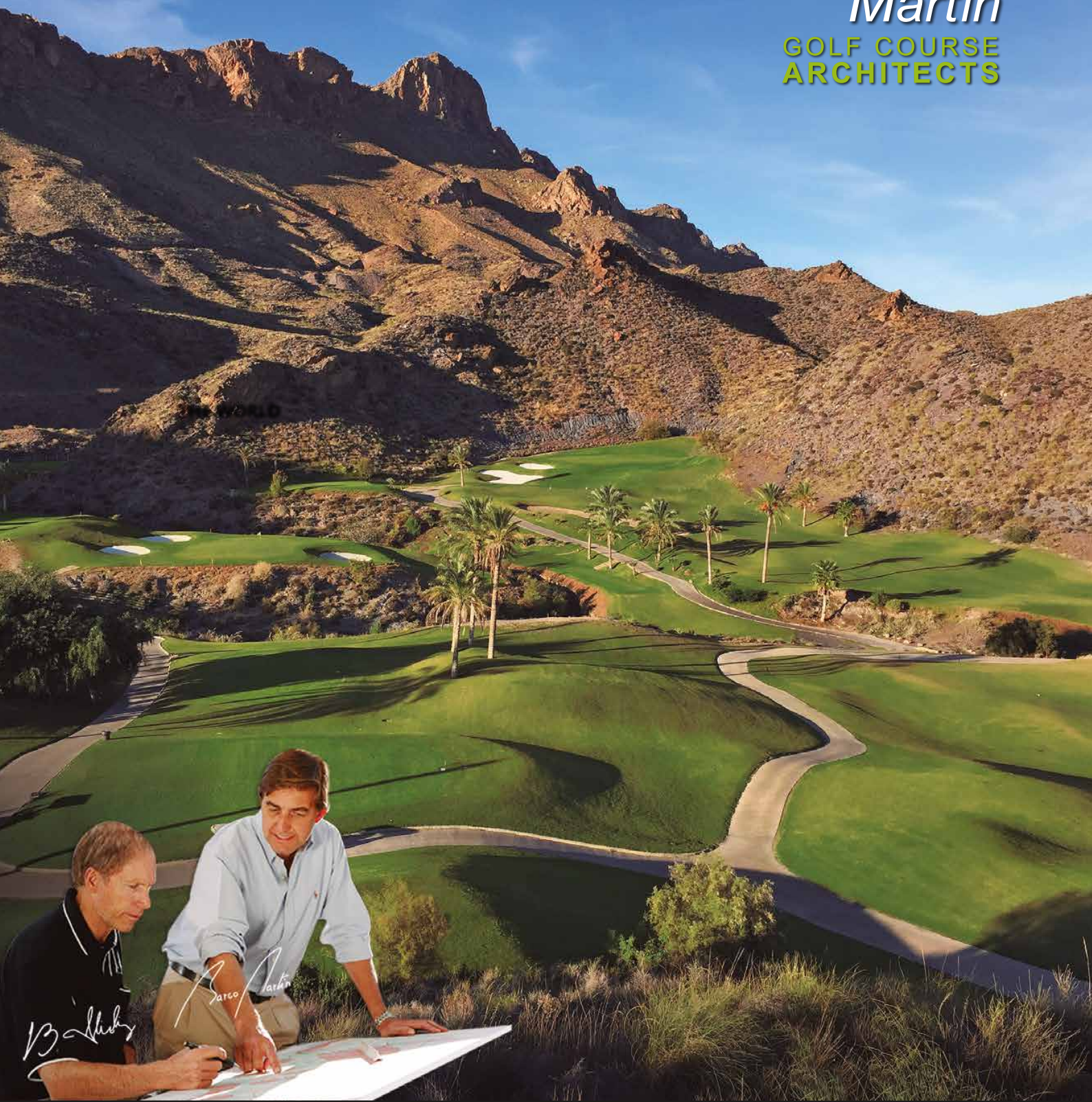
Photo: Cavensish Golf Club



Photo: Bob Atkins

Stirling & Martin

GOLF COURSE
ARCHITECTS



www.stirlingmartingolf.com

Enrique Larreta 9, 1º B. 28036 Madrid (Spain)
T: +(34) 91 063 31 67 • M: +(34) 670 82 59 59
marcomartin@smgolf.es

Stirling &
Martin
GOLF COURSE
ARCHITECTS

25
1993-2018
years designing golf

EIGCA
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS



Swan Golf Designs creates new academy area at Stirling

Stirling Golf Club in central Scotland, has opened its new academy, designed by Swan Golf Designs, to its membership and to the local community.

The academy comprises a putting green, two short game areas, bunker practice areas and an outfield with eight purpose-built targets, which have been artificially surfaced. “Six of these targets also double up as greens for a six-hole academy course so that its use as a ‘wee’ course can be alternated with its use as a long-game academy,” said Howard Swan.

“The academy presents an opportunity for the game to reach out and include, rather than to exclude, those who may not otherwise have the chance to play, as well as providing a training ground for young kids, women and beginners.”

Originally scheduled for April, the academy’s opening was delayed until June because of the coronavirus



Photos: Swan Golf Designs

pandemic, and initially play is being limited to the membership.

“We are expecting that we will manage to get a public opening in September, but all dependent upon what the Scottish government decides to do about easing of the lockdown and of adjustment to the social distancing rules,” said David Morrison, chair of the club’s development group.

He added: “It is very pleasing that, already, after only one month of play on the academy, the club’s junior membership numbers are burgeoning as the number of ladies during the club. It is particularly thrilling to see families playing together on the academy course and those disadvantaged having fun with their families, who may be caring for them, swinging the clubs.”

THE INTERVIEW

with Rees Jones



“Approaches provide more shot options for the ground game”

GCA spoke with Rees Jones about the redesign of the South course at BallenIsles Country Club in Florida

How did this project come about?

The state of Florida has a multitude of golf courses built in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s that need to be upgraded to today’s improved construction materials and to take advantage of technological advances. All major golf course components have a limited life

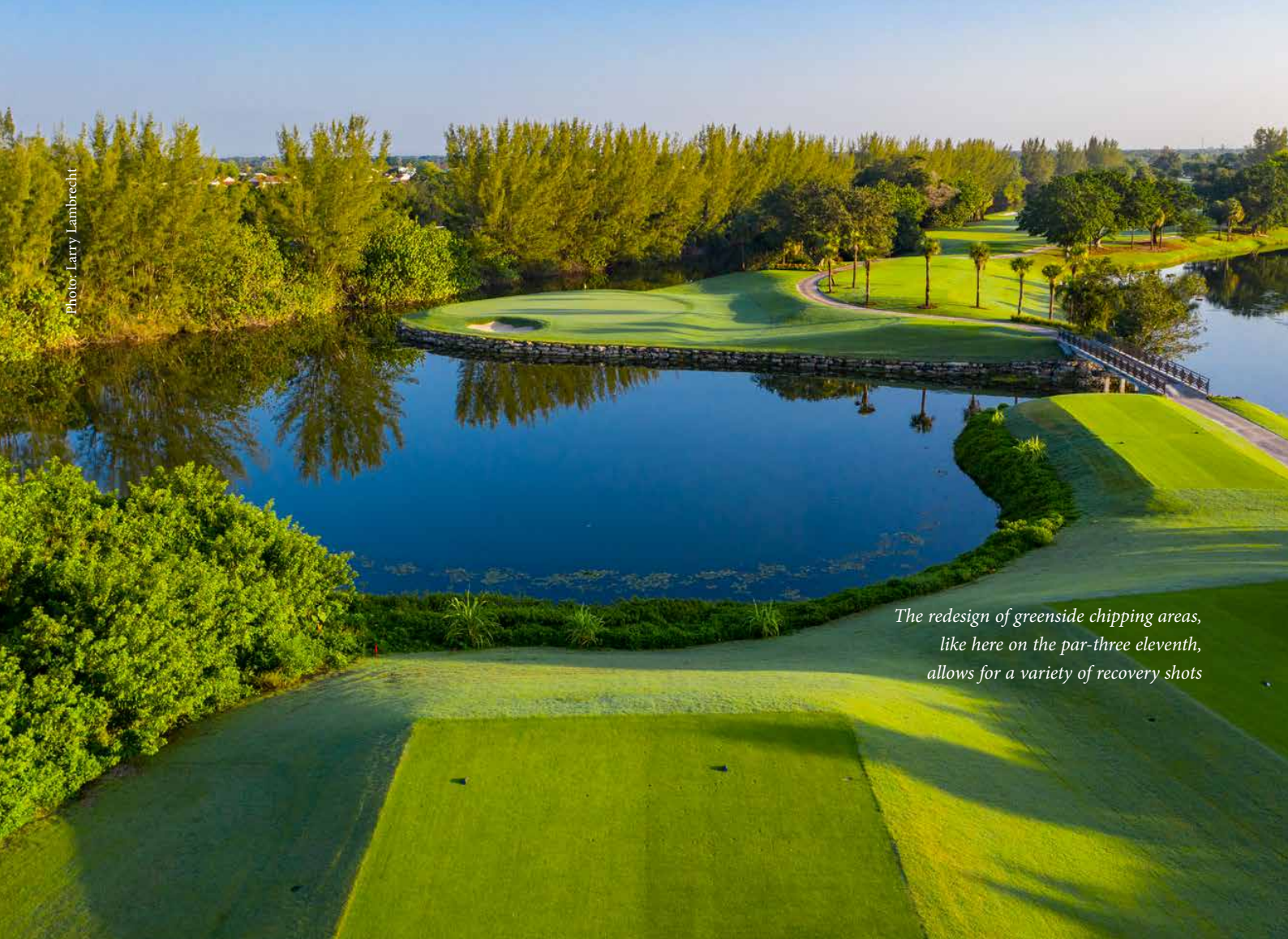
expectancy. That is the reason that so many private club courses are in the process of rebuilding.

BallenIsles Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is a forward-thinking community that has had the vision to continually improve all their facilities over the years. Twelve years

ago the East course was reimagined and renovated to championship standards. The course hosted the 1971 PGA Championship won by Jack Nicklaus, so it continues to be a worthy test for all potential golf championships. Seven years ago the North course was redone to provide a very playable facility.

Photo: Larry Lambrecht

New bunkering on the short par-four thirteenth hole. Jones and his team have reviewed the placement of hazards throughout the course and reduced the overall sand area



The redesign of greenside chipping areas, like here on the par-three eleventh, allows for a variety of recovery shots

What were your goals for the South course?

We redesigned and rebuilt the South course to provide a different type of challenge for the members to enjoy. It was designed to be a golf course that all members can manage and be tested on a continual basis. The objective was to go ‘back to the future’ with the implementation of a classic style design while at the same time updating each hole with an individualistic challenge.

How has the course changed?

The original layout was well conceived with ample space and water hazards in the appropriate locations. The greens were quite elevated, the bunkers were large and often located in the front of the greens and there was very little fairway movement.

Our design team changed the look and playing characteristics of the entire layout. The greens now vary in size, elevation and contouring. The approaches provide more shot options for the ground game and the introduction of greenside chipping areas allows for a variety of recovery shots that can be played. There is now more flexibility with the addition of new tees. The players have seven different tee options to choose from and the course can play from 4,129 yards to 7,006 yards. The windswept-appearing bunkers are now more scattered and appropriately located and the total sand area has diminished in size. Some water features were relocated to reduce the penal aspect of the hazard. The entire golf course was planted in celebration

Bermuda grass so the playing characteristics are the same as the East and North courses.

What was the key to making the project run smoothly and succeed?

The success of this project can be attributed to the way it was run from the start by Troon Golf, the management team in charge of BallenIsles Country Club. The planning, engineering, the golf course design, the approvals, the budgeting, supervision and the member communication was extremely well managed by them. It took several years from start to finish, but all the planning ultimately paid off with the result being an improved golf course that is now universally approved by the membership.

We do Bunkers... **Better.**



www.betterbillybunker.com

@Billy_Bunker

PROGOLF

**GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION
AND RENOVATION**

WEST CLIFFS

PROGOLF BRASIL
Antonio.carlos@progolf-group.com

GOLFSCAPE
Benjamin.silva@progolf-group.com



SINCE 1929

HARRADINE GOLF

CASLANO • DUBAI • BERLIN



www.harradine-golf.com

MJ ABBOTT
LIMITED



Golf construction *experts*

- Golf course construction
- Remodelling & renovation
- Grow in & maintenance
- Artificial surfaces
- Drainage & irrigation systems

+44 (0) 1722 716361 • enquiries@mjabott.co.uk
www.mjabott.co.uk



The Grove completes bunker renovation

The Grove in Hertfordshire, England, has completed a bunker renovation on its Kyle Phillips-designed course.

The ten-week project saw Phillips oversee a project where shaper Theo Travis worked alongside a team from The Grove – including golf course and estates manager Phil Chiverton, director of golf Anna Darnell and head greenkeeper Jonathan Taylor and his team – plus a crew from contractor MJ Abbott, to rebuild all 90 bunkers on the course.

Chiverton said: “Remedial repairs were required, especially around the edges, and we also needed to attend to weak areas of turf, readdress bunker shaping lines, and manage native grass areas surrounding them. We also took the opportunity to review the relationship between mown and unmown areas, and how they marry together from a playability and aesthetic perspective.”

“We reconstructed and restored the shaping of the bunkers more closely to their original size, shape and playability,” said Phillips.

Work began in early January. “We knew that all drainage was working perfectly and had replaced sand recently for the 2016 British Masters, so we started by piling the sand into the middle of the bunker. We then marked and stripped the area around the bunker to allow Theo to do the shaping work. Once approved by Kyle, our finishing team followed behind to measure and lay appropriate turf, including a pure fescue behind the bunkers.”

Heavy rainfall and subsequent wet ground conditions during the project

presented significant challenges to the team. Steve Briggs from MJ Abbott said: “Our vehicles had to stay on the cart paths, and we laid boards out to enable the crew to access working areas without damaging turf. An outstanding team effort in challenging conditions has delivered fantastic results in a relatively short space of time.”

Most golf course work was completed before the coronavirus outbreak took hold, with the course reopening on 20 May following the easing of the UK’s lockdown measures.



Photos: The Grove

COURSE BLUEPRINT

Cabot Saint Lucia takes shape

Rough shaping has been completed on seven holes at the new Cabot Saint Lucia golf course, designed by Coore & Crenshaw.

The project, on the island's north coast, paused during the coronavirus outbreak.

"Saint Lucia mandated a shelter-in-place order on 23 March, which included a cessation of all commercial operations," said Ben Cowan-Dewar, the founder of Cabot Links in Nova Scotia. "Cabot fully complied with all restrictions and we were happy to return to work on 27 April, when the restrictions were eased. Most of our expatriate construction team members made the decision to stay on Saint Lucia, so we were well-positioned to resume work on-site."

The entire team was onsite in early March, including Mike Keiser, Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. The designers walked the entire golf course and provided specific design direction

for all operations.

"There are a number of holes that are immediately adjacent to the cliffs and the ocean," said Coore. "It's not going to be a course without drama!"

