

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Changing worries, laws

Red tape hampers architects but new development plans

Below is a chart listing information from architects who responded to our survey. A list of others is on page 22. Abbreviations here include: Ag (agronomy); GCM (golf course management); Eng (engineering) LA (landscape architecture); LP (land planning); MS (master's degree); OH (ornamental horticulture); Park A (parks administration); Pro (professional golfer); T (turf management); Aust (Australia); Car (Caribbean); East (Eastern U.S.); Eur (Europe); MA (Mid-Atlantic); NA (North America); NE (North-east U.S.); Pac (Pacific); SE (Southeast U.S.). Course numbers are 1) total number designed; 2) courses that opened in 1989.

If interest rates remain "reasonable" and golfers continue to flock to courses in record numbers, officers of the American Society of Golf Course Architects expect new course development to accelerate rather than plateau.

ASGCA President Robert Trent Jones Jr. has projected that 5,000 new courses will be needed by the year 2000, but he now believes that demand could even be greater in the 1990s.

"All segments of the golf business — juniors, young adults, middle-age males, women and seniors — are growing dramatically, and we must

build the facilities to satisfy these eager golfers," Jones said.

"Obviously, we need more public courses and we are gradually seeing more being built," he said. "These courses, however, will be much more challenging than those public-fee courses of a generation ago. In fact, some of the new public courses are among the best designs coming on line."

The California-based architect also noted that today's golf course architect has learned to work with various governmental agencies to satisfy all the environmental concerns associated with wetlands and

endangered species. He said many courses are being built successfully in environmentally sensitive areas with excellent results.

Focus on 'playability'

ASGCA Vice President Dan Maples, who works out of Pinehurst, N.C., and designs many courses for resorts and developers in tourist destinations, believes architects designing for this ever-growing market will be concentrating on "enjoyable, but not boring courses."

"We work on making courses playable so that the golfers enjoy their round," he said. "Aesthetics

Company	Architect	Education	Region	Courses Total '89	Company	Architect	Education	Region	Courses Total '89
Arthur Davis, Inc. 455 Church St. Gainesville, GA 30501 404-287-1906	Arthur Davis	LA	US, Asia, Eur	100+ 2	Gary Roger Baird, Inc. 2505 Hillsboro Rd., Ste 301 Nashville, TN 37212 615-298-3537	Gary R. Baird	LA	Global	100+ 8
Arthur Hills & Assoc. 7351 W. Bancroft St. Toledo, OH 43615 419-841-8553	Arthur Hills Mike Dasher	LA, Agric CE	US SE	70+ 10 15 5	Gene Bates & Assoc. 1150 U.S. Highway One, Ste 304 Jupiter, Fla. 33477 407-744-0350	Gene Bates	Exp.	Global	11 5
Ault, Clark & Assoc. 2311 University Blvd. W. Wheaton, MD 20902 301-942-0716	Brian Ault Thomas E. Clark William E. Love	CE LA LA	Global Global Global	50 4 50 4 30 3	Golfplan-Fream Design Grp. P.O. Box 1823 Santa Rosa, CA 95402 707-526-7190	Ronald Fream Fred Bliss	OH LA	Global	100+ 6
Casper, Nash & Assoc. 8611 N. Black Canyon #116 Phoenix, AZ 85021 602-864-0444	Greg Nash	LA	SE	38 1	Golfscapes 2225 E. Randolph Mill Rd., Ste 218 Arlington, TX 76011 817-640-7275	Jeffrey Brauer	LA	US	20 3
Charles Ankrom P.O. Box 170 Stuart, FL 34995 407-283-1440	Charles Ankrom	T, Art	East	60+ 4	Gordon G. Lewis 2022 Constitution Circle Fort Myers, FL 33908 813-267-3322	Gordon G. Lewis	LA	SE	20+ 3
Clyde B. Johnston P.O. Box 6242 Hilton Head Island, SC 29938 803-842-3367	Clyde B. Johnston	LA	SE	36 4.5	Graham/Panks International 7819 E. Greenway Rd., Ste 1 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 602-483-9500	Gary Panks	Exp	N.Am, Asia	20+ 1
Cornish & Silva, Inc. Fiddler's Green Amherst, MA 01002 413-253-3913	Geoffrey Cornish Brian Silva	MS, Exp LA	US, Eur, Car	230 10 22	Hassenplug Assoc., Inc. 1300 Freeport Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412-781-6994	X.G. Hassenplug Edward Beidel Jr	CE, TM, LP LA, CE	East NE, M-A	60 1 14 3
Denis Griffiths & Assoc. P.O. Box 327 Braselton, GA 30517 404-867-4480	Denis Griffiths	LA	SE	50+ 4	Hurdzan Design Group 2280 W. Henderson Rd. Columbus, OH 43220 614-457-9955	Michael Hurdzan Craid Schreiner	GCM, LA, TM LA, TM	Global Midwest	150 8 11 1
Earl Stone & Assoc. P.O. Box 61225 Mobile, AL 36616 205-344-1921	Earl Stone	Eng	SE	38 1	Jack Nicklaus Golf Services 11760 U.S. Highway One North Palm Beach, FL 33408 407-626-3900	Jack W. Nicklaus	Exp, Pro	Global	63 9
Fairway Architects, Inc. RR3, Box 209 Miltona, MN 56354 218-943-1391	Joel Goldstrand	Exp, Pro	N'Central	63 3	John Watson Golf Design Ltd. P.O. Box 481 Lachute, Quebec J8H 3Y1 514-562-3414	John Watson	Exp	Canada	50+ 5
Fairway Design Int'l 8519 Woodall Ct Tampa, FL 33615 813-425-2849	Steven Smyers	BA, Exp	US, Austr.	60 4	Johnny Miller Design Ltd. 2049 Century Park East Suite 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90067 213-553-0330	Johnny Miller	Exp, Pro	Global	4 2
Fazio Golf Course Designers 17755 S.E. Federal Highway Jupiter, FL 33458 407-746-4539	Thomas Fazio	Exp	US	110 3	Lindsay Ervin & Assoc. 16 Village Green, Ste 202 Crofton, MD 21114 301-793-0310	Lindsay Erwin	LA	Global	30 5
Ferdinand Garbin R.D. 2, Box 186 Export, PA 15632 412-327-4704	Ferdinand Garbin	LA, Ag	NE	100+ 2	Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. 800 McHenry Ave., Ste H Crystal Lake, IL 60014 815-455-0445	Robert Lohmann	LA	Cent. US	12 2
Finger Dye Spann, Inc. 1001 S. Dairy Ashford Suite 213 Houston, TX 77077 713-496-4300	Kenneth Dye Jr.	LA	Americas	25 3	McCumber Golf P.O. Box 490 Middleburg, FL 32068 904-282-5511	Michael Beebe	LA	US, Far East	10 1
Flatt Golf Services P.O. Box 7497 Overland Park, KS 66207 913-381-9537	Larry W. Flatt	Park Ad	US	3 0	Nelson and Wright 680 Ala Moana Blvd. #200 Honolulu, HI 96813 808-521-5361	Robin Nelson	LA	Pac, Eur	N/A 4

