

Golf course architecture hits Web

EUGENE, Ore. — What began as the submission of additional golf courses over WON.net by devoted computer golfers to supplement the shipping of Sierra Sports' PGA Championship Golf, has escalated into a creative phenomenon. The golf simulation's Course Architect has inspired even casual and first-time computer gamers to create and post favorite home courses, fantasy courses, and even a masterfully constructed venue in Georgia, all ready for download with the click of a mouse.

To date, more than 35 Course Architect creations have been posted on WON.net (<http://wonswap.won.net/pgs/pgaswap.shtml>), expanding upon the eight that shipped with Sierra Sports' PGA Championship Golf, 1999 Edition in May. Players who purchase the CD-ROM for Windows 95/98, which holds an MSRP of \$29.95, are directed to WON.net and its state-of-the-art WONswap tool, which enables easy and intuitive downloading of Course Architect submissions over the

Internet. The Course Architect is a tool that creates golf courses with exacting 3D detail, right down to the elevation of greens and vegetation surrounding the fairways. With names like "18 The Hard Way," "Deerfield Trace," and "Bogey Shores," Course Architect submissions are designed to meet the standards of the Sierra Sports Golf Association (SGA).

To further personalize the experience of Internet golf and Course Architect creativity, log on to the SGA on WON.net (<http://www.won.net/sga>) and download the new Library Creator, which works with the

Course Architect to import the player's choice graphics, textures, and even location-specific sounds. From banners to beer carts, the player determines how his or her home course will appear for each round.

The SGA officially launched the SGA Season II in July. Its Amateur Tour, PGA Championship Tour and exclusive SGA Tour inspire players of all skill levels to compete for prizes.

Crenshaw

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shore on another project last year, former Mid-Amateur champion Kenny Bakst tipped them off about the Bistrans. Contact was made, and today the 18-hole private East Hampton Golf Club sits waiting to open the doors next spring.

"I can't tell you how much fun it's been," said Coore. "We did some things we would not normally do. The greens are extremely interesting — one might even say 'quirky' in places. The National [on Long Island] or Somerset Hills Country Club [in New Jersey] have some of the most incredibly creative and yet workable greens that have ever been done in this country, so we felt as if we should make these greens imaginative and fun. You can do that on a course that is not overly demanding from tee to green, and this sits on only 123 acres. And so we did."

"From the standpoint of contours and types of holes, we had long wanted to do this. But we felt it would be received better in this part of the country, given the people who will be playing it. We certainly could not do this in a resort and most other courses."

"East Hampton is wonderful because of the main ingredients of sand and the native grasses," said Crenshaw. "There is a myriad of things that sand helps so much. It's certainly aesthetics, it's raw material, it's slashes of sand that lead one to believe the course is more natural..."

Coore described the 18 holes as three different types of courses. "Some of it is an open field that is flat — very much like Garden City [Golf Club in New York], with native grasses and some hummocks and interesting bunkers and greens," he said. "Then the 17th and 18th holes have beautiful rolling terrain — almost a parkland look. And the front nine has a Pine Valleyish look. It has some 30-foot elevation changes. As a result of the sand, we did some holes with large exposed sand areas."

The property, Coore added, "is not the likes of The National or Shinnecock [Hills Country Club in Southampton]. We started with the concept of just doing an interesting, fun golf course. We knew it was not going to be long. The family wanted us to do the best for this property — and for golf."

To that end, there are no homes on the property and Crenshaw and Coore designed it to be a walking course. There are no cart paths.

Crenshaw and Coore, Barry Bistran said, "came here and, right from the get-go, what we wanted to do fit in with the way they do things."

Coore gave accolades to shapers Jimbo Wright, Dave Axland and Jim Craig, and to bunker-building expert Jeff Bradley.

General Manager Tom Barnard of Buena Vista Hospitality Group, a veteran of the Orlando and Hilton Head areas, said he is in the midst of getting permits for an interim clubhouse. Membership, he said, will not exceed 250.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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