"Most people would point to the holes alongside the ocean, whether it's seven, eight, nine or fifteen through to eighteen. But I have to say that while those are going to be the holes that

Coore says that golfers will find the inland holes quite interesting

people will talk about the most because of their spectacular nature and their proximity to the sea, some of the inland holes are quite interesting. I think for Ben and me, we will find it very interesting trying to work with those holes because while they're not as visually spectacular, they'll provide some situations for some very interesting golf and that's what we look for."

"While the shutdown on Saint Lucia caused us to momentarily idle the heavy equipment, it has been anything



Photo: Ben Cowan-Dewar



Seven holes have been rough shaped, including the seventh

Nine of the course's greens are right alongside the ocean

Coore believes that the fifteen-to-eighteen stretch will be many people's highlight

Image: Ron Krater Studio

but that with respect to land planning and architecture,” said Cowan-Dewar. “Ron Krater Studio [land planning] and Studio RHE [architecture] have been busy refining concepts towards the production of a final master plan. “We have a special property that requires extra due diligence

to environmental controls and stewardship and in light of that, we have developed best practices for protecting the site and the coastal environment. Real estate pre-sales have been ongoing, and we look forward to officially launching sales later this year.”

GOOD READ

Out of Time

Bill Yates, the founder of Pace Manager Systems, who died in 2018, probably knew more about pace of play issues in golf than anyone else in the world. He applied his engineering training to thinking about pace, and after a lot of research came to the conclusion that it is not actual speed of play that golfers worry about, but rather the flow of play – it is waiting to play shots or holes that golfers hate. Yates applied his theories at courses around the world, perhaps most notably at Pebble Beach, where he found a way to slow play down on the sixth hole, thus reducing the jams on the tee of the famous par-three seventh.

Yates was a friend of, and a contributor to GCA, and it is a pleasure to remember him, and to feature his posthumously published book *Out of Time* in this column. In the book, Yates busts 40 widely held myths about golf and brings to life the ‘inside the ropes’ story of his transformational work for nearly three decades on behalf of players, courses and the game.

Architecture was vitally important to Bill, who dreamed of himself being an architect one day, and the book contains a chapter on the role of course design in pace of play. It is a very easy job for us to strongly recommend his book to all course operators and any golfer interested in knowing how courses should manage play.

Seal Bay Publishing, US\$19.95
www.pacemanager.com
 Available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



GOOD READ

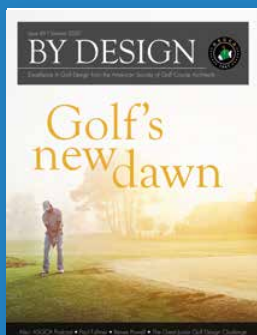
“Now is the time for clubs and architects to come together”

The cover story of the latest issue of *By Design* magazine – produced for the American Society of Golf Course Architects by the team responsible for GCA – reflects on how golf course facilities can adapt to thrive in the post-Covid-19 world.

“Adaptability for all parties is the key for the future,” said Henry DeLozier of GGA Partners. “Now is the time for clubs and architects to come together. Architects can propose cost-effective designs and ideas to make clubs more successful.”

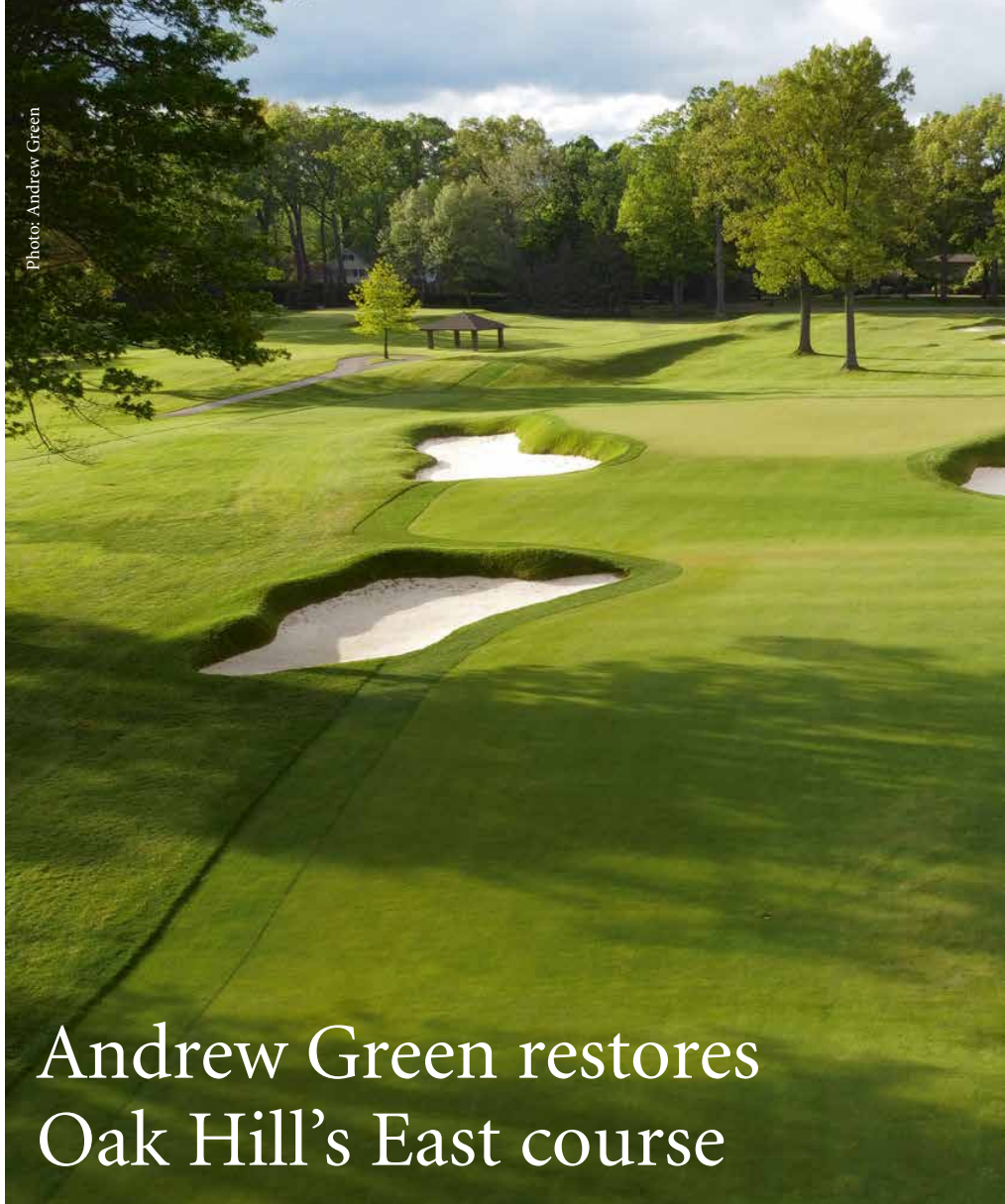
This issue includes an interview with Renee Powell, 2020 ASGCA Donald Ross Award winner, about her family, career, and Clearview Legacy Foundation.

Also in *By Design*, ASGCA members reflect on Paul Fullmer – the former executive secretary of ASGCA – who passed away at the start of the year, and discuss how he raised the profile of the profession of golf course architecture.



To read more, download the latest issue and subscribe to *By Design* via www.asgca.org

Photo: Andrew Green



Andrew Green restores Oak Hill's East course

The East course at Oak Hill Country Club in Pittsford, New York, has reopened following a restoration by Andrew Green.

“Our goal was to reconnect the East course with its roots and provide a golf experience that better represented Donald Ross’s vision for the course,” said Green.

The architect eliminated the fifth and sixth holes. “Hole five is now a mid-length par three that rests to the right of the fourth green and mimics the original Ross design of the sixth,” said Green. “The sixth is a long par four that plays to a green that is in a similar fashion to the original Ross fifth. It uses Allen Creek as a diagonal hazard for both the landing zone and green.

“The fifteenth was also completely reworked making for a short, P ostage Stamp-style hole that again mimics some of Ross’s original thoughts. It makes for a precision shot and is a tough hole but doesn’t eliminate recovery the way the previous pond did.”

Other aspects of the project included adjustments to fairway bunkers, addition of tees to shorten and lengthen the course, tree removal and the widening of fairways.

“The third, eighth, thirteenth and eighteenth greens have been adjusted to retrofit previous modern changes and fit them in the Ross framework,” said Green. “All the other greens were expanded and tweaked to best represent the Ross drawings that the team had as a reference.”



Payne's Valley opens for play

Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri, has opened Payne's Valley for preview play – the first public course designed by Tiger Woods and TGR Design – and is scheduled to open fully in the autumn.

The course joins the resort's other layouts from Coore & Crenshaw, Gary Player, Tom Fazio and Jack Nicklaus.

"We are excited to give golf fans a taste of the truly remarkable experience we are creating here in the Ozarks," said Bass Pro Shops founder and co-designer Johnny Morris.

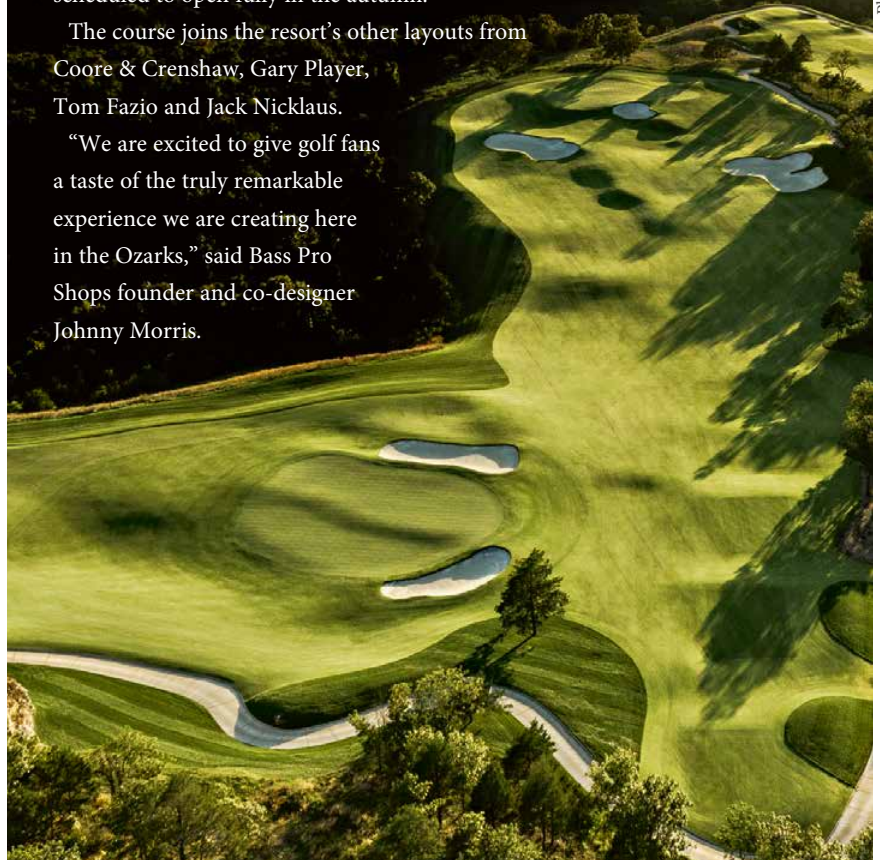


Photo: William Watt – Caddie Mag

Indiana University unveils new Pfau course

Photo: Indiana University Athletics



The Pfau course, a new layout at Indiana University designed by Steve Smyers, has opened for play.

"From a golf architect's perspective, I was very fortunate," said Smyers. "I was given almost total freedom to create whatever I thought best for the property and project."

"The course was routed to take advantage of the topography and diverse landscape settings."

The par-71 layout will be playable from 4,563 to 7,833 yards.

"The course is planned with multiple landing areas on each hole so that the golf holes can be set up with greatly varying length from one day to the next," said Smyers. "This will require not only high-level execution but proper planning before each hole is played."



THE SCANDINAVIAN
PENN A-4 / CRYSTAL BLUELINKS

THE GOLF COURSE
AT ADARE MANNER
PURE DISTINCTION



ÖSTERÅKERS GOLFKLUBB
CRYSTAL BLUELINKS

TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONG LEGENDS

By Interseeding With the Best

Becoming one of the greats begins with the most innovative and premium bentgrasses bred to improve playability, resist diseases, and tolerate extreme conditions. Grower-owned and focused exclusively on advancing bentgrass excellency, Tee-2-Green creates products that exceed Oregon Blue Tag standards through unmatched expertise and experience. It's time to start interseeding with the finest bentgrass seeds available and become one of the greats—your spot is waiting.



BENTGRASS. IT'S ALL WE DO.

tee-2-green.com/interseeding | bentinfo@tee-2-green.com



Pure Distinction delivers ‘tour feel’ for private practice area

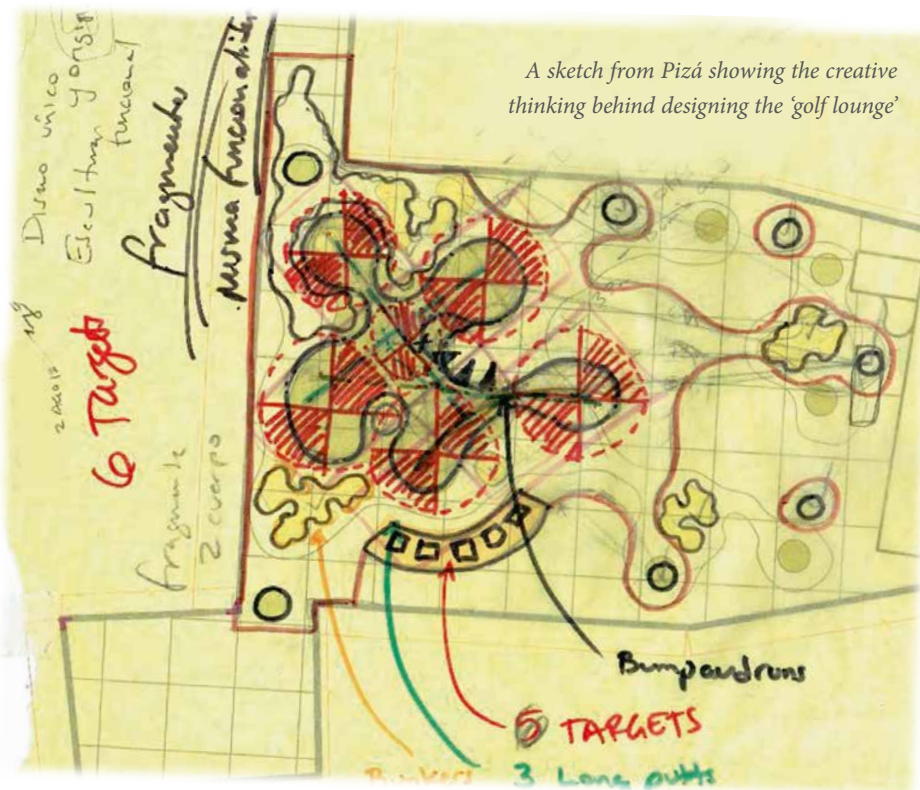
Golf architect Agustín Pizá worked alongside Agostino Gaude of Tee-2-Green on turf selection for the ‘golf lounge’ practice area he created in the grounds of a private client’s home in Mexico City.