plague architects and builders

of all types abounding worldwide...

are important to developers around the world."

Maples pointed out that society members are now working throughout the world and most clients want a "U.S. championship course, which in their mind means challenging, not intimidating, and fun to play."

More ASGCA members are working internationally, especially in Europe, as the U.S. golf boom continues to roll out in other areas of the world.

More variety in nines

Tom Clark of Wheaton, Md., ASGCA secretary, explains that many developers are asking for 27 or 36

holes initially, with different degrees of difficulty on each nine. With this layout, beginners can build up their confidence on the easiest nine and progress to the others.

Clark said this also helps speed up play on the tougher nines.

Clark thinks many courses will soon be seriously considering a policy that requires new players to complete certain proficiency tests, including on golf etiquette. If multiple courses are available, only those with lower handicaps, for instance, would be allowed to play the more difficult courses.

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... while builders decry tougher financing and environmental laws

BYGARYBURCHFIELD

While golf course construction is indeed a boom cycle, golf course builders warn that financing, environmental requirements and design restrictions are much tougher than in the past.

"A lot of golf courses are being built today, but probably 80 to 90 percent of them are being built in connection with some kind of real-estate development. It's sometimes hard to tell if they're being built to meet the needs of golfers or the needs of the developers," said Don Rossi, executive director of the Golf Course Builders of America, headquartered in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. "But, there are a lot of cities that have new courses on the drawing boards, so it looks like the trend will continue."

Bill Kubley, president and founder of Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., said, "We have more work today than I've ever seen. I think the outlook for the next 10 years is excellent. In fact, there are a lot of new companies coming into the course construction business because of the boom. I look for some of them to get into financial trouble because they're trying to grow too fast."

"The statistics certainly indicate a boom period," said Perry Dye of Dye Designs, Inc., of Denver, Colo., and president of the Golf Course Builders group.

"As our population ages, more people are playing more golf, especially in the Sunbelt areas. We find this true not only in the United States but internationally as well," added Dye, who has been building a lot of courses in Japan.

