

British designers offer new architectural masters program

GUILDFORD, Surrey — The British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGCA) has developed a new Masters program in golf course architecture, extending its educational thrust into a degree-level qualification.

The degree course is to be established at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh in conjunction with its specialist college, Edinburgh College of Art as well as with Merrist Wood College and

Elmwood College in Cupar, Fife.

The course, which will take the form of a nine-month diploma in golf course architecture, leading to a three-month Masters program, will be full-time residential. It will parallel, in its first stage, the present part-time/distance learn-

ing diploma operated by the BIGCA at Merrist Wood. This current two-year diploma course will also be expanded to take in a two-center field study program in both Surrey and Fife, giving students the chance to experience the historic links courses of Scotland.

BIGCA Educational Coordinator Ken Moodie was upbeat about the developments.

"It is a tremendous initiative

for the three educational establishments to have come together with the institute to establish this new degree program and develop the existing diploma course in a complimentary manner," he said.

Inquiries for educational services in golf course architecture have been received from three other universities — one each in Poland, Switzerland and China.

Grant aid for the education arm of BIGCA has been agreed by the Royal & Ancient, which has granted financial assistance for the next three years to a total value of £30,000. This is in addition to the £7,500 given for the further development of the BIGCA library. Toro and Barenbrug are similarly continuing their support with the ongoing Student Architect Award and Student Prize.

Matthews

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shaded areas were important objectives. Due to local development restrictions, changes to the ground level were limited to plus-or-minus one meter from the existing grade, requiring a subtle approach and careful sand placement to ensure visibility.

"While this restriction on earth-shaping seems extreme by American standards, it is not unusual in Austria, or especially Germany," said Matthews. "Often, rural areas and farmlands are considered cultural landscapes, worthy of preservation or protection in much the same way as our wetlands or shorelines."

This status can make the approval of golf course developments a long and arduous process. At the same time there is a great demand for new courses and a growing interest in golf in both countries. Austria, in particular, has experienced a boom in golfing and course development in recent years.

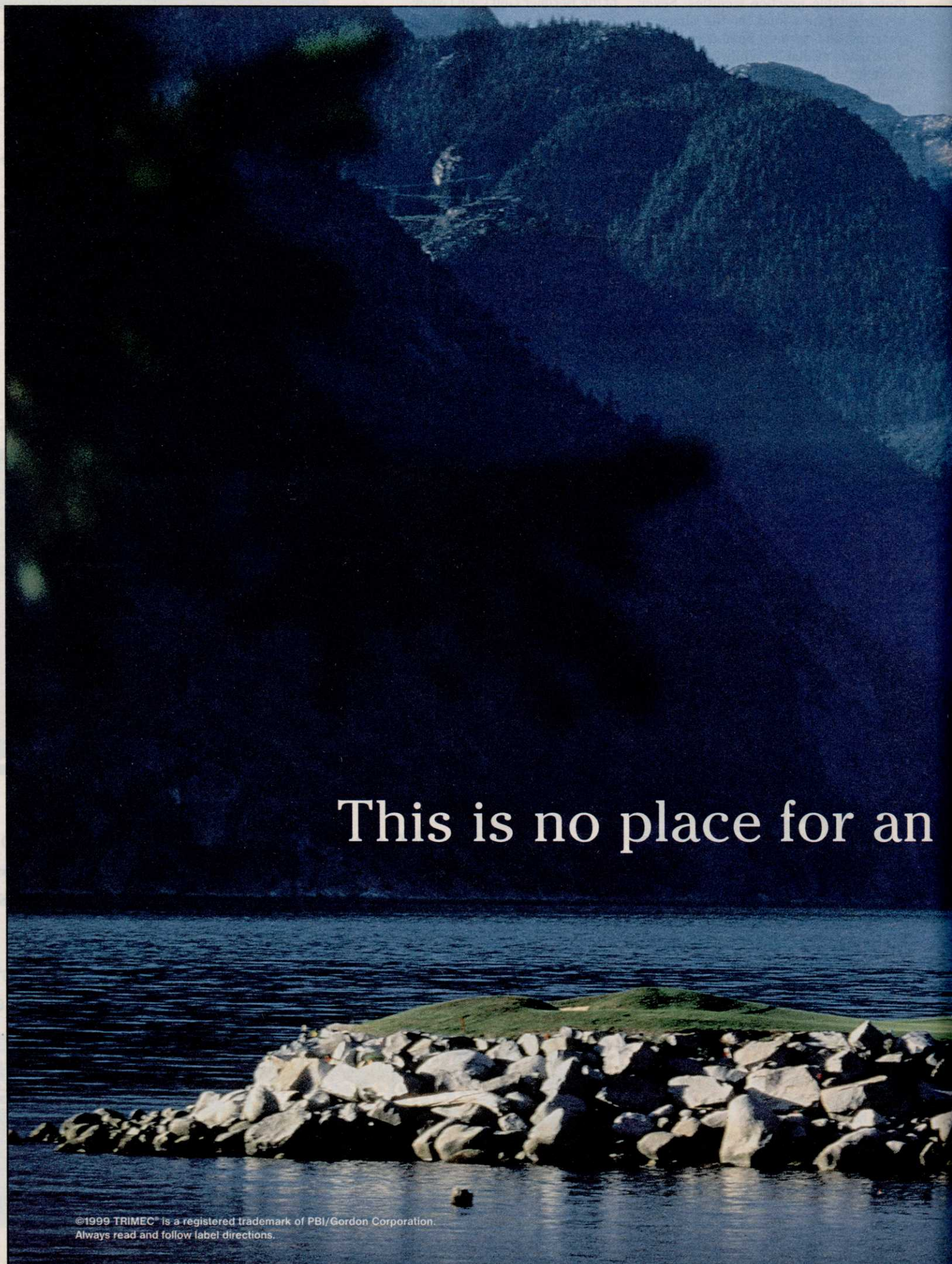
Also at Innsbruck-Igls, to reduce conflict with recently constructed homes immediately adjacent to the 18th fairway. These houses are afforded little protection from errant shots by in-place netting, and their close proximity illustrates the relative scarcity of buildable land in this mountainous area.

"While designing for golf in this part of Europe poses some unusual challenges from our perspective, the unique scenic and cultural setting gives the game of golf another dimension," Matthews said.

Back in the United States, Matthews Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club has completed the first phase renovations of its 1919 Donald Ross layout. Matthews was retained to design the project in a historically sensitive manner. The initial phase included the restoration of bunkers in the original style and format of Ross' design.

The club's greens committee and Matthews reviewed the his-

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