Pizá said: “When designing for a client that has travelled to all the top golf courses, there are three challenges you have to tackle: the design has to be outstanding and unique; the quality of construction has to be paramount; and the playing surface has to perform and reflect all that effort.

“The first two we completely dominated with a world class team but the third really took me out of my comfort zone, since we’re used to designing for warm season grasses.

“After asking our agronomic consultants John Clarkin and Jon Scott and cross referencing with our irrigation designer Paul Granger, we agreed that Pure Distinction would be the grassing choice for ‘The Pit’, our award-winning golf lounge concept.”

Gaude added: “Pure Distinction has become the ultimate putting surface



A sketch from Pizá showing the creative thinking behind designing the ‘golf lounge’

Image: Agustín Pizá

for tour events and public courses alike around the world.

“Pizá’s unique design shows off some of our favourite attributes of Pure Distinction creeping bentgrass. The bright green colour shows off the beautiful rolling contours of Pizá’s

design. The super smooth putting surface will lend itself to hours of fun with low and high handicap players receiving that tour-feel they desire.

“Then you can turn on the landscape lights and fire pit for that ultimate one-of-a-kind putting and chipping contest.”



Synthetic Bunker Edges

- Significant Cost and Maintenance Savings
- Unparalleled Bunker Edge Stability
- 20 Year Guarantee
- Built at PGA & European Tour Venues

TPC Colorado

Bunker Liners

Fully Sealed Bunker Systems



Fabric Liners

info@durabunker.com



Better Billy Bunker Liner
(Certified Installer)

Tel: +44 (0)1656 336576



DuraCrumb - Rubber Crumb Liner

www.durabunker.com

FORSE DESIGN

Athens Country Club - Bald Peak Colony Club - Beacon Hill Country Club - Berkshire Country Club - Boca Rio Golf Club - Brae Burn Country Club - Broadmoor East Course - Brooklawn Country Club - Bryn Mawr Country Club - Butler Country Club - Calgary Golf and Country Club - Cedarbrook Golf Course - Club Pelican Bay - Cochecho Country Club - Congress Lake Club - Concord Country Club - Country Club of Orlando - Crestmont Country Club - Cypress Lake Golf Club - Davenport Country Club - Edgewood Country Club - Hole in the Wall - Hyannisport Club - Knickerbocker Country Club - Lake Sunapee Country Club - Lancaster Country Club - Lehigh Country Club - Manchester Country Club - Manufacturer's Golf & Country Club - McCall Field Club - Meadow Brook Country Club - Meridian Hills Country Club - Morris Country Club - Navesink Country Club - Peninsula Golf & Country Club - Pine Tree Golf Club (FL) - Philadelphia Country Club - Pocasset Country Club - Point Judith Country Club - Rolling Rock Club - Salem Country Club - Seven Oaks Golf Course - South Hills Country Club - Springhaven Club - Tavistock Country Club - Tedesco Country Club - Waccabuc Country Club - Walpole Country Club - West Virginia University - Whitford Country Club - Winchester Country Club

Golf Architects

Exceptional and Championship Golf Course Design



Winchester Country Club, Massachusetts, USA
Photo: Gary Kellner - Dimpled Rock

Alpine Country Club - Bedens Brook Country Club - Broadmoor West Course - Brookside Country Club - Catawba Country Club - Chester Valley Golf Club - Coatesville Country Club - Clover Hill Golf Course - Cohasset Country Club - Corning Country Club - Country Club of Asheville - Country Club of Buffalo - Country Club of New Canaan - Country Club of York - Edgewood Country Club - Fountain Head Country Club - Green Valley Country Club - Glen Ridge Country Club - Hamilton Run Golf Course - Highlands Country Club - Indian Creek Country Club - Kirtland Country Club - Lawtonia Link - Lebanon Country Club - Lexington Country Club - Longue Vue Club - Metairie Country Club - Metropolis Country Club - Misquamicut Club - Montour Heights Country Club - Newport Country Club - New Haven Country Club - Northeast Harbor Golf Club - North Fork Country Club - North Shore Country Club - Northampton Country Club - Oakley Country Club - Pine Brook Country Club - Pine Hills Country Club - Reading Country Club - Riomar Country Club - Riviera Country Club - Rolling Green Golf Club - Spring Ford Country Club - Springfield Country Club - The Haven Country Club - Torrington Country Club - Uniontown Country Club - Valley Country Club - Wannamoisett Country Club - West Chester Country Club - Weston Golf Club - Whitinsville Golf Club - Woods Hole Golf Club

[@forsegolfdesign](https://www.instagram.com/forsegolfdesign)
[@forse_golf_design](https://www.instagram.com/forse_golf_design)

www.forsegolfdesign.com
+1 724 438 1727

Jeff Lawrence transforms Greenville course

Golf course architect Jeff Lawrence has helped create 3's Greenville, a new design concept for the former CrossWinds par three course in Greenville, South Carolina, as part of the facility's transformation into a new hospitality experience.

The course is located directly north of Greenville Downtown Airport and originally opened in 1997, when primary architect John LaFoy brought together par three designs from 18 different architects, including Pete and Alice Dye, Rees Jones, Arnold Palmer and Tom Fazio.

Lawrence's design for the new owner, Davis Sezna, will see the introduction of a newly renovated 12-hole par three course, a 16,500 square foot Himalayas putting course inspired by the original in St Andrews and and six-and-a-half acres set aside for a practice area where players can practice all types of short game shots.

"We have respected the design concepts of the original architects while also making a few refinements to enhance the golf experience," said

Lawrence. This has even included greens with different grass species – Diamond zoysia, bentgrass and TifEagle bermuda – so that golfers can practice on a variety of surfaces.

The reconfiguration is Lawrence's first completed project since establishing his own firm, Lawrence Golf Design. Greens are being resurfaced, bunkers rebuilt and one of the existing holes rerouted to accommodate the new layout of the golf course. Lawrence's design for the putting course sees it wrap around the clubhouse, and the finishing hole features what the owner describes as "the deepest and most challenging bunker in South Carolina".

The entire facility – reopening with the new name 3's Greenville – will be lighted until 10.30pm with energy saving LED floodlights as well as a newly-constructed terrace and firepits adjacent to the clubhouse, all designed to provide an atmosphere to enjoy great food, music and golf. The final building stage will see the existing clubhouse replaced with a rustic cabin. Throughout, the emphasis will be on

Photo: Facebook/3's Greenville



delivering an entertaining experience that promotes fun for all with music and video throughout the course. Sezna intends to reproduce his concept in other appropriate locations.

"We at 3's Greenville are excited to introduce a fun and less intimidating golf experience at an extraordinary level of quality and service," said Sezna. "Our theme will be golf, beer, barbecue and beyond. Thank you Jeff Lawrence, for designing, refining and delivering such an inspiring product. Everyone will enjoy it."

Global round-up

New par-three course completed at Forest Dunes

A new 10-hole par-three course at Forest Dunes Golf Club in Roscommon, Michigan, designed by golf course architects Riley Johns and Keith Rhebb has been completed following a year-long project.

The total length of the course is just over 1,000 yards, with individual holes measuring between 65 and 155 yards. The first and tenth play across each other.

Johns and Rhebb's layout was built on land between Tom Doak's 18-hole reversible 'The Loop' layout and the club's original Tom Weiskopf-designed Forest Dunes course.

"My personal favourite holes are the first, sixth and eighth," said Johns. "I think the sixth will be interesting. The hole is essentially a bunkerless grassed half-pipe that plays around 100 yards downhill, providing what might be the best view on the entire property."

The new course will open on 31 July.



Photo: Courtesy of Riley Johns



European Golf Design adds new nine at Titanic GC

European Golf Design is under way with a renovation at Titanic Golf Club in Belek, Turkey, which will see the addition of nine new holes.

"The first two holes on the Forest nine are being lost completely due to the construction of a new beachfront hotel," said Gary Johnston, designer at European Golf Design. "Relocating these two holes and adding nine new ones has required much of the golf course to be rerouted or adjusted in some way. Essentially, this is a complete 36-hole project."

The club will have a phased opening with the first new golf holes being open for play in late 2020.

Photo: GolfTek

Faldo Design creates new putting course

Faldo Design has created a new putting course – The Gongs – for Laguna Golf Lăng Cô in central Vietnam.

The Gongs is eleven holes laid out over a 3,500-square-metre expanse next to the clubhouse. Holes run through gullies and over severe contours, along with some areas of flatter land. The course takes its name from the small gongs placed inside the golf cups which ring out every time a putt is drained.

Photo: Laguna Golf Lăng Cô



Image: Golf Design India

Golf Design India to extend Bhalswa course

Delhi Development Authority has appointed Golf Design India to renovate the nine-hole Bhalswa course in New Delhi, and to extend it to 18 holes.

Additional land, located next to the existing nine, was provided for the project by the Delhi Development Authority. “We will be designing the additional nine in this area, considering that the overall design for the project will result in creation of two separate loops starting and ending near the existing clubhouse,” said Vijit Nandrajog, principal architect at Golf Design India. “Our design will work to create interesting landforms throughout the site to improve character, drainage and aesthetics.”



Empordà Golf Resort begins two-course renovation

Empordà Golf Resort near Girona, Spain, is under way with renovation work on both of its Robert von Hagge-designed golf courses.

Following heavy rainstorms in February, all bunkers on the Links and Forest layouts will be reconstructed using Better Billy Bunker lining. Work will also include a comprehensive tree clearance programme and new equipment has been purchased to help improve the condition of tees, fairways and greens. The club says that the work is being done “to elevate the golf experience”.

The project, which will see more than 11,000 square metres of bunker area rebuilt, is being overseen by Mafer Golf, working with Green Nature Sports Lawn. The Empordà team is led by recently appointed general manager Miguel Girbés, who has previously worked at Finca Cortesin and PGA Catalunya.



Photo: Mafer Golf



BRANDON JOHNSON

Favourite features

Brandon Johnson shares four of his favourite golf course features

Alister MacKenzie succinctly sums up the purpose and ideal placement of hazards on a golf course: “A hazard placed in the exact position where a player would naturally go is frequently the most interesting situation, as a special effort is then needed to get over it or to avoid it.”

The varied landscapes over which golf is played allow for endless combinations of features – natural, man-made or a combination. If man-made features are thoughtful and artistic, and the combinations nuanced, this can present interesting, playful riddles for golfers to solve.

I’ve been fortunate in over 20 years as a golf course architect to travel, study and to be inspired by some of the most

interesting examples of classic and modern golf architecture. Here are a few of my favourite features.

The straight line

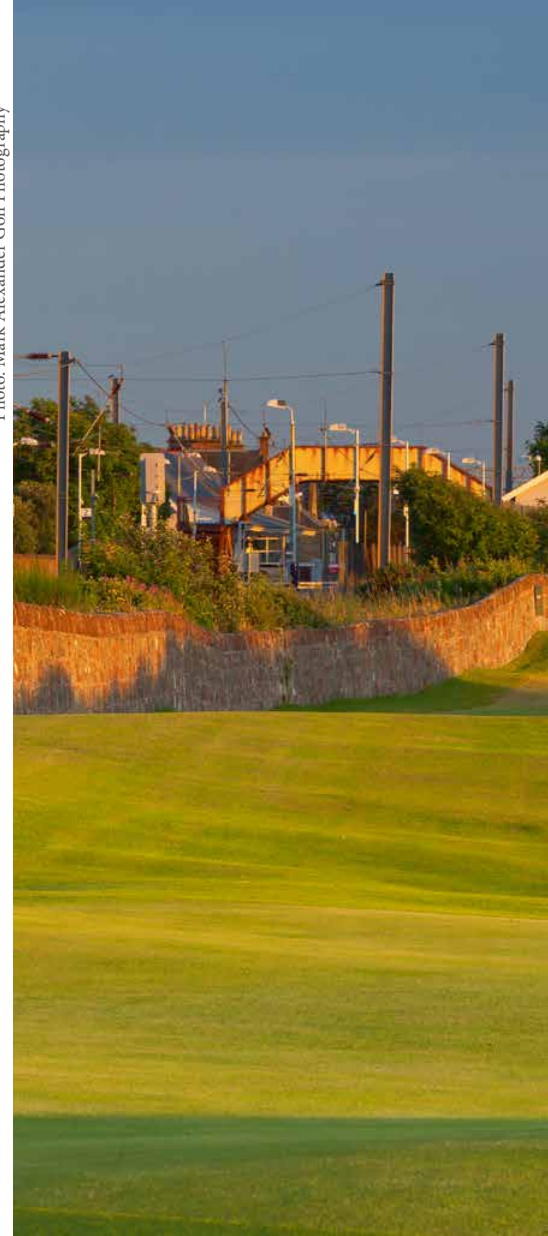
Some say straight lines have no place in golf architecture – except perhaps in the shaft of a golf club. In my opinion this couldn’t be further from the truth. Discovering and embracing those rare instances when nature and/or the human hand contrasts, blends or juxtaposes the irregular and unpredictable form with a consistent straight edge may open your mind to something you haven’t considered before.

Courses that organically intersect with their built surroundings often have a

functional yet elegant hard edge with which to contend, like ancient rock walls that ride atop a wavy landscape, or utilitarian channels that served the landscape prior to golf’s introduction.

The opening tee shot at Prestwick is one of the most intimidating, jarring, yet fantastic experiences in golf architecture. The stone wall between the course and railway line runs down the entire right side of the golf hole, narrowing until it rests snugly against the right green edge. Challenge the property boundary for the advantage or suffer the consequences with a poor angle from the left after a timid play. This sets up a wonderful strategy to start your round and serves as a precursor for good, funky things to come.

Photo: Mark Alexander Golf Photography





The opening hole at Prestwick in Scotland is flanked by a railway line. Drives close to the stone wall have a better angle of approach to the green

The uncharacteristic inclusion of a straight line or edge into the landscape can be a thing of beauty and an interesting strategic puzzle to solve.

The single bunker

Elaborate artistic expressions of bunkers have recently taken centre stage, a far cry from their primitive forms as windblown scars and scraps formed by burrowing animals.

While there is excitement in and flair to an elaborate nest of bunkers guarding the ideal line, I've learned to appreciate the simpler, more elegant solution as well: the single bunker. In contrast to splashing sand everywhere, it is more difficult to distil from a layout one perfectly placed and

'essential' bunker location. You're looking for a placement that might even dictate play on the shot prior, a bunker so pinpoint accurate that every player must eventually negotiate its request.

The Road bunker at St Andrews is one of the most ideally placed bunkers in golf course architecture. While not the only bunker on the hole, its influence dictates play on almost any shot to and around the green, with potentially disastrous repercussions for miscalculated plans of attack.

This single greenside bunker should weigh heavy on the mind and even influence tee shot placement if one is to genuinely consider reaching the green in two. Approach shots from the centre or right of fairway are ideal, and

only from there can one realistically make a play for green. This bunker also sets up one of the most important leaves in golf. The short right and slightly more risky long left second shot options will avoid the bunker and leave a delicate pitch and putt for a par escape and joyous dash towards the home hole. The careless leave behind or around the bunker short will create confounding problems.

