Benz pioneers surface-to-surface misses

6,000 miles a mere map/Fax away

BY MARK LESLIE

LOS GATOS, Calif. — Pushing computerized terrain modeling to a new level that encompasses the technical elements of construction, golf course architect Brad Benz said he is speeding up the construction process by 30 to 35 percent.

"This is light-years ahead of other programs," said Benz from his headquarters here.

It is phenomenal. We keep upgrading and advancing it. With each project, we learn something new.

Benz and his computer-expert sidekick, senior golf course architect David Snead, essentially designed and built two computers for the process. Taking elements of 52 software programs relevant to their needs, they merged them so they communicate with one another.

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Builders crossing the Pacific in opposite directions

Kajima exports Japanese savvy while... Pacific Golf getting it done abroad

BY MARK LESLIE

PASADENA, Calif. — When a company's main diet is building floating airports, tunnels and dams... when it hails from a country where many sites are "engineering and construction nightmares"... when it even designs and builds its own construction equipment, a mere golf facility should present no challenge too big. That is the feeling of global engineering and construction giant Kajima Corp. and its Golf Division manager in America, Tom Buzbee.

"We think the golf business is heading towards centralized management," said Buzbee from his headquarters here. "It's getting complicated and expensive. We're on the ground floor of something I think will change the way the golf business is run.

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Since the construction firm is the "lead" company in projects such as consultants during construction. The construction firm is the "lead" company in projects such as consultants during construction.

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Duke's Dene, above in reality and below through computer modeling, greens up for its opening south of London.

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An American in England

BY MARK LESLIE

LONDON — Call it multilateral. Call it an invasion from abroad. But don't call Duke's Dene golf course an Americanization of a British game. This golf course — although developed by Mizno-Gumi Co. of Tokyo and designed by American Brad Benz — will be "every bit British" when it opens in July or August, said Benz.

Yes, it will sport bentgrass greens and tees. But that is the only thing about Duke's Dene (meaning valley) that will not scream out: "I'm British!"

"People were concerned how an American could do anything in England that would be remotely close to English golf," Benz said. "I said, 'That's the easy part.' The technical side of solving problems in golf is far