

## BRIEFS

**BELJAN LEADS IA PLANNING GROUP**

JUPITER, Fla. — Members of the Irrigation Association (IA) have elected golf course architect Jan Beljan chairman of their Long-range Planning Council. A design associate with Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc. here, Beljan is the first golf industry member of the IA. "We in the golf industry have a lot in common with the irrigation industry," Beljan said. "Joining them seemed natural."



Jan Beljan

**JOHNSON JOINS COTTLE DESIGN**

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. — Don Cottle Jr. has added Kevin Johnson to the Cottle Course Design team. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, Johnson also holds a public relations degree from Florida State University. He has worked designing resort golf courses in Italy for the Hotel Forte chain.

**ARTHUR DAVIS MOVES**

ATLANTA, Ga. — Arthur L. Davis, Inc., golf course architects and planners, has relocated its offices to One Ravinia Drive, Suite 1180, Atlanta 30346; telephone 404-481-3110.

**ASGCA BOUND FOR SCOTLAND**

The 49th annual meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects will be held April 22-29 in Scotland. The Society holds its annual meeting in the United Kingdom every fifth year in order to "rediscover the roots of golf course architecture," according to ASGCA President Donald Knott. The last ASGCA annual meeting in Scotland was in 1980. Since then the ASGCA has met in Ireland and England. The ASGCA, comprised of leading golf course architects in North America, will hold seminars on key issues affecting the golf industry as it moves through Scotland, visiting some of the great Open courses.

**FOSTER BUSY RENOVATING**

ST. LOUIS — Westwood Country Club has hired Keith Foster Golf Course Design to refine its course here. The original 27-hole track was built in 1928, then reduced to 18 holes in 1933. Foster will also renovate Rio Verde Country Club's Quail Run and White Wing courses in Phoenix, Ariz.

# Globetrotting a small (golf) world

## Morocco: Golf void beckons

By HAL PHILLIPS

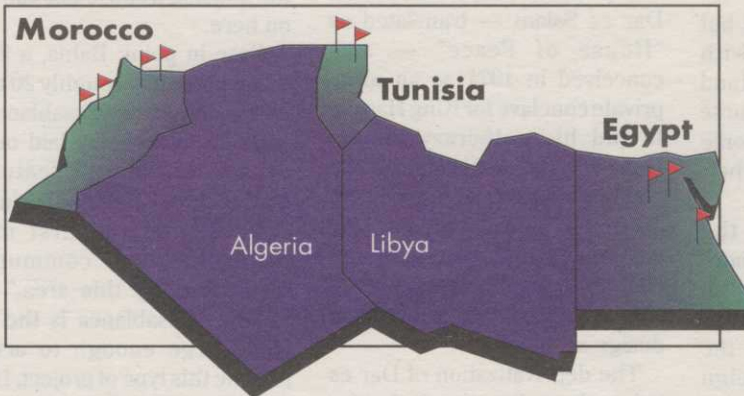
RABAT, Morocco — Year-round golf destinations on the order of Palm Springs are few and far between in the European marketplace, where seaside resorts rarely feature enough courses to satisfy large numbers of golf-only tourists.

The Moroccan business community would like nothing better than to fill this void.

With five projects underway and at least five more in the planning stages, Morocco will soon have more golf facilities than any country in North Africa. Combine these totals with its 14 existing facilities and Morocco — with its miles of coastline along the Atlantic and Mediterranean — can easily compete with Europe's leading warm-weather destinations: Portugal's Algarve region and Spain's Costa del Sol.

"It's only the last few years that Morocco has thought of golf as a pure touristic element," explained Ron Fream, whose 36-hole Bahia project remains in planning north of Casablanca. "The

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## India: Rich past revisits its roots

By MARK LESLIE

NEW DELHI, India — A dramatic change in the government's outlook on development is opening this vast country to unprecedented golf course construction and speculation.

India's leaders hope a new "policy of liberalization" will attract foreign investment, especially that linked to tourism and adventure — golf being a "main tool to attract tourists," according to P. Kumaresh of Turnkeys in Bangalore. "The golf industry in India is poised for a take-off."

While bureaucracy and red tape have been the bane of foreign investors here, Kumaresh said that with the new policy, "the prospect of golf course development with foreign expertise is indeed bright."

That foreign expertise includes course architects like Ron Fream, Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Jack Nicklaus Jr. They could revitalize a country that has only a handful of golf courses despite the fact that India was the first country outside the British Isles to have a golf course — Royal Calcutta, founded in 1829 by Scottish merchants.

Fream, who first visited India in 1976 and has spent 130

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## Egypt: Hopes of new money

By HAL PHILLIPS

HELIOPOLIS, Egypt — If Larry Packard keeps his current pace, friends at the American Society of Golf Course Architects may start referring to this venerable designer as "The Pharaoh."