Paul Eldredge, president of the Midwest Division of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. in Plainfield, Ill., agreed a boom is on. "I see it continuing for the next couple years anyway," he said, "but I'm not sure it's going to last 10 to 12 years" as many are predicting it will.

"After being somewhat stagnant for several years, the Midwest has become very active now. Where most of the work was in the southern areas a few years ago, the boom now seems to have moved back north," Eldredge said.

Dave Canavan, a former president of the builders association and president of Moore Golf, Inc., of Culpeper, Va., said, "The construction of new courses has been 'hyped' as a boom market, but a lot of it is being done in conjunction with real-estate development. A golf course can satisfy the requirement for 'green space' to get permits for cluster zoning to build townhouses, etc.

"In some areas, like New Jersey, development is so expensive that a golf course is added to help generate income to pay development costs like wastewater management.

Today's problems

Environmental concerns create most of the problems today, according to Eldredge.

"But, financing is tougher now, too. With the savings and loan disaster,

banks have gotten more restrictive on their loans. The last couple of jobs we've done, the owners had to jump through hoops to get their loans. And we have to provide back-up for our billing, too.

"We can usually handle the field problems OK, but it's the problems we don't have control over that drive us crazy."

Course construction costs have gone up "300 to 400 percent in the last 10 years," according to Canavan. The environmental restrictions are tougher, he said, plus things like insurance have risen as much as 400 percent.

"Now, you also have to be concerned about hazardous waste," Canavan said. "If you're building a course on an old landfill and uncover something like asbestos, the responsibility for taking care of it falls on the contractor.

"Planning today takes three to five years, to get wetlands clearances, etc. Twenty years ago, construction would usually be underway 30 days after the final plans were approved. The last course we built in Florida required 37 permits from various agencies."

"One big problem today," said Dye, "is that good, premium land for courses just isn't available. Golf course developers had a good choice of quality land 10 to 20 years ago. Today, we end up building golf courses on 'unusable land' around marshes, flood plains, etc. and that means we've had to increase our understanding of environmental issues tenfold. And, it's not only true in this country, but many areas overseas, especially in Europe."

Kubley said a new course Landscapes Unlimited is building near Baltimore, Md., is "going to cost us \$400,000 just for environmental protection. We have installed more than 8 miles of silt fences for a new course we're building for the city of Reno, Nev., too. Plus, we have to keep three water trucks going all the time during construction just for dust control.

"In the past, you could usually open-burn cleared brush. Now, it's either pit burning, or you have to chip it and haul it away. Clearing costs alone can range from \$400 to \$8,000 per acre today, depending on state requirements."

More complicated

Dye contended that construction hasn't changed much in the last 10 years, "but there is a much longer-term involvement for both the builder and architect, from planning clear through after-construction maintenance practices.

"Today, there is more planning required and the whole process is much more 'structured.' The builder and designer have to demonstrate what the end result will be, and that the environmental restrictions have been adhered to."

Rossi said the actual construction is no more complicated "because technology has increased so much.

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Company	Architect	Education	Region	Courses Total '89
Palmer Course Design Co. P.O. Box 1639 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 904-285-3960	Arnold Palmer	Exp, Pro	Global	150 14
	Ed Seay	LA	Global	200 14
	Harrison Minchew	LA	Global	35 6
	Erik Todd Larsen	LA	US, Asia, Eur	20 8
Pete Dye Inc. 3247 Polo Dr. Delray Beach, FL 33483 407-276-9728	Pete Dye	Exp	US	65-70 1
	Alice Dye	Exp	US	w/Pete
Philip Wogan 17 Walker Road Topsfield, MA 01983 508-887-3672	Philip Wogan	Bio, For	NE	43 3
ProGolf Designs 1157 N. Beverly Arlington Heights, IL 60004 708-506-0444	Bruce Borland	LA	Midwest	10 3
R.T. Jones II International 705 Forest Ave. Palo Alto, Calif. 94301 415-326-3833	R. T. Jones Jr.	N/A	Global	N/A N/A
	Kyle D. Phillips	LA	West, NE, Eur	26 4
Richard Bigler Assoc. P.O. Box 308 Del Rey, Calif. 93616 209-888-2882	Richard A. Bigler	LA	West, Pac.	N/AN/A
Richard M. Phelps Ltd. P.O. Box 3295 Evergreen, CO 80439 303-670-0478	Richard Phelps	LA	Americas, Eur	60 3
Robert C. Walker, Inc. P.O. Box 1066 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 904-241-3500	Robert Walker	Eng, LP	US, Asia	95 2
Robert Muir Graves P.O. Box 2156 Walnut Creek, CA 94595 415-939-6300	Robert Graves	LA	West, Eur, Asia	370 5
Scott Miller Design Inc. 7505 E. Main St., Ste 400 Scottsdale, AZ 85254 602-946-2586	Scott Miller	LA	Global	35 3
Stephen Kay P.O. Box 81 Purchase, NY 10577 914-699-4437	Stephen Kay	LA, TM	Global	74 2
William Amick P.O. Box 1984 Daytona Beach, FL 32015 904-767-1449	William Amick	T	East, Eur.	60+N/A
William J. Spear & Assoc. 16 N. First Ave. St. Charles, IL 60174 312-584-8200	William J. Spear	LA	Midwest	75 4
Williams, Gill & Assoc. 421 N. Main St. River Falls, WI 54022 715-425-9511	Garrett Gill	LA (MS)	US	45 4
Wyss Assoc., Inc. 522 7th St., Ste 214 Rapid City, SD 57701	Patrick H. Wyss	LA	US	25 3