My other favourite single bunker is on another famed seventeenth, at TPC Sawgrass. If the island green wasn't enough, Pete Dye cleverly places a tiny pit on the island to stand watch over that tempting far right pin location and feeder slope for the more conservative line. Aside from the skinny access



The oak tree in the second landing area on the par-five eleventh at TPC Sawgrass adds complexity to what would otherwise be a straightforward lay-up

Photo: Getty Images/Chris Condon

path, that tiny thumbprint bunker is the only place where you can miss the green and still find dry land. Then you will be left with a terrifying shot from an awkward lie, trouble staring you in the face from all directions. It's the same trouble you successfully avoided moments earlier, but now it's back and poised for round two. Some say this is 'Dye-abolical', a sadistic joke from a master architect, but I tend to believe it's a sense of humour, not persecution, that underlies this feature.

The lone tree or copse

I grew up in North Carolina, where towering pines and massive oaks are fixtures on the landscape and the local courses I learned the game on. I developed an appreciation for their strategic value, aesthetic presence, and ability to spice up the golf experience. Perhaps my fond childhood memories of learning how to conjure low fades and high draws to escape the grasp of greedy branches is an influential factor here. While it wasn't fun

hitting an errant shot into the trees, it was thrilling escaping from them.

Yes, an abundance of trees can make fairways too narrow. Yes, turf conditions can suffer from excessive tree cover. And yes, trees have a life span that can impact their role on a hole. All of that fails to see the point. There is something majestic about a large lone tree, or copse, claiming territory in an open landscape. Such a feature can be powerful visually

“There is something majestic about a large lone tree, or copse, claiming territory in an open landscape”

and even more impressive when there is strategic significance tied to its inclusion on a golf hole. Think of the iconic eighteenth at Pebble Beach and sixteenth at Harbour Town, or the copse of trees beyond the eleventh at Kingsbarns that acts as a soft curtain, stopping the eye in the middle ground, keeping it from

wandering too far before the second act is revealed.

I loathed the par-five eleventh at Sawgrass, and its lone tree, after my first round there as a 21-year-old. It took years of playing and watching frustrated companions grapple with this simple riddle before I finally discovered its brilliance. Now I'm enamoured.

Pete Dye cleverly used an oak on the right second landing area to complicate what appears to be a

straightforward lay-up. Contour plays a supporting role, too, by creating a tricky, slightly downhill pitch shot over water that bisects the right lay-up from the left lay-up area, thus creating a choice between two equally awkward shots for those opting not to go for the green in two.

Our original design of the Old

The flat green on the ninth hole at St Andrews stands in stark contrast to the rollercoaster of contour elsewhere



Photo: Kevin Murray

Tabby Links course at Spring Island in South Carolina had two towering pines standing guard over the second landing area. Trees so stately and full of character, we could not remove them with a clear conscience. In our 2012 restoration, we expanded the fairway right of the trees and adjusted the lake line far left of them to make them even more of a central feature.

Unfortunately, disease shortened their lives. The original trees were iconic and integral to the strategy of the hole. Golf had been played there for 30-plus years and will continue to be played there for decades more, so replacing the trees was the right, and historically accurate, decision. The two new tall trees will grow fast in the local environment and continue to be a defining feature and strategic factor on this hole for future generations to enjoy – or curse!

The subtle statement

A more contemplative artistic approach to design sometimes wanes in the face of opportunities to dial up

‘flash’ and present golfers with more stimulation; bolder contours, bigger bunkers and more severe, attention-calling features. While this shift from ‘quiet’ to ‘loud’ might be driven by the client, sometimes a more powerful, if not impactful, statement can be made by showing restraint – finding tranquillity amongst the ripples, contrasting bold with subtle, obvious with nuanced.

One of my favourite features of the Old course at St Andrews is the ninth green. It stands in stark contrast to the rollercoaster ride of contour elsewhere. One may think the oversized, flat, on-grade green was a mistake, but closer examination uncovers its hidden charm. The absence of contour or perceivable pitched slope becomes the physical and mental dilemma. There is nothing to feed, shed or stop the ball and the complexity thickens as conditions change. What is the appropriate play from 50 yards with a gust at your back? Putter? Bump and

run with a 7-iron, or even a hybrid? Or a higher shot with a soft landing? There is no right or wrong answer; it’s about a confident decision and sound execution.

I applaud my design partner, Thad Layton, in his use of subtlety at Fazenda Boa Vista in Brazil, where the natural terrain on the back nine is much more raucous than the low-lying front. The contrast of the small, delicately contoured green on the par-five thirteenth with the rolling terrain around it makes a wonderful statement and is a quiet moment to savour before the thrill ride starts again.

Architects have a rich palette with which to work and our field is boundless in its ability to create joy, satisfaction, and confidence. For me, more than the complexities and carefully crafted puzzles themselves, that is rather the point. **GCA**

Brandon Johnson is a principal at Arnold Palmer Design Company



BRETT HOCHSTEIN

Asking questions at Askernish

Ten years on, Brett Hochstein reflects on an experience that changed the way he viewed golf design and construction

Ten years ago this spring I went on a journey. Not just any journey, but one I had been fantasising about for over a year and, more indirectly, my whole life. The destination was Askernish Golf Club on the Isle of South Uist in Scotland's far-flung Outer Hebrides, the purpose multi-faceted. Sponsored by the R&A and available to its scholarship students at Elmwood and Myerscough Colleges, the trip contained a number of components, most of which were educational. The first was to develop a sense of sustainability in golf course greenkeeping and design. The second was to get a look into the real origins of the game. And the third was simply to

experience an incredible golf course and faraway land, creating new friends and a lifetime of memories along the way.

For me, the trip exceeded all of those goals and then some. We began with a long and scenic ferry ride through the Sound of Mull and out to what seemed like the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Many go by plane to Benbecula, but I felt the ferry offered not only great scenery but also a sense of connection to the experiences of Old Tom Morris and his time, where he would have taken a similar sea route to the Isles.

The characteristics of Old Tom and his era would be a strong recurring theme throughout the week, and rightfully so. He is perhaps the most important and

influential figure in our game's history, his contributions to greenkeeping, clubmaking, playing, and golf course architecture all significant in their respective departments. Particularly though, we would be focusing on the greenkeeping and golf design elements of Old Tom's skillset.

Old Tom's relation to Askernish is direct. Documentation shows that he was present in 1891 to lay out a links in fantastic dunesland. He described the land as "second to none in the various elements that go to make a very good golf course," and what you see today is exactly that. It wasn't recently like that though. Some time in the 1930s, a large portion of the land near today's



Photos: Toby Brearley



Hochstein and the other participants on the R&A trip rebuilt a bunker using the methods of Old Tom Morris's day (above, and left, before their work)

clubhouse was flattened out to aid the war effort. The golf course also changed sometime around then, the holes in the dunes being abandoned and a very basic nine-hole course being configured over the newly simplified land.

It remained this way until the club chairman at the time, Ralph Thompson, got together with links turf specialist Gordon Irvine, who after hearing about the Old Tom Morris connection and seeing the wild dunes that did not have golf, jumped excitedly all over the prospect of trying to restore the course that Old Tom might have built. They enlisted the help of Martin Ebert of golf architecture firm Mackenzie & Ebert, as well as greenkeeper Chris Haspell and

GCA editor Adam Lawrence. Working together over numerous walks upon the links, they sited greens, tees and fairways in a sequential 18-hole routing.

While perhaps not a true restoration (which would be total guesswork given the dearth of evidence of the original course), what was definitely true was the spirit of the methodology. They worked carefully to do things just the way that Old Tom would have and assumed the resources were just the same as his during the 1890s. This is precisely what we were here to do as well.

Our first exercise of the week was to put together a routing ourselves, nine holes located over the untouched linksland just south of the current

twelfth hole. This too would be led by Martin, and we had a day to come up with our best nine holes playing by the design rules of the 1890s. This meant there would be no earthmoving or shaping, even in its lightest form. There would be no major alterations to the plant life to convert the ground to golf grass. You truly had to work with what was there, siting greens that not only were interesting in look and strategy but could also easily be converted by mowing and could stay so sustainably.

It was quite a learning experience to do things on this extreme a level. It is true minimalism, not the cosmetic departure from that word, where designers go to great lengths in construction to make something appear natural or minimal. There isn't necessarily anything wrong with that, and I have been guilty of some of it in my own shaping work. The core of true minimalism though takes a lot of restraint and discipline to execute given



Photo: Toby Bready

the technology available to alter the landscape. There was no such option though for guys like Morris or Braid, and that was much for the better. It is said there is no better architect and shaper than Mother Nature herself, so why fight against her creation, especially when the land is good?

“This land is true golf. Seeing it, experiencing it, and playing over it is like jumping in a time machine to the 1800s”

Routing a golf course like Old Tom teaches you to appreciate this, and it gets you even more in tune with what that land and those features really are.

Our other activities included an environmental management exercise and a bunker building activity with Gordon Irvine, also to be done using the methods of Old Tom Morris's day. That was particularly fun as we

played in the sand, formalising a wild, natural blowout into something ready for golf. Once again, we had to use the resources available at hand. Eroded sod chunks were used for revetting and stabilisation, edges were lowered using a careful collapsing technique, and marram grass was transplanted

from nearby to help stabilise the corner where the sand had been mostly blowing out. Everything was very hands-on and in tune with the local micro-environment.

At the core of the whole experience though was a real look and understanding of the special natural landscape and links turf of the machair, the Gaelic word for the common

linksland shared by grazing animals, hikers, and the Askernish golf course. This land is true golf. Seeing it, experiencing it, and playing over it is like jumping in a time machine to the 1800s or even earlier, especially when wandering the land further beyond the golf course during grazing season. It is on these virgin links further afield – nibbled down tightly by the sheep, cattle, and rabbits — that the lightbulb switches on. It is one thing to talk about and hear that golf is a natural game and came from the shepherds knocking rocks in their fields, but to actually see a puttable green sitting there – all alone – without the influence of man, changes your perception of golf, even if you were expecting that, as I was.

Growing up in the American Midwest during the construction boom of the 1990s, the idea of golf and its features being anything ‘natural’ or mimicking nature was always a bit laughable



Photos: Brett Hochstein

Askernish enables golfers to experience a truly natural form of the game

to me. Even when getting deeper into my architectural education and reading books by Donald Ross, Alister MacKenzie, and others, I still wondered what the heck they were really talking about when they discussed creating artificial features that appeared natural. Bunkers to me were always ‘constructed’. Greens were always constructed. Everything was constructed.

My experience and travels since then have allowed me to see how golf truly was once natural. Nowhere was this more acute than at Askernish. Seeing golf like this in its most raw (and frankly, delightful) form then raises the question about how far golf has come and where it may be going. Progress is generally considered to be better not just in golf but in all of society. In golf’s case though, it makes you wonder if we have gone a bit too far. Are all these advances in construction and maintenance technology worth the hefty price

tag and complexity associated with them? Do we need such a high level of artificiality in the way a course is landscaped, constructed, or maintained?

I am by no means saying that golf courses all over the world can be built and maintained in the exact way as at Askernish. That is a specific type of ground in a specific type of climate that lends itself to such a natural and minimal approach. What golf courses all over the world can do though is ask themselves the same questions that Askernish did and does. Do we need to disturb and move this ground during construction? Do we create a new landscape when the natural one will do? Do we try and force a certain maintenance aesthetic as opposed to working more in tune with natural climate and soil conditions? Or do we work more closely with the existing land and select grasses that will be naturally hardier and require fewer artificial inputs?

Adhering to that last question could be the way of golf’s future, especially in the post-Covid world. Perhaps to some, this simplification may seem like a way of dumbing things down, going backwards, or being forced to change for the worse. This version of golf though is better for the environment (both locally and globally), more affordable, and truer to one of the

main reasons we get out and play – experiencing nature. As Askernish also proves, the golf itself can still be compelling and enjoyable.

Good golf design does not necessarily cost more, and when you have a great piece of land like at Askernish or, for a more modern-day example, Sand Hills, it can actually cost you less. Simple moves – like adding one tiny central bunker at Woking – and simple ground – like the at-grade tilting greens at Garden City – can be highly effective and interesting while costing less and disturbing little of the native ground, maintaining a better sense of place and connection to the landscape.

Maybe sometimes you do need to do a little more shaping to add interest, or maybe going through the trouble of a variable depth USGA green is the most sensible thing for long-term maintenance intensity. The most important thing though is to evaluate every situation and ask ourselves: do we really need this? The beautiful simplicity and wild fun of the Askernish experience leads me to think that, more often than not, we probably do not. **GCA**

Brett Hochstein is a California-based golf architect and shaper. Read more about his time at Askernish at hochsteindesign.com/blog



MARCO MARTIN

Bringing the public closer

Marco Martin says golf projects within residential developments offer the opportunity to bring the public closer to the sport

The year 2020 will certainly stay in our minds forever. Spending three months mostly inside our homes has given us a lot of time to think. During those days I have been reflecting on my 30-year career dedicated to designing and building golf courses and always fighting against public opinion to defend our work.

Every new project is a test to repeat, once more, how good and healthy a golf course is for the environment, landscape, views, human health, relaxation, for creating greenbelts, and a million other reasons. However, every new project is like the first one, we have to battle to prove that a golf course is slightly different from a nuclear power

station and slightly less contaminating than a petroleum factory.

Joking aside, it is so frustrating that after doing our best to create a pure and natural environment, we do not explain our work properly to the public. Golf is a great place to be and an even better place to live.

During the coronavirus pandemic, at least in Spain, my clients and I decided to keep going with construction. We have proceeded with a new nine-hole loop for Altaona Golf in Murcia, Spain. The builder implemented procedures to guarantee the safety of all workers (face masks, hydrogel, a maximum of one worker per car, and acquiring more accommodation so there are only

Marco Martin has incorporated trails and workout areas into the design for Altaona Golf in Murcia, Spain



one or two workers per house).

During those two months, I had to drive two or three 1,200-kilometre round trips a month because there was no place to stay. On some of those trips, I had to spend the night in a sleeping bag inside my car. Great stories to live in your twenties and incredible to re-live when you are almost in your sixties!

During my site visits, I had time to walk through the first nine holes, which opened a few months ago, and I realised what a great place Altaona Golf will be to live. And most importantly, how well it combines the housing and golf.

Altaona could be a real model for new

and future residential development. We have planned a golf community with safety corridors of 110 to 120 metres between the course and the properties. Along the golf course, we decided to include a jogging path, as well as allowing people to cycle or even skate. Sometimes, you find a couple of British or Swedish residents walking with a dog. What a great place to be during the restricted times of Covid-19.

In some large areas between holes, we have created workout areas for joggers to stop and do some push ups or stretching. The golf course is 100 per cent safe with the housing totally away from golf balls and, at the same time, we have opened the golf areas to more

than just golfers. Let the public get closer to golf, while walking through a beautiful, manicured landscape.

My firm has designed more than 30 courses, and 28 of them combine golf with residential – maybe an average of 1,200 housing units per 18 holes. In all the designs, we first consider the complete safety of residents.. That is the only rule for a good golf course with residences around and on both sides.

Our next step is to open golf courses to more users, to create the perfect place to be, walk, exercise, and even to isolate during these difficult times. **GCA**


Marco Martin is a principal architect at Stirling & Martin Golf Course Architects

FEATURE

Design at a distance

Richard Humphreys finds out how golf construction work around the globe has progressed amid the coronavirus outbreak

Photo: Caspar Grauballe



Society has remembered what a great activity golf is. The opportunity for escape, exercise and social interaction has been a salvation in desperate times. And while many industries remained closed, the sport provided a glimmer of economic activity, not just through play, but also with the progress of construction work.