With 18 holes in planning here East of Cairo and 18 more under construction across town, near the Pyramids at Giza, Packard will have soon designed more than half the golf holes in Egypt, a country he describes as "ripe for development."

Before Packard arrived in the Middle East two years ago, there were only 36 holes in the entire country: 18 in Alexandria, 9 near Aswan in Southern Egypt, and 9 across from the Cairo Hilton.

"There used to be an 18-hole golf course across from the Hilton in Cairo," Packard explained. "It was run by the British, who wouldn't allow any Egyptians to play on it. When the British left, the Egyptians took it over and

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J. Michael Poellot (center) and his associate Bob Moore (left) consult with an Indonesian client.

## Q & A J. Michael Poellot: The continents are his canvas

In the early 1970s, while working in Asia-Pacific for U.S. Army Intelligence, J. Michael Poellot happened to meet Robert Trent Jones II, whose Navatane Golf Club was then in the planning stages. Jones eventually hired Poellot to run his Asian office. By 1980, Poellot had worked on 22 RTJ II projects and become vice president of the firm. Then he met Brad Benz, who convinced him to join Dick Phelps in forming Phelps, Benz and Poellot, Inc. After three years of work in the Colorado area, Benz and Poellot formed their own firm, capitalizing on JMP's contacts in Asia. In 1988, Poellot bought out Benz and

formed J. Michael Poellot Golf Design Group based in Saratoga, Calif. Poellot has since taken on three principals in the firm: Brian Costello, Bob Moore and Mark Hollinger. All four took part in the following interview.

**GCN:** Do each of you have specific territories?

**JMP:** From a practical perspective, I guess we do have territories because, historically, the world has been our market. From a logistic standpoint, it makes sense if someone handles Southeast Asia and someone handles

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## Hills tapped for \$500M project

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Arthur Hills, has joined the development team of the newly announced Addison Reserve, a 653-acre, \$500 million master-planned golf and country club community planned for south Palm Beach County here.

Arthur Hills & Associates, with offices in Toledo, Ohio and Orlando, Florida, will design the 27 holes of golf planned for the Addison Reserve community, announced Project Director Craig Perna.

Hills & Associates have been very active in Florida with dozens of golf projects, including 19 courses in the Naples area, alone.

The Addison Reserve, located on the last prime tract in the Boca Raton/Delray Country Club Mile corridor, is being developed by joint venture partners Taylor Woodrow Communities and Kenco Communities. In addition to the Arthur Hills designed 27 holes of championship golf, the Addison Reserve will feature an attractive mix of single-family homes, a Mizner-inspired multi-purpose clubhouse, and an extensive tennis complex.

Construction of the first 18 holes of the golf course are scheduled to begin in early 1995.

## Q&A: J. Michael Poellot talks design — globally

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Japan, and somebody focuses on some other area. There's overlap, but Bob Moore is involved in what you might call the western rim, or Southeast Asia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Brian Costello has historically been most prominent in Japan and China; and Mark Hollinger is also prominent in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan.

**GCN:** Do you consider the U.S. an untapped territory?

**JMP:** Well, certainly untapped for us. We made a very determined effort some years ago to position ourselves in the Pacific arena. And it's proved a wise decision. But we're very excited to announce that we believe 1995 is the year JMP is going to penetrate the domestic market. I think there's an opportunity for us here because we're bringing back a level of detail that we've been able to express in Asia — because of their appreciation for detail — that other architects haven't been able to accomplish here.

**GCN:** Are there contemporary architects whose work you admire?

**JMP:** I would have to say, philosophically, that the way we conduct our business and the way we like the game to be played are more akin to what Tom Fazio and Rees Jones are doing, and less of what Pete Dye is doing today.

**GCN:** That's interesting because a great many people associate Pete Dye with detail. How do you differentiate between the detail you would bring back from Asia and perhaps overdoing it?

**JMP:** "Overdoing it" is a good way to say it. What we have tried to do in Asia is react to the techniques they have used to build golf courses themselves, which is a very "engineering" approach to golf course architecture. In so doing, while working on some difficult sites, their meager attempts at recreating nature were poor at best. What we've been able to accomplish in Asia is take a very difficult site and have it be — while never something superior to nature — certainly an acceptable substitute. We've been able to turn mountaintops and swamps into very playable, enjoyable areas.

**Hollinger:** We spend a great deal of time on landscaping, which most of our contemporaries spend very little, if any, time on. For every project we spend hundreds of hours preparing a detailed landscaping plan — and that includes water features, rock outcrops and tree formations; all kinds of visual landscape elements... That's some of what Mike is talking about, and some of

what we think we can bring to bear in the domestic market. That's not to say other courses don't have nice tree plantings, but it's taking it to another level.

