Fathers & Sons
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jumping aboard their family design firms.

"I thought I'd always work on a golf course — in what role I wasn't sure," said Grant Puddicombe, who worked as a superintendent for two years before he and Mark confronted dad Sid, also a superintendent, at Christmastime 1980. They immediately set about opening their firm, headquartered in Nisku, Alberta, Canada.

"I've been around it [golf course design] my whole life," said Carter Morrish, "going out to Shoal Creek [in Birmingham, Ala.], living with Dad in the summers. It's always been in my head. It's just a natural thing."

"It's a combination of genetics and/or background," Jay Morrish said. "Once your parents are involved in it, you get attached to it. They've tried other work and the love of golf has brought them back."

"He knows the business inside out, by osmosis, growing up in it," Dick Nugent said of Tim. "He knows all the fundamentals of drafting and drawing and presentations — how to shake the ideas off your fingertips onto the paper."

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Development

Carter "has taken a lot of pressure off me in taking field trips," said Jay Morrish. "We alternate trips and every third time we go together."

"Yes, but who is the boss?" "I have the final say. I'm the boss," Dad Morrish said. But Carter put his own spin on the situation: "He's the boss, but we're more partners than me working for him."

"I try to be," Sid Puddicombe said. In most instances we sit down and go over the project. We have a great relationship and we use [third son and superintendent] Todd as a consultant. Until we're all totally satisfied we don't go ahead with anything."

Nugent put the question in perspective: "You don't teach your son anything," he laughed. "All you can do is listen. They just become more courteous about listening to you."

Gary Player Design Company has hired Kirk Roberts as a design associate. Roberts can be reached care of the Gary Player Design Company, located at 3930 RCA Boulevard, Suite 3001 Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. 33410; telephone 561-624-0300; fax 561-624-304.

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