The timing and extent of coronavirus impact has contrasted starkly from one country to another. Limitations imposed on everyday movement have depended on the severity of outbreaks and effectiveness of containment measures.

Denmark was the second European country to introduce a lockdown. Only in Italy, the first nation on the continent to be hit hard by the virus, were restrictions imposed sooner. The swift response of the Danish government

came as a surprise for many, including golf course architect Caspar Grauballe.

He was in progress on a 27-hole bunker renovation project at Simon's Golf Club in Kvistgård, about 25 miles north of Copenhagen. "All the planning for the project was done before we had even heard of Covid-19," says Grauballe. Construction work began in April and was just getting under way when the lockdown was announced.

Grauballe is based near the club, so was able to drive to the site and carry out supervision as normal. However, the shaper was unable to get to the site, so a change in approach was required.

In addition to bunkers, the project plan also called for the creation of run-off areas around greens, expansion of tees, and upgrades to drainage and irrigation. The focus was shifted to

Caspar Grauballe made progress on a bunker renovation project at Simon's GC during Denmark's lockdown



Schmidt-Curley
GOLF DESIGN

Critically Acclaimed
Designs World-Wide

"Architects of the Year"
GOLF MAGAZINE (11)

"#1 Architect in Asia-Pacific
for 7 Consecutive Years"
ASIAN GOLF (2011-2017)

The Team Behind Mission Hills-China

Named One of Golf's Most
Influential Architects
GOLF INC. (2010)

Members, American Society of Golf Course Architects

•Founded in 1997, Schmidt-Curley has Over 35 Years of Successful Design & Construction Experience Across the Globe

•Involved with the Design of Over 150 Championship Golf Courses Worldwide

•Specialists in Master Planning of Golf Course Communities

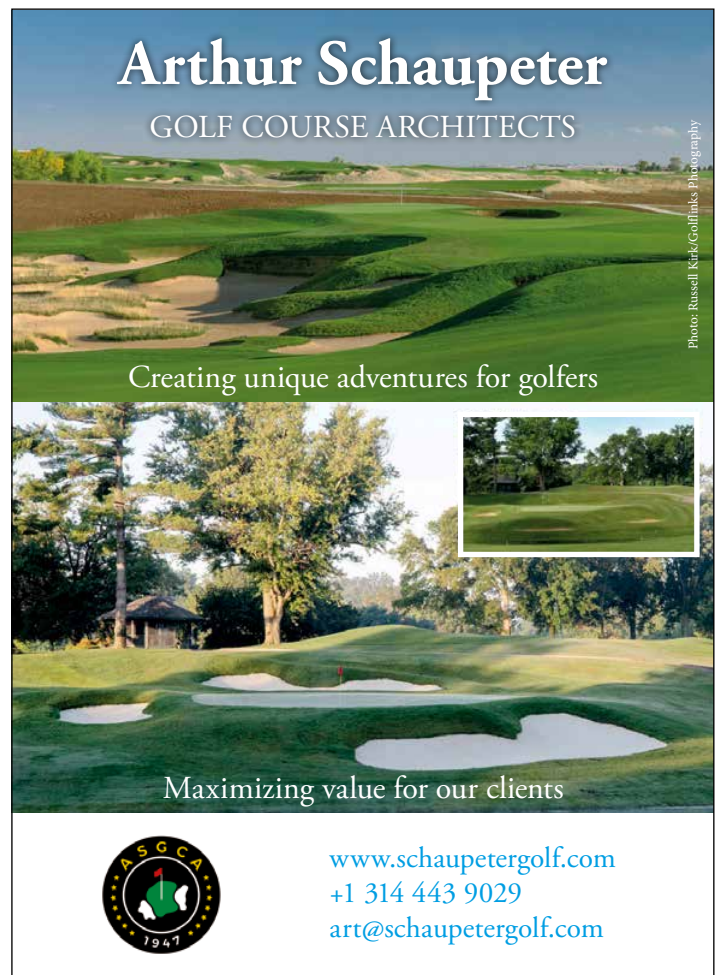
•Designs Have Hosted Numerous World Class Tournaments, Including the HSBC World Golf Championship, The World Cup of Golf, Skins Game, Volvo China Open, Mission Hills World Celebrity Pro-Am, PGA, LPGA & European Tour Events

•Experience With PGA Tour Professionals on Signature Design Collaborations

•Offices in the United States & Asia Provide Prompt, Professional Services

www.schmidt-curley.com

Sun-Hill Golf Club
Yunnan, China



Arthur Schaupeter
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

Photo: Russell Kirk/Golflinks Photography

Creating unique adventures for golfers

Maximizing value for our clients

www.schaupetergolf.com
+1 314 443 9029
art@schaupetergolf.com

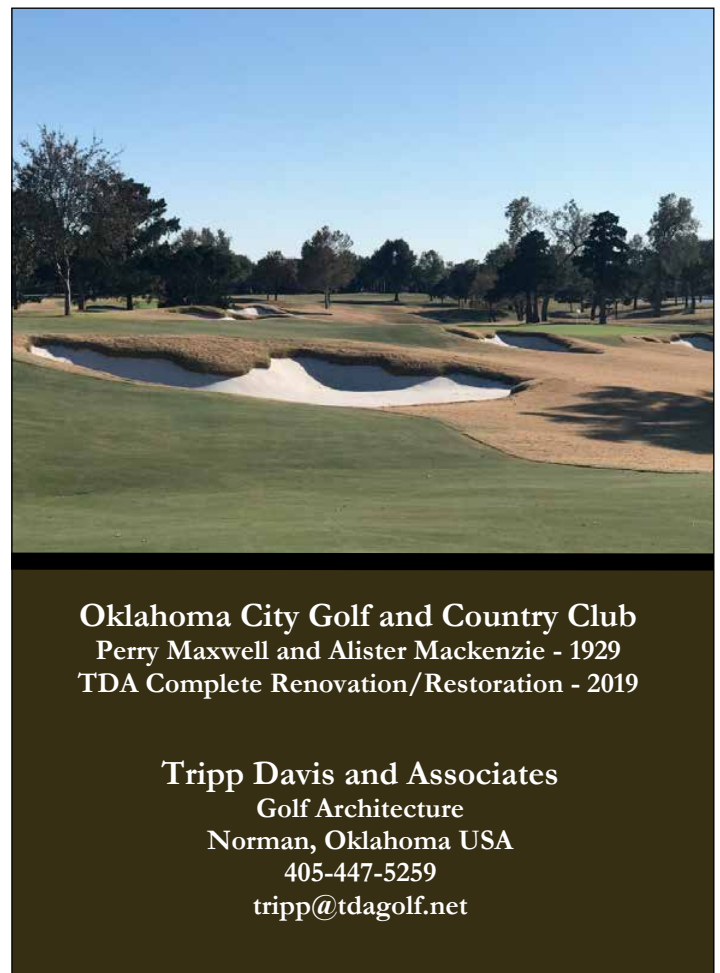
ASGCA 1947



VISION

J. DREW ROGERS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

www.jdrewrogers.com +1 419 787 6786



Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club
Perry Maxwell and Alister Mackenzie - 1929
TDA Complete Renovation/Restoration - 2019

Tripp Davis and Associates
Golf Architecture
Norman, Oklahoma USA
405-447-5259
tripp@tdagolf.net



Photo: Faldo Design

A skeleton staff on site at Faldo Design's Rumunza project allowed for some work to continue

irrigation work, extending some tees, and drainage on the existing fairways. "This slow start was of course better than not starting, but it was painfully slow compared to what we had planned," says Grauballe.

"Luckily, our contractor Nelson & Vecchio was already present in Denmark with a few staff who wanted to stay and keep working.

project, nine holes were closed to golfers.

"It has been a huge help that the client is very understanding and has been able to make provisions and assist whenever necessary in order to get the project moving," says Grauballe.

"After a couple of weeks with the small crew and establishing that it was possible to keep safe, the contractor decided to bring in more staff. This

Grauballe. "For the next phases, we are trying to make sure that the members can have a full 18, plus small loops of three to six holes open at all times."

Lockdown in Pakistan began in late March. Most workers on the new Rumanza layout by Faldo Design in the city of Multan had to stop working completely. Only a handful of key staff, including construction manager David Mathews of Desert Group, remained on site.

"With Pakistan in lockdown, the rate of progress on the project slowed down considerably with most staff unable to attend the site, and distribution channels significantly impacted," says Andy Haggart, lead architect at Faldo Design. "Along with David, some skilled workers remained on site, so we were able to keep an eye on works during this period. It also meant the turf nursery could be maintained and some shaping work could continue.

"All the planning for the project was done before we had even heard of Covid-19"

"Our client was able to provide individual accommodation for the workers, making it possible to maintain social distancing and, since the work is outdoors, the risk of becoming infected has been minimal."

The original plan was to work on three or four holes at a time. But to give Nelson & Vecchio more working flexibility and therefore speed up the

was possible as the Danish borders were opened for people with contracted work. With a shaper and an almost full crew on site, work kicked up a gear."

By June, and as Denmark became one of the first countries in Europe to ease lockdown measures, turf was in place on all areas of the first nine holes. "We'll now turn our attention to the two other nine-hole loops," says

ROBERT TRENT JONES II

Golf Course Architects



Par 3, Hole 17 prior to opening | Photo: Courtesy of Tanah Merah

A LEGACY OF INNOVATIVE RENOVATION

Renovation of Tanah Merah Country Club, Garden Course.

Singapore

of the earth...for the spirit.®

ROBERT TRENT JONES II, LLC

USA +1-650-475-0329 • golfinfo@rtj2.com • www.rtj2.com





Photos: Beau Welling Design



Beau Welling has used drones to ensure progress is made on the new West course for PGA Frisco in Texas

“In early June, many of the experienced golf course construction workers returned to the project following the Pakistani government lifting local restrictions, which has allowed much of the work to resume. The project has built a fantastic connection with the area, and by working with a predominately local staff we were able to resume much of the on-site work without facing too much disruption, for instance the local earthworks contractor is already getting going again.”

Gareth Williams, director of design and operations at Faldo Design, adds: “Staff are maintaining high levels of hygiene, regularly washing their hands and frequently cleaning all surfaces on site, while PPE has been provided and masks and gloves are being worn when necessary.”

The entire Faldo Design team has worked from home during the height of the pandemic. “We have taken the

decision to postpone all planned site visits for the time being whilst mobility remains difficult,” says Williams.

“We have embraced technology more than ever and are really seeing the benefits. The likes of video conferences and two-way sharing has allowed us to stay in regular contact with all teams on the ground; and by using imagery and drone footage we are able to continue to provide detailed design input despite

optimistic about the site’s progress and very much looking forward to the course opening in 2021.”

Drones and other technologies, such as video-conferencing, have also helped Beau Welling and his design team stay on top of progress of the new West course for the PGA Frisco project in Texas, USA.

Welling’s layout – plus an East course designed by Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner

“We have embraced technology more than ever and are really seeing the benefits”

being miles apart! It’s not ideal but is working remarkably well.”

Haggar adds: “Looking ahead with distribution channels and mobility still impacted, waiting on the delivery of materials will be the next problem to overcome. However, with a great, experienced team out there and our remote support and input, we are

that is also currently in construction – is part of a \$500 million-plus development that will see the PGA of America relocate from its present headquarters in Florida.

Restrictions on travel meant that Welling had to adapt his methods to keep the West course project progressing. “We had to employ new



It's in the detail

Kevin Ramsey of Golfplan says that little has changed to his firm's design approach throughout the pandemic

We are doing very little differently. We were already using drone technology to fly sites that have areas that are hard to get to, so now these same drones will fly an entire site to confirm what we are seeing through detailed topography maps and Google Earth imaging. We have always provided highly detailed master plans and construction drawings and used a range of technology including AutoCAD, 3D modelling and incredible construction machinery.

While it is always nice to be able to walk a site, some require such significant grading and clearing that walking is not that beneficial. When you are cutting ridge lines of over 20 metres and consequently filling areas the same depth, what you are initially walking on won't exist. For softer sites, it always helps, but with all this technology at our fingertips and over 30 years of doing this, it is not as critical as it was years ago.

We are not 'arm-waving' designers that figure things out in the field. Perhaps this does not sound as romantic as 'discovering' things on site but we have created some incredible golf courses in, for example, the mountains of Korea. Often the main thing we are looking for during site visits is how we can incorporate views over the mountains or to the sea into the routing.

I believe an architect's time on site should be to finesse the details, not to shift holes, greens or make any other significant changes. These are all issues that should have been solved through proper planning.

Over 90 per cent of new golf sites are challenging in many regards and the reality, especially for international and developing markets, is that most architects are dealing with a tremendous number of constraints including challenging budgets, unrealistic schedules and inexperienced contractors and owners.

Due to these conditions we have, for many years, taken the approach that more detail and thought in the planning phases is important and necessary. There is so much detail available to design from before seeing a site.

With various Covid-19 lockdowns, this has been more important than ever for work to continue. Of course being on site has great advantages – including being able to bond with owners and teams about their vision – but there are many things that can be done with virtual meetings, photos and video.

Turn to page 74 to read about Golfplan's work at Seletar CC in Singapore



techniques to oversee the project from afar while not travelling, to conform with local and state orders, but also to ensure we kept our team safe," says Welling.

"At PGA Frisco, we deployed drones to our shapers and construction team so that we were able to get daily and sometimes real-time updates on the progress and review design features. I think having the drones capture daily updates was a great tool that we will continue to use as we return to resume business as usual to supplement our site visits.

"Our design team was able to resume travel in May, still adhering to state guidelines and social distancing measures. While nothing will replace being able to make adjustments in the field, the technologies used at PGA Frisco allowed us to still effectively manage construction at the onset



Workers on Greg Norman's firm's projects in Asia have used photography, drone footage and video conferencing to communicate with architects whose ability to travel has been limited

of the pandemic. We have been spending a great deal of time on site lately as the course is nearly finished with rough shaping, but without the diligence of our construction team and the implementation of these new technologies the construction progress and schedule might have been significantly affected."

"We deployed drones to our shapers and construction team so that we can get daily and sometimes real-time updates"

Jeff Danner of Greg Norman Golf Course Design echoes that sentiment: "Any architect will tell you, there is no substitute for frequent visits all throughout construction."

The Norman firm has a number of projects in construction in Asia, including two 36-hole layouts in

Vietnam and a project near Osaka, Japan. "The contractor has been instrumental in achieving our design intent without our being able to jump on a plane," says Danner.

"It has undoubtedly, been an adjustment for us. We have been working from home and under a company-policy no-fly protocol

since early March. With many of our projects located in different parts of the world, and Asia especially, we have had to get creative and figure out how to adapt while minimising our risk of exposure.

"Our hands-on approach and on-site presence have always been one of our

keys to success. Luckily, we have a strong team in Asia on the ground, helping to oversee our projects and ensure things are being implemented the way we like.

