HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — A 10-person team that works alongside, not under, one another — that describes Fazio Golf Designers Inc. according to Tom Fazio.

"These 10 people all get along. It doesn't matter who we match, they all work together and get the job done. They all worked at different stages and different levels — alongside rather than under each other," Fazio said.

Fazio Design's sheer numbers as well as talent have allowed the company to grass 5 1/2 golf courses in 1993, including the Canyon Course at Pelican Hill in Newport Beach, Calif.; Cowboy Golf Course at Oklahoma State University; Glen Oaks in Des Moines, Iowa; Old Overton Club in Birmingham, Ala.; and an addition to Pelican's Nest.

The Fazio Ten are:

Andy Banfield — The man behind award-winning Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, Nev., he was a key player in the design of Pelican Hill and is now involved with The Quarry at La Quinta, Calif.

Jan Beljan — A member of Fazio Design for 12 years and one of two women in the American Society of Golf Course Architects, she's been involved with PGA National, Pelican's Nest, and Gateway in Ft. Myers.

Blake Bickford — Starting as a shaper a half dozen years ago, he was the key person building the Short Course at Pine Valley in Clementon, N.J., finished the Pine Barrens Course at World Woods in Homassasa Springs, Fla., and is now at Galloway National at Atlantic City.

Lou Cappelli — A shaper since 1962 for George and then Tom Fazio, he has worked on most of the company's courses. "A designer with a bulldozer," Fazio called him.

Charlie Feeley — With the firm 20 years, in Florida most of that time, he was involved with Pelican's Nest and PGA National.

Tom Griswold — Joined the company about 10 years ago, he has been involved recently on the Old Overton Club with Jerry Pate, on Uwharrie Point in Denton, N.C., along with Marzolf, and on the new course in Atlanta called White Columns Plantation for Fujis Development Group.

Tom Marzolf — With Fazio for 10 years, he was involved with Wade Hampton in Cashiers, N.C., Uwharrie Point, Caves Valley in Baltimore, and Champions Hill in Hendersonville, N.C.

Steve Maslak — With the company since PGA National was built 1980-81, he is a former shaper of two women in the American Society of Golf Course Architects, she’s been involved with PGA National, Pelican’s Nest, and Gateway in Ft. Myers.

This is the main theme of what we’re about. And people seem to like our golf courses because they look like they’ve always been there," said Marzolf. "That’s Tom Fazio’s design philosophy and it’s the one thing that ties all the design associates together as a team. We all believe strongly that this is the way to do the work.

"Our goal is not to move a lot of dirt or regrade. Our goal is to walk the site and find the best 18 holes that exist there. That is a very basic philosophy but it’s the main theme of what we’re about. And people seem to like our golf courses because they look like they’ve always been there," said Marzolf. "That’s Tom Fazio’s design philosophy and it’s the one thing that ties all the design associates together as a team. We all believe strongly that this is the way to do the work.

"Tom’s a genius. He’s the best alive today in routing golf holes. That’s the secret to his success and year-out success: We’re putting holes in the right locations.

For Banfield, his two decades in design fulfill a dream that began when he was a youth playing old, run-down courses, then learning to improve them by spending hours in the college library and weekend playing junior golf in Connecticut, playing such great courses as Winged Foot, the Starwood Club and National Golf Links. After earning a degree in mining engineering and being unable to find a job in land reclamation, he decided he could design better courses than the new ones he was seeing. Plus, "I wanted a job I could do as an individual."

Cal Brown of Golf Digest in Norwalk, Conn., suggested he contact Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye or George and Tom Fazio.

Oscar Miles, CCCS, overlooks the 6th hole at the Merit Club, Libertyville, Illinois.


Superintendent Oscar Miles, with Club President Ed Oldfield's affirmation, specified all the grassing of this Robert M. Lohmann designed club. With a clean canvas and open palette, Oscar began with PennLinks greens, Penneagle fairways and Penncross tees, framing them with bluegrass/ fine fescue/wildflower and prairiegrass roughs. You couldn't paint a more attractive picture.

He selected Penncross for tees because they recover from divot scars more quickly. And the Penneagle fairways? Oscar chose Penneagle for its upright growth, reduced thatch development, low nitrogen requirement and good drought and dollar spot resistance. He seeded at 80 lbs. per acre for immediate turf development and erosion control. The fairways were playable in 8 weeks. Oscar's crew usually mows fairways in the evening and leaves the clippings; recycling nutrients while reducing removal and fertilizer costs.

Oscar articulates it best: "The unique coloring of the 'Penn Pals' contrasts beautifully with the grassing around them, defining the target areas. And with the dew on the bents early in the morning, they're a marvelous work of art."