Architects

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The majority of new courses in recent years have been built in conjunction with real-estate developments, and Clark said that trend will continue. In most cases the courses are open to the public until the development is filled, at which time it becomes a private club.

"We see this same pattern becoming more popular with municipalities in the next decade," Clark added. "The typical scenario is for the developer to give the necessary land for the golf course to the municipality in return for the right to build housing units around the course."

Television has impact

ASGCA Treasurer Arthur Hills, who is based in Toledo, Ohio, but works throughout the country, said, "People want the championship-type courses they see on television, but they want fair and realistic courses without gimmicks."

"The bottom line is that there is a gradual return to a more traditional approach to design, with realistic placement of bunkers and greens that allow the player a fair putt without worrying about severe breaks or multiple levels."

Hills believes golfers appreciate that courses serve as "green belts" in

communities that need open space and oxygen. He added that architects have worked successfully in environmentally sensitive areas, often providing additional wetland areas when wetlands are needed for the strategic playability of the golf course.

Design for site

Jones summed it up by stating that the golf courses of the future will "fit with the lay of the land. Designers are conscious of their responsibility to the community and players to build a course that 'fits.' There's no doubt that owners and the golfers who play

their courses want better courses than ever before," he said.

"We know that golfers will pay a fair price to play a well-designed course. Courses built by 'amateur architects' and that are poorly maintained will not be successful."

With the world's concern about water conservation, many new courses will have a more natural look, Jones agreed, but he suggested that this also fits in with designing with the lay of the land.

"U.S. design has been accepted internationally," Jones said, "but that does not mean that there is a certain

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A list of golf course architects not found in the chart on pages 20 and 21

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Madison, VA 22727
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Bob Buky
Bob Buky Excavating &
Golf Course Constr.
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Builders

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There is better machinery, the people are more skilled and, with computer-aided design, a lot of the work is done before the builder moves his machinery onto the site.

"But, all that costs a lot of money, too."

"Course design has changed a lot in the last 15 years," said Kubly. "There is more emphasis on fancy contouring, so it takes more of a specialist to build it the way the architect envisioned it. You can't just send in a bulldozer operator any more.

"It's harder to find good on-site labor nowadays, too. And, bonding requirements are tougher. Because of the high cost, some owners today don't require bonds. But, we prefer to work with a bond. It means better control on the financing."

Eldredge said today's construction standards are more complex because of the more dynamic design of many courses.

'... builders go through hell today.'
— Don Rossi

"Probably 70 percent of the courses we build today require very detailed shaping," he said. "Plus, owners want more today, too, like continuous cart paths, more sodding, and double-row or triple-row irrigation systems."

"With the environmental concerns and the complicated financing like bond issues, etc., builders go through hell today," Rossi lamented.

But Dye said put it in what the industry hopes will be the perspective for the 1990s: "It's rewarding being in a business that is recognized as a growth industry."

Architects

Continued from page 22

style. Architects will continue to evaluate each site and produce a design that accentuates its best features and

provides a layout that will be environmentally sensitive and challenging to the golfers who will be playing it for generations to come."

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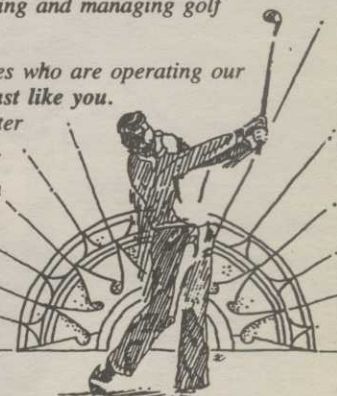
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