"Now more than ever, drawings are playing an important role," continues Danner. "I'm not just talking about your typical grading or drainage plans. Perspective, hand-drawn sketches over dirt photos, and quick annotated diagrams have played a significant role in conveying adjustments we would typically make on-site during one of our visits."

Photography, drone footage and video conferencing has allowed Danner to keep updated with progress and provide any feedback or direction to the construction team.

"My typical day might start with a video walkthrough, followed by carefully reviewing drone footage or

Huxley Golf All-Weather Golf Courses

Huxley All-Weather Golf Course, Houghton-le-Spring

Huxley® Golf

Premier All-Weather Surfaces for Golf



Official supplier to:



UK and Overseas Enquiries:
Tel + 44 (0) 1730 829608
Email: sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com

JOSEF PÖTTER GOLF

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION



JOSEF PÖTTER GMBH

Füchtenfeld 22 | 48599 Gronau-Epe | Germany | phone: +49(0)2565-402 98-0 | zentrale@poetter-golf.de | www.poetter-golf.de

still photos from all different angles,” says Danner. “Then I’ll spend a few hours sketching and diagramming so the thoughts and ideas discussed on the video conference can be further developed, thought through, and elaborated on in the form of a field sketch that the contractor can implement the following day. The primary efficiency is that we work while they sleep, they work while we sleep, and both parties burn the candle a little bit at both ends to accommodate one another’s schedule.

“To accompany the photographs, we are now requesting video walk-throughs with shaper commentary, and as-built spot elevations on a grid to review green surfaces. The green surface as-builts have always been a part of our process, but usually, as a site-visit tool to verify percentages and green strategy.

“Having great shapers is another crucial component. Being able to have our regular shaper-architect discussions and banter over a video call has been invaluable, especially when working with people who know what you’re after.

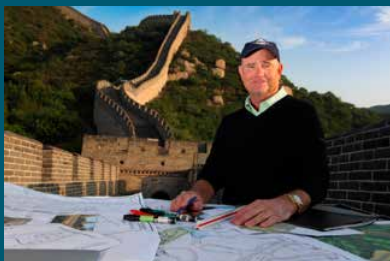
“The last few months have not been without it’s challenges. Sometimes spotty cell coverage, weather, lighting, barking dogs and a host of other variables can make it difficult to accurately process what we see on a screen. It also creates a lot more back and forth, which can be cumbersome at times, but it seems to get the job done.

Danner, like most architects, is looking forward to a return to normality. “I’m definitely itching to go back out and play in the dirt.” **GCA**

READ MORE

Lockdown perspectives

GCA spoke with golf course architects during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic to get their insights into the progress of projects and the impact on golf.



Brian Curley, Schmidt-Curley Design

“I believe that the aftermath of this crisis there will be a resurgence of golf and the desire to be in fresh, open air as people adjust to a very new world.”



David McLay Kidd, DMK Golf Design

“Golf is one of the few sporting activities played outside with zero contact, so it offers an opportunity for people to exercise and compete safely.”



Tim Lobb, Lobb + Partners

“We fully expect our golf course projects to move forward later this year as they are solidly funded and long-term visions.”



William Swan, Swan Golf Designs

“Golf projects – new or renovation – are long-term investments for golf clubs and investors so I imagine the projects will be deferred rather than cancelled.”

Read these and more interviews in full at golfcoursearchitecture.net



Remote working for improved sustainability

In an article on the GCA website, Martin Ebert and Tom MacKenzie discuss how the coronavirus outbreak has accelerated some of their plans to employ new technologies for more remote working, and therefore improve the sustainability of their projects.

Read the full article at golfcoursearchitecture.net

PROFILED

A sense of place

DOMAINE DE MURTOLI, CORSICA

A luxury retreat on the French island of Corsica remains true to its rustic heritage, and has a golf course that reflects the same ethos. Toby Ingleton finds out more

Set in a valley between rugged mountains close to the southern tip of the French island of Corsica, Domaine de Murtoli is a working farm. For centuries, sheep and cattle have grazed the land, and crops have been harvested.

When Paul Canarelli inherited the estate from his grandfather, his vision was to blend this rustic heritage with luxury to create a rural retreat. He set about converting the ruins scattered around the property into dwellings – a collection of individual stone-built

villas and farmhouses, with their own pools and modern comforts. Each building has been designed to sit at ease in the Corsican landscape and provide a base from which guests can explore the surroundings and immerse themselves in nature, whether fishing



in sea or river, horse riding or relaxing on the private beach.

Chefs create dishes using produce from the farm, sea and local suppliers, served at three restaurants – one at the beach, another in the farmhouse, with furniture crafted from salvaged driftwood, and one nestled into a natural cave with a terrace that overlooks the landscape.

The overriding ethos at Murtoli is to remain true to its place, with meticulous attention to every last detail so that visitors have an authentic Corsican experience.

So when Canarelli decided to introduce golf, the very last thing he wanted was for a course to impose itself on the landscape.

He appointed Kyle Phillips, who turned to the history of golf for inspiration – in particular the original twelve holes of Prestwick, one of golf's oldest courses. Old Tom Morris's

1851 design was a playground of golf, including a double green, for the third and sixth, and crossing fairways in several places.

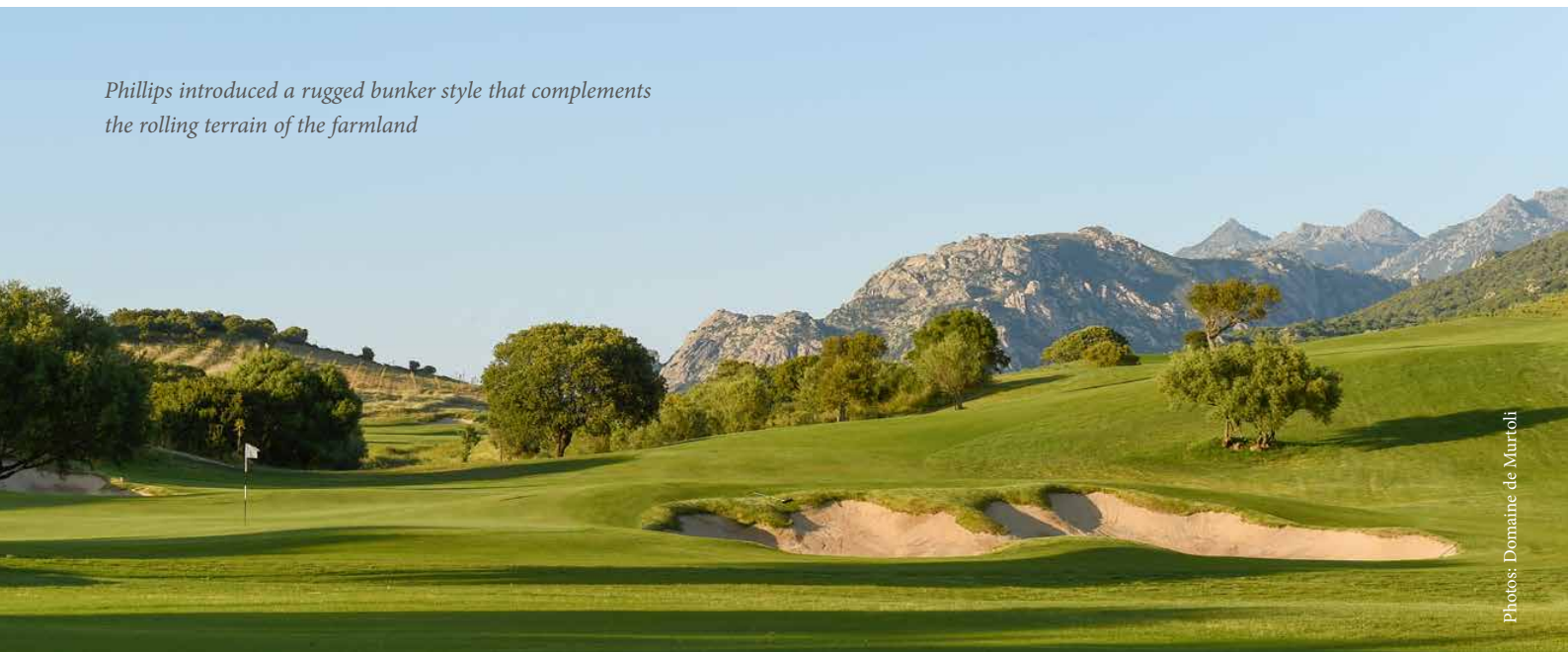
At a time when many golf clubs have been compelled to contemplate the merits of their business model, out-of-the-box thinking might be called for. And what better place to start than with the origins of the game.

Phillips' design for Murtoli, which opened in 2014, consists of twelve greens but is unlimited in terms of the sequence or number of holes. Two of the greens are large enough to serve two holes at once, fairways blend into each other and many holes cross over the same terrain.



The 55 acres of Murtoli Links has more than 50 possible holes of between 100 and 550 yards

Phillips introduced a rugged bunker style that complements the rolling terrain of the farmland



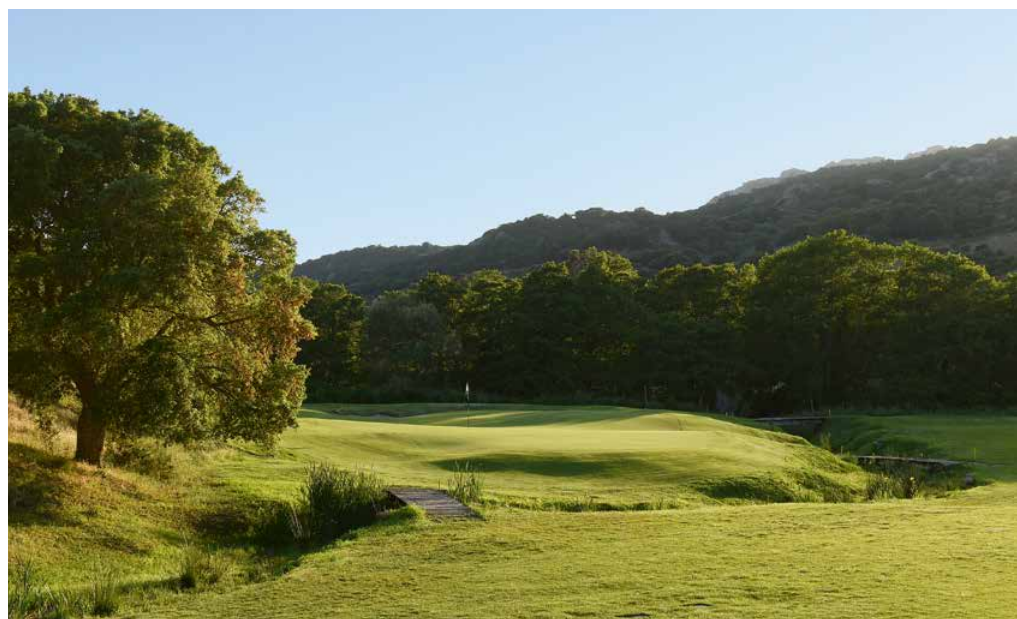


Photos: Domaine de Murtoli

“By breaking the rules of the 18-hole par 72 standard, the course provides a fun and dynamic experience while remaining light on the land,” he says.

“The smaller footprint of the golf course did not come about due to a lack of available land, as the entire property is over 2,500 hectares,” says Phillips’ design associate Mark Thawley. “We could have pushed for a bigger envelope, but it was important to show restraint in order to create a special experience that fit with our client’s vision.”

The resort sets out a configuration each day, sometimes nine and sometimes twelve holes, but with just twenty lodgings and various other activities on offer, golfers frequently have the course pretty much to themselves. This leaves them free to create their own routing suited to their whim for golf at the time. Match play is encouraged, with winners of the previous hole choosing the next



direction to play in, and which green to play to. There is also a full-length practice fairway, a practice bunker and short game area.

Rugged bunkers, used sparingly, complement the landscape and its dramatic setting, with views from the course out to the mountains and Mediterranean sea.

The design at Murtoli includes preserved native vegetation and existing working agricultural land.

With just 30 acres of irrigated and maintained turf, Phillips estimates the course will require less than half the water of an average 18-hole layout. “In keeping with the rest of the property, the course has been designed to sit naturally on the land so that players are negotiating the ground as it has existed for centuries,” says Phillips. “This of course, is how the game of golf began, across the natural linksland in Scotland.” **GCA**

INTERVIEW



CLAYTON, DEVRIES & PONT

Bringing it back

Toby Ingleton hears from the principals of Clayton, DeVries & Pont about their plans for The Addington

We were supposed to be meeting at Winged Foot in New York, during the US Open. The three principals of newly-formed golf architecture practice Clayton, DeVries & Pont, plus chairman Edward Cartwright, would be converging from their respective corners of the globe to, among other things, tell me about the first project in which they would all collaborate.

One of those ‘other things’ was a caddying job. Mike Clayton, who spent most of the 1980s and 90s playing on the Australian and European tours, was due to be on the bag for Lukas Michel, a fellow member at the Metropolitan Golf Club on Melbourne’s sandbelt. Michel qualified for the 2020 event, as

well as the Masters, by winning the US Mid-Amateur.

But the US Open was one of the many sporting events postponed by coronavirus, so we are all still in our corners, at home, staring at each other through a video screen.

In the winter before lockdown though, Clayton, Mike DeVries, Frank Pont and Cartwright had all spent time on the property of The Addington in London. A little over 100 years earlier, another collaboration was taking place there – JF Abercromby and Harry Colt creating one of the English capital’s most distinctive layouts.

“It’s got some incredible landforms,” says Clayton. “Sixteen’s a crazy good hole, and holes like six and nine have

amazingly interesting land to play golf over. In that sense, it’s really unique – it’s just a really fun place to play.”

“I first saw the course about fifteen years ago,” adds DeVries. “I was just blown away, it’s really cool and different.

“It’s noted for the twelfth and thirteenth, for some the sixteenth, but right out of the block – the second and fourth, for example – it has great strategy,” says DeVries. “They are really cool holes.”

Aside from the eleventh – which “they’ve changed around 15 times” says Pont – there has been very little work done to the course since Abercromby and Colt left. But time has taken its toll.

Photographs taken during The Addington's original construction reveal a 'mystery' green to the left of the twelfth hole, in an area that is now overgrown with shrubs and trees



Image: courtesy of The Addington

“The features have deteriorated to the point where they don’t really jump out at you,” says DeVries.

“They’ve lost so many of their green shapes and the bunkers have changed,” says Clayton. “The seventeenth green has just shrunk into a tiny round circle and you know it was much more interesting when they first did it.”

In 2006, The Addington was bought by Ron Noades, better known as an owner of football clubs, including the Premier League’s Crystal Palace. He died seven years later, but The Addington remains in the family, with son Ryan now overseeing operations.

“They have spent the last 15 years stabilising the business model,” says Cartwright. “Mostly, they have

invested in the club infrastructure. Now they want to take the course to the next level.”

Pont – an expert on Colt, having completed projects on nearly 30 of his courses – had already developed a relationship with the club. And the formation of the new partnership sealed the deal. Cartwright explains: “When we put forward the idea of having Clayton, DeVries and Pont, with all their various skills, on one ticket for this project – we shook hands on the day and we did the deal within a week.”