**GCN:** Minimalism — or, at least, talking about it — is definitely in vogue these days. How do you reconcile that with your approach?

**JMP:** When you say

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Bangkok's North Park shows a special environmental sensitivity by designer J. Michael Poellot. One of scores of tracks designed by Poellot in the Asia-Pacific region, North Park opened in 1994.



The charge of Hannibal from Spain over the Alps into Italy set off a series of crushing defeats on Roman armies. Elephants helped power Hannibal's army over treacherous mountain terrain.

218 B.C.



The Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War checked Russia's ambitions in Eastern Europe. The battle was immortalized by Alfred Lord Tennyson in the poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

1854

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## Q&A: Poellot

**Continued from previous page**  
 minimalism, are you making an analogy with what some people are calling "classical design"? I have to smile sometimes when I hear an architect say he's returning to "classical design," because I don't think there is a classical design — any more than there is a return from computers to slide rules. Circumstances today are so different than what they were 50, 60, 70 years ago. Sites are so different today than what Mackenzie had to work with.

Maintenance innovations have made things different. And, most subtle of all, player expectations are different. To try and revert is pointless.

In fact, tied in with that question is our philosophy with regard to the whole environmental debate going on today. Many architects and environmentalists are at loggerheads over development. And maybe I'm stepping out on a limb here, but I would say we're 180 degrees from most architects on that issue. The issues raised today are sound, a lot of them. In the long run, cooperation between

architects and environmentalists is only going to create a better game of golf. It will get golf up out of the wet areas and onto dry land again, which is going to result in lower construction costs, lower maintenance costs. Long term it'll make golf more affordable. Nature survives. Golf survives.

It's hard to swallow that today, with architects who've been working hard on projects that are resolved in these long, multiyear approval processes. I guess the normal reaction is to fight back. But if we can learn to hold hands on this, we're all going to be better

off for it.

**GCN:** What have you learned from Robert Trent Jones II and Dick Phelps that you still carry with you today?

**JMP:** I wouldn't say that I learned. I would say that I was exposed to certain aspects of the business. It was more of an apprenticeship, and in that process I was given the opportunity to develop my own style, my own technique, my own philosophy. To try and articulate that philosophy is tough, but I think it's not something you create from nothing. There has to be an

*'The [environmental] issues raised today are sound, a lot of them. In the long run, cooperation between architects and environmentalists is only going to create a better game of golf.'*

— J. Michael Poellot

inherent love of the game that has to, somehow, be expressed, either through architecture or as a player. It calls upon a tremendous amount of vision and imagination — coupled with determination. I think it's one thing to come up with a beautiful set of plans, but it's another to hang in there for the duration of a project, get it done and get it done right. And fight for what you believe in.

**GCN:** We ran a feature on The Ratings Game last month. How do you view how these courses are rated and judged, and whether it's changed design?

**JMP:** It's an extremely political game. We just went through that process because one of the magazines recently visited one of our projects in Japan [Caledonia Golf and Country Club in Chiba Prefecture]. The interesting thing about these competitions, in a way, is that virtually half of the 100 best courses were designed before 1940, before most of the present-day architects even knew which end of the pencil to hold. It goes to show that there were values instilled in the game of golf 50, 60 years ago that we haven't learned to recreate today, as hard as we might try.

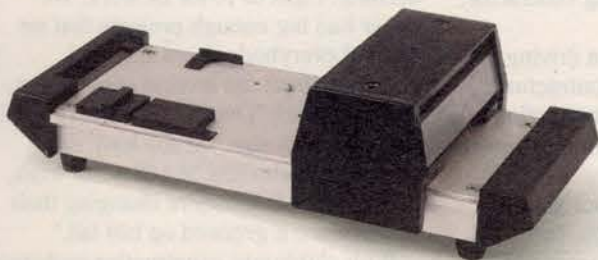
**GCN:** Do you have favorite "old-time" architects? You must have seen a lot of C.H. Alison in Japan.

**JMP:** Yes, we've seen a lot of Alison. He's revered over there for his famous bunkers, which were really novel when constructed... It sounds trite, but we admire Mackenzie. He's a mentor of ours. Tillinghast. Ross. Great names from the past, but they've left a legacy of golf that is hard to surpass today.

**GCN:** Was there a course you played as a kid that got you interested in golf course architecture?

**JMP:** When I was a kid, I played a nine-hole golf course that would be kindly referred to as a goat pasture. That was my introduction to golf, but that was all I could afford. But through that experience I learned to love the game. And I loved it for many other reasons: What it brought out in me; the opportunities to be with other people; competitive spirit. And I'm sure there were disappointments at the time, but I didn't know what they were.

It's only more recently that I really understand what constitutes a great golf course. But it certainly wasn't from a childhood experience.



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