

## Doak hopes to open doors for future architects

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before, this is the first time he has gone through a formal process, he said.

"We've had interns at various times over the last 10 years, but it's been hard to do a formal program because our workload varies so much from one year to the next," Doak said.

Going forward, Doak said he plans to award at least two internships a year to college students pursuing a career in golf design through a landscape architecture or turf management curriculum. Each internship will consist of three parts: a month in the firm's Traverse City office, four to six weeks of work on the site of a current project and at least two weeks of travel with Doak or a senior design associate to see projects in the planning phase, including an opportunity to see and play some of the great golf courses built in the last century.

"We want to give them not only office experience, but some experience in the field and if we didn't have much going to construction in a particular summer, it was hard to set anything up," Doak

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— Tom Doak

said. "We do 25 percent of the design in the office and 75 percent out in the field. Certainly, if there's a chance for them to work with us longer term, that's where they're going to contribute."

The positions will pay \$5,000 for three months, plus housing and expenses while in Traverse City, as well as all travel expenses while on the road.

The program Doak has proposed mirrors his progression as a golf course architect. Upon graduation from Cornell, Doak received a scholarship to study the great golf courses of the British Isles, an experience he followed with an apprenticeship with Pete Dye. These two experiences helped shape Doak's design style and gave him an entry into the design field that others may not have had.

"I feel like whoever we do pick, we're giving them a leg up like I had 20 years ago," he said. "As far as my career went, having that experience was crucial to my being able to get out on my own."

One reason Doak decided to formalize the internship program at his firm was the volume of work Renaissance will have this year, he said.

"We've got enough lined up for the next couple of years that we've got some interesting things going on," he said. "This summer, we have a couple of renovation things we're doing and we'll have somewhere between one and three golf courses

start construction and we're still looking at other new projects."

Among the projects Renaissance has lined up is a private equity club on the shores of Lake Oconee in Georgia called the Harmony Club.

Doak's highly-rated Pacific Dunes Golf club in Bandon, Ore., has led to some of the work his firm is currently undertaking, he said.

"We've gotten at least two new jobs out of people that played the golf course and loved it," Doak said. ■

## Heritage, SAJO merge

HOUSTON — Golf course builders Heritage Links and SAJO Golf recently combined their companies in an effort to offer a full range of golf course construction services. The combined company will operate under the Heritage Links name.

Founded in 1988, SAJO Golf won *Golf Course News*' Small Builder of the Year Award in 1997 and is a certified builder with the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA). SAJO president Sam Sakocius is a member of the GCBA board. He will serve as president

of golf construction for Heritage Links. Terry Brown, SAJO's vice president, will manage the newly created utility group for Heritage Links under the name HL Construction.

The merger made sense because the two companies are so complementary, Sakocius said.

"Heritage Links is a great match for us," Sakocius said. "Together, we will be able to offer a broad base of knowledge, the latest tools and technologies, integrated utility services and strong financial stability to assure our customers that every new project is the best it can be."



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