

Rodney Wright

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office and the partnership resulted in several acclaimed courses, including Bali G&RC, Mangilao Golf Club on Guam (1992), and Maui's Mauna Lani Resort (1994), home to the Senior Skins Game.

In 1995, Nelson and Wright accepted senior designer Neil Haworth as a full partner. However, a market slowdown soon thereafter convinced Wright it was time to strike out on his own.

"It really was an amicable split," Wright said. "Robin and I did some very good work together, but we realized a while back that we were going in different directions. Maybe it was the distance, but it made sense for me to try my own thing. At times it's been a bit scary, but I've been doing this for more than 23 years. It's just a question of using that experience. I still learn something new every day."

"Anyone who's serious about this business does, too. If you think you know it all, you're in trouble."

While his first two solo projects are here in Asia-Pacific, Wright said his practice is a global one.

"I'd like work in the States, even though I'm concentrating my efforts in Asia right now. In the year I've been on my own, I've seen the business grow and that's been extremely satisfying. Things are falling into place — but I've learned you have to put them into place."

Wright Golf Design can be reached in Singapore by phone at (65) 732-5715, or by fax at (65) 734-7812.

Palmer Design signs 5, breaks ground on 5

CAVITE, The Philippines — The first two months of 1997 have seen an extraordinary amount of activity for the Florida, USA-based Palmer Course Design Co. Always active in the Pacific Rim, Palmer has announced five new project signings for this period and seen construction commence on five other projects.

New projects include Cavite New Town Development, a 36-hole project undertaken here with St. Lucia Development. Palmer Course Design Co. (PCDC) will do the first 18 holes. The architect for the second 18 holes has yet to be determined. H-O-K, San Francisco and Hong Kong are the master planners. Construction is expected to commence later this year.

Also signed with Sta. Lucia were 18-hole projects in Lian and Bacalod in the Philippines. Both developments will feature residential real-estate components.

Palmer Design also signed its first project in China in several years, The Sanya Golf Club, an 18-hole destination resort located on the south tip of Hainan Island.

Fronting the South China Sea, the resort will also include two marinas, a hotel, and other amenities. The client, Hiro Planning Co., is based in Tokyo, Japan. Construction is expected to begin late this year.

PCDC also signed its first project in India. The DLF Quatab project has already commenced construction and should be open for play in early 1998. The client is DLF Universal, the flagship company of the RS. 1000 Crores DLF Group.

Outside the U.S., five PCDC projects have started preliminary earth work. These include Caliraya Springs, a 36-hole project on Lake Caliraya, The Philippines and Forest Hills, a 36-hole project outside Manila. Both projects are residential developments, with Palmer designing 18 holes on each project. Located near Subic, The Philippines, preliminary site work has commenced on the Alta Vista Royale Project, also a residential development with an 18-hole Palmer course.

In Japan, preliminary site work has commenced at the 36-hole Furano Kogen Golf Club. Full construction will begin this spring with an anticipated summer 1999 opening.

The close of 1996 saw commencement of construction of the Muju Resort Golf Course near Muju, Korea. The 18-hole course should be open in the spring of 1998.

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