

Golfplan busy in Malaysia

KUCHING, Sarawak, Malaysia — The Golfplan-Ronald Fream Design Group has completed conceptual planning and design studies for a 27-hole residential country club course being developed at Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia. Sarawak is on the tropical island of Borneo.

Playing lengths vary from around 3,300 yards to 2,500 yards for each of the par-36 nines. Golf is a new activity to Sarawak, and a heavy use by beginners is anticipated.

Coordinated planning introduces 450 homesites into the golf courses. About 3,500 oil palms, monkey pod, flamboy and other tropical trees are to be planted to create a lush tropical garden around the golf holes. Bermudagrass turf will be used throughout. The original site was a military storage area not far from the center of Kuching. Construction will begin after the end of the

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GBI opens Asia practice facilities

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bar International has announced the opening of two multi-million dollar teaching and practice facilities in Asia, the Jack Nicklaus Golf Center in Japan and the Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf in the Philippines.

The Jack Nicklaus Golf Center, the first ever in Japan, has opened in Tsukuba through an exclusive agreement between GBI and Mitsubishi Corp., and Suntory Limited for the country. In Manila, the first Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf opened under an exclusive agreement between Golden Bear and American Golf Centers, a subsidiary of AIA and American International Group, the New York-based insurance conglomerate and the Fil-Estate Group.

Japanese debut for Graham/Panks

HAKODATE, Japan — David Graham and Gary Panks will design the new Hakodate Nikkatsu Golf Club in Hakodate, Japan.

"We have been searching for the right opportunity to make our appearance in the Japanese golf market, and now we've found it," Graham said. "The Hakodate Nikkatsu Golf Club is a great project."

The private golf club is being built by the Japanese conglomerate Nikkatsu Corp. The course is located in the historical port city of Hokodate on the southern coast of Hokkaido, Japan's northern-most island.

Construction crews are slated to break ground on the project in September clearing the land and creating the infrastructure of the golf course. Graham and Panks have begun the design work, and shaping will begin in May 1993, with an opening date set for the spring of 1995.

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Built to Last

RANSOMES

Nelson & Wright eye projects on Chinese Mainland

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gion. "They have to offer them something. They expect to sell a lot of memberships to the industries going in there. A lot of those memberships will be bought as investments."

Haworth added, "If two sites are vying for a manufacturing plant, the company will go to the site with the golf course."

Golf courses, land ownership and environmental controls are creatures of another persuasion in China.

"They treat golf courses as part of the infrastructure as they build roads, parks, water mains....," said Nelson. "I think there will be a flash boom [in golf course construction], then it will slow down."

Land ownership?

"The idea of owning land is a fairly new concept in China," said Haworth. "In one of our projects in China we got to choose the property lines. In new areas and out in the country, there are no real deeds or titles. The government is building an eight-lane highway that will run next to our site and they've asked us to tell them where to put it."

Environmental controls?

Haworth said if land for a manufacturing plant needs to be level, construction crews will take soil from nearby hills — without reparation.

Nelson said his firm will design two courses in Shenzhen — one a 36-hole facility and the other 27 holes. The third facility calls for 36 holes in Ghuanzhou. They will all be private clubs with housing developments.

Construction will begin in the first half of the year, he said.

Nelson added that he and Wright are also involved in one project in Vietnam and two others in China — one in the west and on the coast in the north.

Developers are adamant that a low profile be maintained until all government approvals are received.

"To get things done you have to know somebody in the government. So developers don't want others to find out about their ideas and 'steal' them," he said.

Fream projects in Asia

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monsoon rainy season in December.

Given the periodic torrential rainfall, the contour grading and land sculpturing work must be tied carefully into a comprehensive subsurface drainage system. Two hundred inches of rain per year is not unusual.

Fream and his colleagues are not newcomers to Borneo. In 1989 the Royal Brunett Golf Club championship course, designed for the Sultan of Brunei (the world's richest man) opened for play at the Sultan's polo club, Jerudong Park, Brunei — after a two year weather-prolonged construction period. Sarawak is

the state just to the south of Brunei, facing the South China.

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Construction is progressing for the first 18 holes of the Bangi Golf Resort project at Bangi, 30 minute's drive south of Kuala Lumpur along the main roadway to Johor. The comprehensive project will include two championship 18-hole courses, a businessman's conference meeting center, resort hotel, extensive clubhouse facilities, residential housing (from villas to apartments) and an adjacent office business park. This is the most comprehensive and carefully master planned, multi-use, golf oriented real estate development yet initiated in Malaysia. An extensive reforestation and oil palm planting program will create a

park-like setting in this rapidly developing satellite city to Kuala Lumpur.

