

Larry Packard leading Egyptians into — for them — the grand new world of golf

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turned nine holes into soccer fields, so there's just a single 9 left."

Enter Packard, whose first Egyptian design was a par-3 nine alongside the Paradisio Hotel in Hurghada, a Red Sea resort approximately 300 miles south of Cairo. Popular with German tourists, who fly directly from Munich, Hurghada needed a golf course to complement its fishing and extraordinary snorkeling, said Packard.

"The problem in Hurghada," he explained, "is the lack of water and topsoil. The only thing that will be green will be the greens. We'll be using [seashore] paspalum, the new hybrid, because what water there is will be slightly brackish."

Question: How did Packard, who designed such quality tracks as Innisbrook in Tarpon Springs, Fla., get involved the Egyptian development market?

Answer: The International Executive Service Corps (IESC),

an organization that sends teams of retired people to help Third World countries with new and existing business ventures. The IESC sent Packard to Egypt: All expenses paid, but no salary.

Once he was there, word traveled fast.

"After I finished the par-3, a group wanted a brand new 18-hole golf course in Cairo, out near the pyramids," said Packard. "It's in what they call 6th of October City. They're building all kinds of residences

and buildings there. They have 16 million people in the Greater Cairo area, and they're trying to redistribute them.

"The layout in 6th of October City is all completed. They decided they wanted the course all in one piece. The housing is separate — on the outside. They're going to call it Dreamland Pyramids Golf Course."

The developer, Dr. Ahmed Bahgat, is president of Goldstar, the multinational electronics

firm. Bahgat's development group will build the golf course, not to mention an accompanying amusement park, about 10 miles from the Nile River.

"You'd have nothing if you didn't have the Nile there," said Packard. "They expect to drill some wells for irrigation."

"The site is gently rolling. You can see the Pyramids. It's an excellent site, but of course it has no trees or shrubs of any kind. I asked Dr. Bahgat where he's going get the topsoil, and he said he can get it from an area near the mouth of the Nile. I think he'll need six inches over the entire site."

Packard said his work on the Dreamland facility led to his third project, on the opposite side of Cairo in Heliopolis. Packard explained there are not yet working drawings for the Heliopolis project. He left for Egypt early this month to complete the routing.

"The interesting thing about this second project is, they've already sold 100 houses at \$250,000 a pop," he said. "When I first saw the site, it looked like a mountain of sand. It's a super site. There will a lot of grading, but it's a little more hilly than the other site."

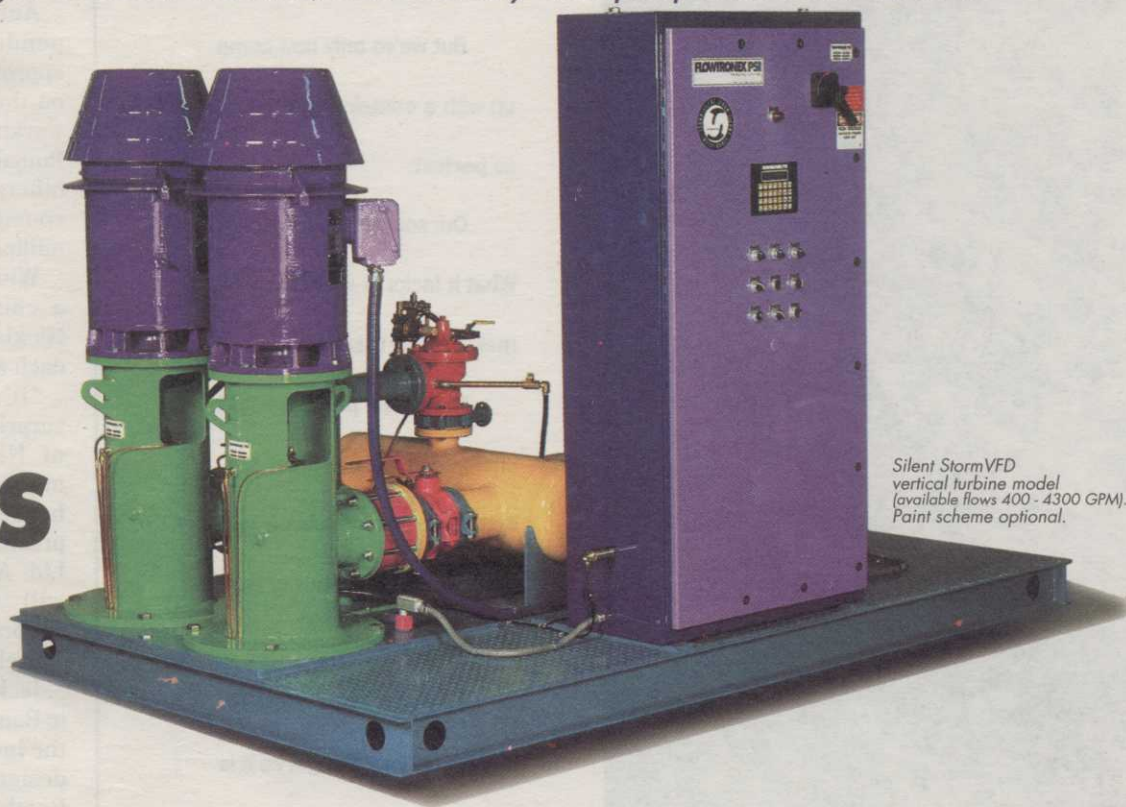
Though it has never before built a golf course, Egyptian Engineers Co. for Dwellings (EECD) will construct the Heliopolis course. Packard explained that EECD engineers have visited Innisbrook three times to learn about golf course construction.

"I've got half a dozen guys who might be interested in going over there to be a superintendent of construction," said Packard. "That guy will have his hands full, that's for sure."

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Blessing opens Emerald Course at Wailea GC

The Wailea Golf Club has officially opened its long-awaited Emerald Course. The opening began with a traditional Hawaiian blessing by Reverend Nani Saffery. The blessing heralds the completion of the final phase of an ambitious expansion project which began six years ago under direction of architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr.

Sister to the resort's acclaimed Blue Course and the award-winning Golf Course, the new Emerald Course represents the final phase of an \$80 million investment which included the addition of the Gold Course, a second clubhouse and a state-of-the-art training facility. The new 18-hole Emerald Course brings a total of 54 holes of championship golf to the 1,500-acre Wailea Resort.