Architect Wencel a man with special 'finishing touches'

Golf course architect Grant Wencel has opened his own offices in the Atlanta, Ga., area. Wencel, who has been designing and renovating courses around the country since 1981, has added an artistic touch to his work. He paints water colors of scenic holes on courses with which he's been involved and presents them to club officials to display in the clubhouse.

Wencel graduated in 1981 from Kansas State University as a landscape architecture major.

He has worked for golf course architects Richard Phelps of Evergreen, Colo.; Larry and Roger Packard of Chicago, Ill.; and Willard Byrd of Atlanta, Ga.

Wencel recently remodeled the Brown Acres and Creek's Bend courses in Chattanooga, Tenn. He also has written articles for Golfing Week, a national publication.

His new offices are at 6263 Southland Forest Drive, Stone Mountain, Ga.

International students see 'real world'

Theory and reality meshed at the recent 22nd annual Jacobsen College Student Seminar in Racine, Wis. For the first time, British students of turf programs participated in the three days of intense, hands-on learning.

Christopher Harvey and David Williams were accompanied by British Institute of Groundsmanship representatives Eddie Seaward and Brian Robinson.

A similar program, sponsored by the Institute and Jacobsen, will be held near London Aug. 20-23.

Others in the class of 36 were from the United States and Canada.

"The idea behind the seminar is to pass along as much first-hand knowledge and experience to these young people as we can pack into three days," said Jacobsen President Robert Reid. "We want them to know what to expect when they step into the job market, and how they can make the most of their opportunities."

Preparation for the 'real world' began with a presentation on how these future turf professionals might effectively select equipment. Students were given tips on picking the proper machinery to maintain a golf course, methods to compare product features, and ways to estimate equipment life expectancy.

John Piersol, an instructor at Lake City, Fla., Community College, covered topics ranging from preparing a resume and job interviewing to what to wear on the first day at a new job.

Golf course superintendents were prominent in the lecture series. Monroe Miller of Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wis., a seminar alumnus, spoke on planning and implementing golf course budgets.


For students such as John Gasper of Ohio State University, the sessions offered a broader view of industry developments.

"In school, you know what's going on in your program, but you don't necessarily see what's happening elsewhere," Gasper said. "This (seminar) has given me a chance to find out what's being done in other areas."

"Students were able to use a wide variety of machines during a field trip to the Racine Country Club. Although most had prior golf course work experience, few had the chance to examine and use the full range of equipment made available."

Students later questioned superintendent Mike Hendrich about his turf practices.

Students received a different view of the turf industry during a visit to Milwaukee County Stadium. Harry Gill, stadium grounds manager, reviewed grounds preparation before major league baseball and football games, and the recent installation of a computer-controlled irrigation system.

Students were given a tour of the stadium and Jacobsen's Racine manufacturing facility to see technology involved in designing and building turf equipment.

Dr. Kent Kurtz of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, Woody Voight of County Park System in Saukville, Wis., Quast, Steele, Roberts and Piersol participated in a panel discussion with superintendents and educators.

Dunlop Japan buys into Dye Design

Dunlop Japan Ltd. has bought 7,500 shares of Dye Design, Inc. in order to become its exclusive agent in Japan. The $3 million purchase will raise Dunlop Japan's share to 33 percent in the firm operated by Perry Dye and based in Denver, Colo.

Dye Design has designed around 170 golf courses in 10 countries. Dunlop Japan officials said the firm is planning to expand its sporting goods business to include design and management of golf courses in Japan.

Partnership formed

Four Seasons Hotel Inc. of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has signed an agreement with Hillman Properties of Newport Beach, Calif., to operate and act as minority partner in a luxury resort in Carlsbad, Calif.

Four Seasons said it will own between 5 and 10 percent of the resort. Other partners in the project are Hillman and TSA International Ltd. of Honolulu, Hawaii.

The resort, to open in 1992, will feature a 450-room luxury hotel, 18-hole golf course.

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