

# It's all in the family for

BY PETER BLAIS

"In my opinion there are three non-pro golfer 'names' in golf course architecture — Jones, Dye and Fazio."

While Rees Jones' (Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s son) words may, at first glance, seem self-serving, there are few who would argue with that assessment.

Many talented architects are designing gorgeous courses throughout the world. However, any discussion involving course designers often touches on those three families.

Two generations of Joneses, Dyes

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and Fazios are currently in the business and it's very likely a third soon will be making a name for itself.

Why have families rather than individuals become the big names in the field?

Rees Jones believes it is because there are no schools or college programs of golf course architecture. It remains a craft rather than a profession.

"You learn golf course architecture by doing it," he said. "It's natural that a father will pass it down to a son and take the time to give him an opportunity to get into it. It's much harder for someone outside because it takes four or five years in the field to learn what you're doing. That's why it's still a craft."

With that in mind, here's a look at the families Jones, Dye and Fazio.

## Joneses 'first family of golf architecture'

The first family of golf architects is the label generally applied to the Jones clan.

Father Robert, and sons Robert Jr. and Rees, have designed and built hundreds of courses throughout the world.

A scratch golfer as a teen-ager, Robert Trent Jones graduated in 1930 from a self-designed course at Cornell University that prepared him for a career in the then relatively new field of golf course architecture.

By the mid-1960s he was the best-known architect in the world. He had designed more than 400 courses in 42 states and 23 countries by 1980. An author of numerous essays and articles, he has received many awards including the American Society of Golf Course Architects' first Donald Ross Award for outstanding contributions in the field of golf course architecture.

At age 83, he is still one of the most active practitioners of his craft, logging hundreds of thousands of air miles annually. He currently has 15 projects in the works and recently returned from a two-week, nine-country tour of Europe.

The elder Jones was a tough act for sons Robert Jr., 50, and Rees, 48, to follow. But follow they did, and quite successfully.

Bobby graduated from Yale University and joined his father's firm, Robert Trent Jones Inc., in 1960. He eventually took over the California office, becoming responsible for the business' Western United States and Pacific Basin interests before establishing his own Robert Trent Jones II Group in 1972.

He became known as an artist who blended his courses with the environment. Spanish Bay Golf Links in Pebble Beach and Sentryworld GC in Wisconsin are two excellent examples of those efforts.

Rees likewise attended Yale and did graduate work at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

He went to work for his father in 1964, becoming involved in the design or construction of 50 courses and taking over the East Coast office before striking out on his own in 1974.

## Hunger for golf bred into Pete and Alice Dye's sons

"I was born and bred to design golf courses and I had the two best teachers in the business," said P.B. Dye, son of Pete and Alice Dye.

Pete, the elder statesman of the Dye clan, could make the same claim. His father, Paul, designed and built Urbana CC in the 1920s.

"He played golf and was very interested in grasses," remembered Pete of his father. "But it was a hobby for him, so I never looked at it (golf course architecture) as a profession."

It wasn't until the late 1950s that Pete left a successful insurance career to become a full-time architect. Today five Dyes (Pete, Alice, sons P.B. and Perry and Pete's brother Roy) are in the business.

Pete, 64, is the patriarch and the name most people know in the male-dominated world of golf course architecture. But Alice, 62, has had a hand in nearly all of Pete's designs.



Robert Trent Jones Sr., front, with sons Rees, left, and Robert Jr.

Rees is also a writer, co-authoring the influential Urban Land Institute publication "Golf Course Developments" along with landscape architect Guy L. Rando. He is perhaps best known for his renovation of the Country Club at Brookline, Mass., site of last year's U.S. Open men's championship. Haig Point GC on Daufuskie Island in South Carolina and Pinehurst No. 7 have also received very favorable recognition.

"They've done some very good work," said their father. "Most of it has followed along my basic principles."

Rees said there was little pressure for him and Bobby to follow in their father's footsteps. Their entry into the trade resulted from being around the business, even during vacations that were often spent at the sites of their father's courses. Bill Baldwin, one of his father's construction foremen, spent a great deal of time with the younger Joneses, becoming almost a second father, according to Rees.

The youngest Jones believes the most important lesson he learned from his father was controlling not only the design end, but also the construction phase of a project. Thus all three have their own design and construction employees.

"You have to do that or you don't come up

with what you're after," said Robert Sr.

"That's the hardest part, transferring the idea from the architect to the builder and having it come out to the satisfaction of most everyone," agreed Rees.

The younger Joneses also learned from their father and Baldwin how to build a course that was technically correct, "so the course would stand the test of time and hold up without having to be rebuilt quite often," said Rees.

An additional benefit of working for their father was the substantial clients — like Laurance Rockefeller, who built several courses at Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico, and the Aga Khan, who built a seemingly impossible course along the cliffs of the Mediterranean island of Sardinia.

"These were people with the wherewithal (to build an outstanding course). So I learned the proper way by working for my Dad," said Rees.

In fact, the major difference between their father's heyday in the 1950s and 1960s and today, said Rees, is the amount of money available to build courses and the freedom that gives architects to indulge in multi-scene (every hole is different than the preceding one) rather than single-scene (every hole is basically the same) layouts.

Robert Trent Jones Sr. was the only designer at the time with any sort of professional status, according to Alice. Generally the job of laying out a course was turned over to a greenskeeper, who was paid about \$2 an hour.

"Jones elevated golf course architecture to a profession. Jack Nicklaus (who opened his architectural firm in 1974) raised it to a business where you could make a decent living," said Alice.

Fortunately for the Dyes, who were raising Perry and P.B., they still had checks coming in from Pete's past insurance sales. That helped carry them through the early years when they were developing low-budget courses.

Pete and Alice traveled the great courses of Scotland in 1963 and incorporated many of the features they witnessed — small greens, undulating fairways, pot bunkers,

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