First step for the team was to help the club build an archive. In 1952 a fire had destroyed the clubhouse and all its records. “They lost everything,” says Cartwright. With the help of historian

Philip Truett and Stuart Robson – son of Fred Robson, the club’s second pro – plus a social media campaign and member support, the team has started to compile a rich array of resources. Prime among those were some images taken during the course’s original construction. “We suddenly had the most incredible vision of what Colt and Abercromby actually built,” said Cartwright. “And we managed to get a photograph from the RAF in 1947 which has incredible detail – it shows everything from drainage lines to the shape of bunkers.”

These materials have given the team a clear picture of how The Addington was originally designed, and therefore how it now compares.



Image: courtesy of The Addington

Looking back over the distinctive par-five twelfth hole, as it is now

“Most of the greens have shrunk, by 30 or 40 per cent, really a lot,” says Pont. “We’re going to push them out wherever it’s possible – the biggest issue will be how we keep the mounding that is so archetypal of the design.”

“The movement in the greens is unusual in places – there isn’t a formula to it,” says DeVries. “I think they are relatively intact because most of the property has a type of gravel under-drainage. It’s solid, not organic ground.

“The fact that the greens are that large says a lot. People say ‘old courses

fifteen and sixteen there were three or four trees, and now it’s a forest,” says DeVries. “If you open that up, seeing the golf course in front of you and the view to London would be just mind-blowing. And bringing the heather back instead of the forest would really make it spectacular.”

“Fairways were massively wider,” says Pont, highlighting an image of the twelfth. “That fairway was twice as wide as it is now – and it’s not narrow now. Instead of 40 yards it was 80 yards wide.”

“Most of the greens have shrunk, by 30 or 40 per cent. We’re going to push them out wherever it’s possible”

have small targets, they didn’t build big greens’. No, they built huge greens! I think reclamation of those is going to be something that will be really spectacular.”

The aerials also reveal that the course was much more open. “Between

That same image of the twelfth revealed an even bigger surprise: an entire green to the left, in an area that is now completely covered in forest. “That’s the big mystery,” says Pont. “We’re still trying to find out where that came in. Was it an extra hole?

We’re going to start some archaeology this year to try to find out.”

The newly formed archive has also helped the team decipher the role of each of the original architects.

“It’s exciting,” says Pont. “A bit like Old Elm in the US, which is the only Colt-Ross cooperation, this is the only Abercromby-Colt cooperation. It was early in the career of Colt. Some of the shaping around the greens is like you would find in courses from around 1910, places like Tyneside and even Swinley Forest, where you have some very steep man-made moundings around greens. They are difficult to mow, but that’s the way they were building things in those days.

“There are not many bunkers, those that were there were pretty simple. They would qualify as Colt bunkers of that age.

“We think Abercromby did more of the routing than Colt. If Colt were to do a routing, he would put his par threes in the prime spots. Take the ninth, the dogleg par four over a ravine. If it were a Colt course you



Photo: courtesy of Clayton, DeVries & Pont

As well as revealing how open the course previously was, this 1947 aerial image from the Royal Air Force has enough detail for the CDP team to be able to gain precise information about green sizes and bunker placement

can bet he would have put a par three there, making the ravine a diagonal hazard to a green. Abercromby didn't do that. Colt also tended to alternate par threes between even and uneven numbers for match play foursomes. With Abercromby it's all uneven.

"It looks like Abercromby did more of the routing and Colt maybe came in and said 'let's do the mounding a bit different around the greens', 'let's put the bunker here'. And that's kind of what we know about how Abercromby worked with Willie Park Jr at Worplesdon."

With the team having made great strides in unpicking the history of the

course, which originally started at today's fifth hole, they are forming a plan to return it to its former glory.

"It's almost like a Rembrandt found in an attic," says Pont. "You need to take four layers of varnish off, just clean it up and bring back what's there. But the whole painting is still there."

"In some sense, the analysis wasn't that hard here. Once we had the data it was clear that very little had happened to the basic elements of the course – greens, bunkers, playing lines. Corridors have narrowed significantly because of tree growth. You see that everywhere in the UK. They had lost a

lot of heather and gained a lot of trees. That's what I would call entropy; over time the trees kept growing and they didn't notice, then all of a sudden, you're tree-logged."

"From a process point of view, though, the difficult part is telling the membership 'by the way, this picture I just showed you, that's what we're going to do'. Everyone's going to say 'what?!' But as Colt said, 'trees should serve perhaps as scenery but never part of the stage'."

Clayton explains the relatively recent phenomenon of restoration. "No-one in the 50s was talking about restoring

courses, because they hadn't got to the point of taking the courses so far from where they were that anyone thought of taking them back.

"So it almost takes this amount of time. Trees have had their way, a succession of owners or committees have had their way, and influenced what's happened to the greens or bunkers – it's almost like it takes a hundred years to get to the point where you say 'let's get this thing back'."

Pont adds: "Committees will often say 'It's all nice that we have this Colt, or MacKenzie, or Simpson course, but obviously we shouldn't be restoring it just for restoring's sake. Our response is it's more restoring the original strategy of the holes, the way of playing them, which meant the corridors and bunkers were a certain way.

"You should touch the original green defence, the original green layout, as little as possible, is my feeling. You work back, sometimes fairway bunkers can be in the wrong spot because of the way that people play, or the tees might be in the wrong spot, or tees might be too small."

"There's a fine line too between restoration, renovation and redesign," says DeVries. "If you have something



The Addington attracted the world's best golfers, including (from left) Abe Mitchell, Walter Hagen, Jim Barnes and George Duncan, lining up for one of the first Great Britain vs USA matches in 1920, and (top) Bobby Jones, teeing off in 1930

regular club player that's not hitting it as far. Not every bunker, hazard or feature on a golf course is for every golfer in the same way."

CDP is planning to start work on the course next year, following a consultation period with members.

with trees, it's an emotive debate.

"My experience is that you do it and they say it's nicer. They're just scared in the beginning because they don't have a clue what's going to happen, and I can understand that. Members may have a garden and they like the trees in their garden. I would fight for the trees in my garden with my life.

"But as I always say, behind every tree there are ten others. You cut the tree, there will still be trees."

Pont will be the natural point-man for the firm's work at The Addington, given his European base. But Clayton will spend summers in the UK, much as he did during his European Tour days, and DeVries is planning regular

"Not every bunker, hazard or feature on a golf course is for every golfer in the same way"

that's significant, like The Addington, that's unique and has special features, that becomes more relevant.

"Yes, maybe the better players hit over that bunker, but it may be relevant to the junior, the senior or just the

Their proposal begins with tree clearance, and they are braced for the reaction.

"Smoking is bad for you, everybody knows it, but to quit smoking is the tough part," says Pont. "It's the same



visits too. It will be a full team effort.

“It’s tremendously helpful to have the collective wisdom,” says Pont. “That sounds a bit clichéd, but it is. This can be a lonely job if you’re just sitting behind a desk doing all the research. It’s very helpful for somebody to say ‘have you thought of this?’... assuming you’re not defensive. And the good news is, we’re not. That’s why I think our partnership works.

“One example from when DeVries and I walked the property a couple of months ago was looking at the way the tees have been built. It used to be very primitive. Old tees were little boxes strewn around. Over time, the boxes became bigger and quite ugly. Mike

said, ‘why don’t we go more organic?’.

I hadn’t thought of that. And it’s the same with Clayts, when we walked it together it was fun because I wanted to hear what he thought.

“I’ve said collaborations should work like a jazz session, an improvisation. They work because people respect each other, because people have different skills. You add value because once in a while you come up with something that really is beyond what a normal firm could come up with. That’s the theory at least, but I think we will.”

“We’re really going to put our heart and soul into this,” says Cartwright. “This is the type of project that I think fits CDP like a glove. We love this sort

of place – we don’t want to change it, we want to bring it back. Everybody says that, but we’re really serious about wanting to bring it back.”

The Addington has perhaps not recently been getting the recognition it deserves. “I saw it didn’t make it into the top 100 in the UK, which is kind of bizarre,” says Clayton. “But in a way that’s a good thing, because it gives us a free hit to kick it a mile up the rankings.” **GCA**

More from our conversation with the CDP team will appear on golfcoursearchitecture.net in the coming months, along with a series of articles from Mike Clayton

ON SITE

Space invaders

SELETAR COUNTRY CLUB, SINGAPORE

Seletar Country Club in wealthy but space-hungry Singapore had to give up a significant portion of its site to the government, but what could have been a disaster became an opportunity to reinvent the club. Adam Lawrence reports



The thirteenth hole on the new Seletar course is a par three protected by two large front bunkers



The par-four fifteenth is one of eight holes on the course where the green sits alongside water

The island city-state of Singapore is, according to the 2020 survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit, the most expensive place in the world to live (actually joint first with Hong Kong and Osaka in Japan). Its 6.5 million population lives in an area of only 720 square kilometres, making Singapore the second most densely populated sovereign state (after Monaco) on Earth. And, after Qatar and Luxembourg, it has the world's third highest GDP per head. Unsurprisingly, therefore, a fact of life in Singapore is heavy-duty competition for the state's most prized resource – land.

None of Singapore's sixteen golf facilities (twelve private clubs and four

public courses) owns its land. All lease it from the government, which has expressed a desire to reduce the amount of land that is used for golf in the country. No golf facility in Singapore currently has a guarantee that it will continue to exist beyond 2040.

Founded by Royal Air Force officers in 1930, Seletar Country Club's present-day course was designed by Chris Pitman in 1994 and is located in the north of Singapore alongside the Lower Seletar Reservoir, which supplies most of the city state's drinking water.

Seletar's lease was due to expire rather sooner than 2040; specifically, in December 2021. As a condition of granting a lease renewal, the

government demanded the club give up a 15-metre-wide easement along the edge of the reservoir, to be used as a public pathway. This resulted in a loss of 2.1 hectares of land, with a direct impact on six holes (and, as it turned out, an indirect one on four more) – not the easiest thing to manage on a site that was around 60 hectares, already quite tight by modern standards. Additionally, the club was told that it needed to become 100 per cent self-sustaining in water – in other words, it needed to expand the on-site lake system to store enough water to get through the dry season without taking anything from either groundwater, or the government's sources.

SIMPLE, SEAMLESS BUNKER PROTECTION



A permanent, heavy-duty option, while offering an extremely simple, hassle-free installation method that anyone can perform. Flexscape is a non-degradable, extruded PVC capable of standing up to the most rigorous environmental conditions and maintenance practices.



flexscape.com

IVI-GOLF 5 Pine Camp Dr. Binghamton, NY 13904 888-970-5111

 Environmental
& Turf Services, Inc



HELPING YOU SOLVE GOLF'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

When you face tough environmental challenges and difficult jurisdictions, we can help. We are the United States' leading firm for golf course environmental permitting in the areas of water quality impacts, turf management, carbon footprint reduction and energy conservation.

Pesticide risk assessment | Nutrient management | Water quality monitoring
Expert testimony | Turf agronomy | Strong science | 140+ golf course projects

WWW.ENVIRONMENTALANDTURF.COM

Stuart Z. Cohen, Ph.D., CGWP

+1 301-933-4700

ets@ets-md.com

FUTUREPROOF BUNKERS



Planning a Bunker Renovation Project?
Are natural aesthetics and long term maintenance costs important to your club?

See our range of products and contract options at ecobunker.co.uk and learn how clients in 29 countries are now enjoying the benefits of EcoBunker Ltd technology and knowhow.

Speak to our team on
+44 (0)2920 397 472
+44 (0)7584 495 688 (M)

Send us an email at
info@ecobunker.co.uk

ECO
BUNKER
build it once

Golfplan's Kevin Ramsey and David Dale devised a new routing for Seletar that addressed the "domino effect" of land on the reservoir's edge being reclaimed by the Singapore government for a public pathway



Image: Golfplan

Singapore has a typically tropical climate, with abundant rain during the wet season, so self-sufficiency in water is not an impossible goal – but for the course to survive the dry season, which generally runs from March to August, the course obviously needs to be able to detain a large amount of water.

To deal with these issues, the club clearly needed some heavy-duty architectural assistance, so it called on David Dale and Kevin Ramsey of the globetrotting Golfplan practice. Ramsey and Dale have reinvented the course, giving it a new design, new grass, and, crucially, a whole new infrastructure.

The numbers are impressive. Before the rebuild, Seletar could detain just over 60,000 cubic metres of water; now that figure is 132,000. The area of maintained turf has gone down from 54.9 to 36.5 hectares. Turf has been replaced with bahiagrass and other non-irrigated landscape elements. The total area of bunkers is down by 43 per cent, and the course has been sandcapped to improve drainage.

“This is the model for clubs moving forward, to keep quality high, be much more environmentally responsible and sustainable, and be more efficient with maintenance costs,” says Dale.

The Seletar property, which has around 20 metres of elevation change, is really rather nice; it rolls in a fashion that is just about ideal for golf; never too steep but equally in no sense flat. Standout holes include the excellent short par-four fifth and

the par-five seventh, which has water all the way up the right, and a rather spectacular waterfall feature behind the green. Long hitters can think about trying to get home in two, but the shot will be extremely demanding, as the green is offset to the right side, and thus the direct route involves a massive water carry. Another new hole, the par-five fourth, also features an offset green, although this time to the left side.



A waterfall provides a backdrop to the green of the par-five seventh



The new bunkers, like those on the original course, are relatively small and grass faced. Ramsey describes this as a links-like look, although the traps are significantly less punishing than a true revetted pot. Increasing bunker visibility, though, has been a key goal of the rebuild; most are scalloped out on the approach side, so even with the grass faces, the sand is visible. At the par-three sixth, though, the greenside bunkers are less obvious; not blind exactly, but hardly staring the player in the face.

With the new bunkers, the architects have redefined the strategy of holes. “We have created options on shot selection,” says Ramsey. “We always try to make the golfer think before pulling the trigger. Or in some cases, rethink.”

