

## ARCHITECTURE, OLD AND NEW

by Roger A. Larson  
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Golf is our business. Architecture of the courses in the old world and the new should be of interest to us. What are some of the reasons why things are done as they are?

Let's look at English architecture first. There are certain guiding principles of design: (1) The shortest most direct line to the hole should be the most dangerous one. (2) That a green should be oriented in such a manner that it can be approached with safety only from a particular part of the fairway. (3) That as few bunkers as possible should be introduced. (4) Semi-visibility or where only half the flag stick can be seen from where the green should be approached.

The ideal form of a course is that of a clover leaf, three groups of six holes radiating around the clubhouse.

Here are a few considerations concerning greens: (1) The green should fit into the natural landscape. (2) Small putting greens make for good golf. (3) Too many undulations on a green is a mistake. (4) The back of the green should never be higher than the front.

Now let's look at American architecture. American courses are more of the strategic type course, whereas English layouts are the penalty type. The American golfer demands that "his" course be in top shape and the architect must design with maintenance in mind. Some of the most beautiful courses are very difficult to maintain.

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The number of golfers playing a course also dictates to some extent the design. The amount of money and land available and the land usage, that is, housing developments, etc.

The architects I spoke to did not believe in tricky greens running away from you, semi-visibility, etc. Their thoughts were that it was tough enough for the duffer to play anyway so why "trick" the course up to make it more difficult. Give him confidence. Remember he's out there to relax. Golf is big business in the United States.

Comparing English and American architecture is about as difficult as comparing maintenance budgets between different club unless you consider it point by point. Most of us have a good idea as to what type course is predominant in the U.S. Maybe you like English architecture and maybe you prefer the American designs. The final answer is yours to make.

### ANNUAL FALL CLINIC

The Annual Fall Clinic will be held at the beautiful Medinah Country Club instead of Olympia Fields Country Club. The date of the Clinic is on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 17 and 18. The program looks like another outstanding job by the Committee. This is a must for all aggressive and progressive Superintendents.

### Position in Life

I have sat on many a standing committee that seemed to be reposing.

—E. R. Gork.



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