Construction work has just begun on the Damai Laut Country Resort, located near Lumut on the west coast of Perak State. This project is an 18-hole championship course playing to riverside, seaside, through mangrove and tropical hardwood forests. A four star resort hotel, hilltop viewsite villas and apartments are to be part of this second home golfer's getaway retreat.

Golfplan also is presently preparing the design concept plans for the 18-hole Kinrara Golf Course that is being built as part of the Taman Setiawangsa project near Kuala Lumpur. Taman Setiawangsa will total more than 2,000 homesites.

Jones family reunion

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7, 1987], and this is a nice coming home for both of us. This is something we thought we'd love to do together.

Bobby got into the business after graduating from Yale University. He worked for his father in 1960 and managed his West Coast office until starting his own company, Robert Trent Jones II Group, in 1972. The last course they designed together was Elkhorn Golf Course in Sun Valley, Idaho, in 1975.

Bobby, whose brother Rees also broke away from his father's firm, downplayed the famous split.

"I had already been in the Far East for a decade under the family banner. He was active in Europe. We were in different parts of the world. It was logical [to split]," he said, adding that his 3-year-old son's death played a role in his taking time off from the design job.

Since then, Bobby has forged a career of worldwide renown.

He said he and his father "will both critique each other's efforts in a kind of creative school of architecture, like a studio would — back and forth," he said. "My father will probably go off in some areas, and I will in others, and we'll try to meld them together and make them fit.

"It's not unlike what he did with Bobby Jones at Peachtree in Augusta [Ga.] and I did with Tom Watson at Spanish Bay [in Pebble Beach, Calif.]. It's a constant exchange of ideas. It isn't one person doing one nine and the other person the other nine. That wouldn't work. The 18 has to flow together."

Bobby said there has always been an exchange of ideas between him and his father.

"We've always had a lot of discussion about architecture, even though we were working on separate projects," he said.

Bobby said Trent is "very enthusiastic and we're having a good time.

"He's sketching when I go over to the apartment. And he says, 'Here, Bobby. Take a look at this sketch. What do you think?' I'll say, 'How about a bunker here?' And he'll say, 'Aw, you're still learning.'"

The Joneses have completed routing for the golf course.

Sunnarborg expects ground to be broken in May 1994 when approvals have been gained for this "very environmentally sensitive site."

Strolling down the streets of Celebration, he said, will be like walking into Mayberry on television's old *Andy Griffin Show*.

"This is not about hotels, tourism, vacations, and second homes," he said. "We want most people living there year-round. We want a school, a downtown, a public golf course where people walk downtown, pull out their clubs and play a round."

Sunnarborg said getting the Joneses together "has been real fun for us, too. And gratifying."

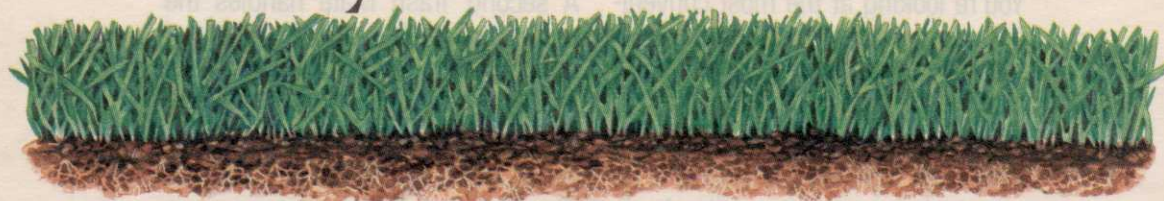
He said having both designers on the project fit Disney's philosophy that "variety adds value."

Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Pete Dye, Gary Player and Tom Fazio all have golf courses in the area. It was time to add a new Jones course, Disney reasoned.

"We knew we wanted to do a public-access course and they [Joneses] were thrilled with that idea," Sunnarborg said. "We couldn't be happier with them."

Sunnarborg said the golf course will actually be a big public park with jogging and biking trails around the perimeter.

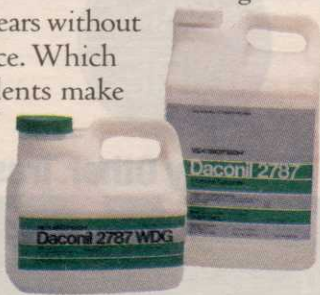
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