“The smaller greens, strategic greenside bunkering and position of pins for the day directly impact players’ success, when their tee ball is in the proper landing zone in the fairway, or failure, if they are out of position and cannot attack the hole location of the day,” says Dale. “A tee shot down the middle of a fairway does

occupying the interior land. I think this makes the front nine a little more memorable, because it gets closer for longer to the reservoir, and the edge of site, so borders of the holes are perhaps a little more obviously appealing than on the interior. This is not to say that the back nine is disappointing; holes such as the

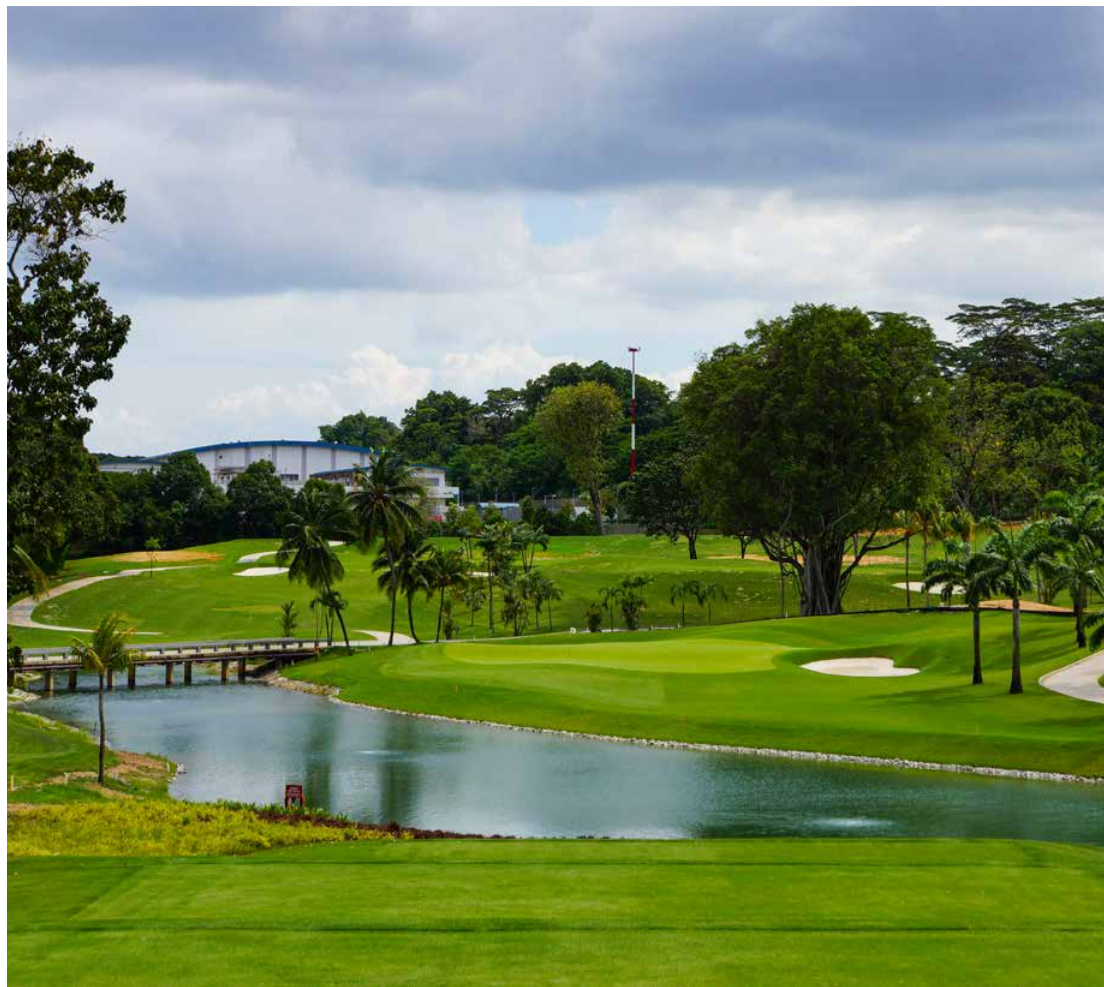
“This is the model for clubs moving forward, to keep quality high and be much more environmentally responsible”

not typically provide the ideal angle for the approach shot.”

The routing is quite interesting. Broadly speaking, the front nine is a loop around the outside of the property, with the back nine

beautiful par-three eleventh will live long in players’ memories.

Seletar is grassed, everywhere other than greens, which are Platinum TE paspalum, supplied by Atlas Turf International, with Zeon Zoysia,



The par-three second hole on Golfplan's revised layout. Left, A lake along the left edge of the par-five fourth hole separates the fairway from the new public pathway that runs alongside the course

developed by Texas firm Bladerunner Farms, and marketed in Asia by Sports Turf Solutions. Zeon was used on the 2016 Olympic course in Rio and has since created a lot of buzz among warm season turf aficionados. Ramsey says: "Zeon was the natural choice for this project – not only does it have major maintenance benefits over any other warm season grass, but its playability is excellent. The blades are very strong, so the ball sits up, which is good for normal club play, when most people 'sweep' the ball. But you can also mow it down low if you want to encourage players to compress the ball, which is ideal for tournament play."

David Doguet, who developed the turf, says: "Bermuda and paspalum have been the norm up to now for

golf in warmer climates. We have been looking at Zoysia grass since the early 1990s, and have developed several new strains, but Zeon is the best yet. Its main differentiating factor has to do with low maintenance: less water, less fertiliser, less chemicals, less mowing, minimal disease pressure and less thatch. Combine that with shade and salt tolerance, you have a very sustainable plant without the inputs while still providing a quality playing surface. Zeon Zoysia has become the most used Zoysia grass worldwide for all of the reasons reported. It continues to be the standard for the highest quality playing surface with the least amount of inputs."

The rebuild of Seletar is a resourceful and thoughtful project, which is

perhaps more about engineering than it is about pure 'artistic' golf design. But then, that is absolutely necessary in an environment like Singapore, where difficult weather conditions combine with high costs and extreme pressure on land to create a very challenging environment both for golf architects and their clients, the clubs.

Given the nature of the project and the environment, the build was inevitably highly complex: much credit for its success, therefore, goes to project manager Owen Hester of Green Dynasty, who brought it in on time and below budget. David Dale says that he believes Seletar has the opportunity to establish itself as a leading facility in the country, in which golf is wildly popular. He and his partner have done the club a great deal. **GCA**

Ross's greatest hits

COUNTRY CLUB OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, USA

Did Donald Ross originally design the course of the Country Club of Orlando? Evidence is contradictory. But after a major reconstruction by Ron Forse and Jim Nagle, it now at least looks as though it is by Ross. Adam Lawrence reports

The history of golf and golf courses, though not especially old in the main, is not always as clear as it might be. Mostly, that is simply because for most of the time that golf has existed, history has not been a significant concern. The number of clubs which have little or no archive material from their early days, even without the clubhouse fires that have wiped out so much documentation, is, from today's perspective, pretty amazing.

The Country Club of Orlando (CCO) is one such example. Founded in 1911, it is among Florida's oldest courses, older than luminaries such as Seminole and Mountain Lake. At

its foundation, the club had nine holes built by architect Tom Bendelow; it expanded to eighteen in 1918. CCO has long believed that the legendary Donald Ross was responsible for that expansion, but evidence for Ross doing that work is hard to find. It appears that Ross may have visited the site and submitted a routing for the new-look course, but clear evidence from local papers of the day suggests that Bendelow returned to re-plan the course. One of the definite consequences of the club's age, though, is that the course is golf-only, with no associated real estate; this is, nowadays, relatively unusual for Florida.

Whoever did that work, there is no doubt that the course changed extensively between 1918 and the present day. Robert Trent Jones built three new holes (the fifth, sixth and seventh) on some new land in the 1950, and time wrought its usual changes. A few years ago, therefore, the club decided to return to a more historic look and feel, and hired architect Ron Forse and his associate Jim Nagle to do the work.

Forse, who has worked on 54 Ross courses during his long career as a restoration specialist, thought long and hard about the best solution. If the club had always believed its course to be a Ross, he concluded,

Photo: LC Lambrecht/Golfsstock





The closing hole of CC of Orlando following renovation work by Forse and Nagle and, right, shortly after the course originally opened

best to give them one. He and Nagle therefore resolved to renovate the course, using some of Ross's best holes and greens – a sort of Donald Ross greatest hits collection – to inspire the new work. They made use of 1931 photographs of Seminole GC, combined with their own great experience of Ross's work, to act as a guide. The hole corridors remain basically as before, but virtually everything else is new. The greens are now mostly slightly elevated using fill, with plenty of movement as was the master's style.

Along with contractor Landscapes Unlimited, Forse and Nagle oversaw the reconstruction of all eighteen



Photo: courtesy of Country Club of Orlando



Photos: LC Lambrecht/Golfsrock



The par-four second hole at Country Club of Orlando and, right, a view across the back-to-back par-five fourteenth and fifteenth holes

holes. This was not without its difficulties: in the area of the course that had been added by Trent Jones in 1950, the construction crew came across a large number of cedar trees. These had been removed by Jones and buried under the holes. Surprisingly, they had not decayed, except on the surface. “You would not believe how much trouble they caused,” says Forse. “The construction crew had to dig a number of them up and discard them, while the rest of them were chainsawed through, then we went in and recontoured, and installed drainage and irrigation.”

The regressed course is no longer overseeded in the winter, which offers obvious environmental benefits.

The course opens with a fairly gentle 350-yard par four. The kind start doesn’t last long, though, because the second hole is a toughie. Not

hugely long at 428 yards, the green is offset to the left of the corridor, with a pond on that side of the fairway threatening the approach. The pond stops a little short of the green, so should catch only bad misses, but the putting surface is also protected by two flanking bunkers. The trap on the left is the deepest on the golf course; fortunately for golfers’ sanity, it should not come into play that often.

“The par-four ninth has perhaps the course’s most memorable green, a double punchbowl”

The excellent, fairly short par-four third doglegs to the right around a large bunker. Two bunkers on the left side pinch the fairway, making it extremely narrow. Golfers will need to take a decision on the tee. Can they carry the bunker, in which case they

will only have a short approach to the green? If not, they are probably best advised to take an iron club and lay up short of the bunkers – trying to hit into the neck is a fool’s errand. The green, inspired by Ross’s fourteenth at the Country Club of Buffalo, features a broad swale running through it.

Forse refers to the par-three sixth, originally a Jones hole, as a ‘Ross Redan’. The long diagonal green

is inspired by the fourteenth at Peninsula G&CC and the sixth at Hyannisport, both of which are par fives, which I guess shows the flexibility of the Redan concept. The par-four ninth has perhaps the course’s most memorable green, a



double punchbowl, with the two hollows separated by a spine. The punchbowl concept comes from the twelfth hole at Wannamoisett and the ninth at Cohasset, but the double bowl is Forse and Nagle's own doing! The enormous home green, the largest on the course, is heavily inspired by the finishing hole at Oyster Harbor Club on Cape Cod.

The renovation work, which has been extremely well received by members and guests alike, has also transformed the condition of the course. With new turf, and corresponding little thatch, it can now be kept properly fast and firm (as well as no longer needing winter overseed, as mentioned above). Although the vegetation to be found around the course at CCO makes its Florida location fairly obvious, the course itself feels rather unlike typical Sunshine State golf – its core nature and the undulations on the greens introduced by Forse and Nagle, give it a proper authentic vintage feel, as befits a club of this age and history. After a hundred years, Donald Ross is now unarguably present at CCO. **GCA**

The club has long believed that Ross visited and routed the course, but local papers reported Bendelow's involvement

MR. BENDELO WILL SUPERINTEND WORK OF ENLARGING GOLF COURSE TO 18 HOLES

Mr. Thomas Bendelo, one of the foremost golf course architects in America, came to Orlando last week to lay out the most beautiful as well as scientific golf course south of the Mason and Dixon line. Mr. Bendelo said that with our natural conditions for a golf course, it was up to Orlando to make this the most beautiful in Florida. Mr. Bendelo made the West Orange County links as well as the links of the Parmacea Course in Tampa. He told the Green's Committee if they carried out his plans and specifications that the Orlando course would be more beautiful than either.

There are now nine holes at the country club and Mr. Bendelo will add another nine, the links running northwest, and each nine finishing at the Club House. This change in the course was among Mr. Blevins' many plans for the improvement of the club, and the Green's Committee are most anxious to carry out this plan as he had arranged to have it done. They will need money and beg that every one who subscribed during the late drive, will be ready to hand in their first assessment.

The work will begin on Monday next and will be completed as quickly as possible.

H. L. BEEMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ORLANDO COUNTRY CLUB YEST.

Mr. Bendelow Will Immediately Lay New Additional Golf Course; Resolution in Memory of H. W. Blevins.

At a called meeting of the stockholders of the Orlando Country Club last night at the San Juan hotel Mr. H. L. Beeman was elected president by a unanimous vote to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Harry W. Blevins. From its foundation Mr. Beeman has always taken an active interest in the Orlando Country Club and he will fill the office with customary satisfaction and efficiency. Besides being proprietor and manager of the San Juan hotel Mr. Beeman is Florida hotel food administrator and



president of the Orlando Bank and Trust Company. He has loaned and given the club much money. Mr. Beeman was nominated by Mayor Giles who paid him a well deserved tribute. At the meeting Vice-President T. Picton Warlow presided.

Mayor Giles stated that Mr. Tom Bendelow, the noted golf course architect, of Chicago, was in the city and would immediately lay out the new additional 9 hole course. Mr. Bendelow, it will be remembered, designed the course for the West Orange Country Club at Oakland.

Mr. Warlow appointed a committee of Messrs. LeRoy B. Giles, C. B. Robinson, and S. Y. Way to draft suitable resolutions in memory of the late Harry W. Blevins.

The board of directors of the club will hold a meeting this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the San Juan hotel.

HOLING OUT

Plan Z

Forrest Richardson has a 'zero hole' in his plans for one of Red Lawrence's last designs

Soon after hotel group TG Hospitality purchased BellAir Golf Club in Phoenix earlier this year, it appointed Arizona-based golf course architect Forrest Richardson to develop a plan to renovate the club's par 59 layout.

The goal was to prepare one of the state's earliest 'executive' courses for a new generation of golfers. Built in 1972, the BellAir layout – five par fours and 13 par threes – was one of Robert 'Red' Lawrence's final designs, working alongside partners Greg Nash and Jeff Hardin.

"The original design at BellAir was led by Nash," says Richardson. "From what we have pieced together, it was his partner Hardin who oversaw field design and construction, taking Nash's design and bringing it to life. At the time, Red was winding down his career, but remained active to mentor Nash and Hardin to eventually take over the work."

Richardson's plan includes the thinning of some mature trees to allow more air circulation and sunlight, and Hardin's series of swales and drainage channels to be retained and integrated into the greens. "We do not see many bunkers," says Richardson. "Instead we will rely on the undulations of the drainage system, and in some places convert those areas to naturalised desert."

Tees will be added and work done to preserve greens that have the trademark influence of Red, and of his time working with William Flynn. "Not many people realise that Red was a protégé of Flynn," says Richardson. "In the early

work by Nash and Hardin you can see well-engineered greens, but also variety and creativity."

Richardson has also designed a 'zero hole' for the layout, which can be played as a warm-up or bonus hole. Tees for the short par three are right beside the clubhouse, so crowds can gather to watch golfers take on the shot over water to a peninsula green.

The clubhouse area will also include a putting course and practice green, and a new range that includes seating, trajectory tracking and food service.

Work is scheduled to begin in 2021 and into 2022. **GCA**



The 'zero hole' can serve as a warm-up or bonus hole. Top, a conceptual rendering from the renovated course

INTRODUCING **ICI+**

@RainBirdGolf 

ACCESS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT A MAJOR OVERHAUL

The New Integrated Control Interface Plus (ICI+)

From the leader in golf course irrigation comes another game-changing innovation. With Rain Bird's new ICI+ Interface and IFX Satellite Technology, for first the first time ever, you can install the IC System™ on an existing Rain Bird Satellite wire path. Upgrading to new and future technologies has never been easier or more affordable.



One Interface



The Latest Technology



Discover the possibilities of ICI+ at rainbird.com/ICIPlus.

RAIN BIRD®

THE SPRINKLERS **WORLD-CLASS COURSES RELY ON.**



Toro® Irrigation Systems

The greenkeepers of the greatest golf courses on this planet trust in the skills of legendary toolmakers at Toro®. The INFINITY® and FLEX Sprinkler Series are the masters of efficiency and reliability.



Join the conversation



Discover more at: www.toro.com