

Public Course Clubhouse Design Demands Foresighted Study

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DURING the past ten years the rise of public golf has been stupendous. It has paved a new road of relaxation, exercise and recreation for the man who cannot afford the expenses of a private club. Many private corporations are building excellent courses and beautiful buildings.

One such organization in the Detroit district has constructed three championship courses with space for a fourth, all with creeping bent grass tees, greens and fairways. This enterprise has met with remarkable success both financial and in attendance.

Plan differences between the private and public golf building are rather numerous. The golfer belonging to a private club is not a stranger in his building. He is acquainted with the plan nearly as well as his own home. The public golfer is a stranger to the structure and must be handled as such. The private club member enters the locker room through an entrance directly to that room, eats in a grill room directly attached to the locker room, dresses and leaves through an exit which leads directly to the course. He is rarely in the clubhouse proper until after he is through playing. The public golfer, on the other hand, must be treated much the same as a hotel guest.

Let us review the general floor plan of a hotel. The plan consists of a large lobby, around which all the necessary public spaces such as registration desk, dining rooms, toilets, tobacco stands, elevators, etc., are located, all of them in plain view or easily found. Just so should a public golf building be planned; a spacious lobby around which all departments are to be found.

The following units should be visible or easily found from the lobby:

Sales Desk. Sale of tickets, tobacco and supplies.

Men's Locker Room. This unit should have toilet and wash room near entrance.

Women's Locker Room. This unit should have rest room with toilet and locker room adjoining.

Grill and Dining Room. Exit door to first tee.

Lounge and Porches.

Telephones.

There are many successful and economical ways of combining the above units to make a well flowing plan.

In planning such a structure it is well to consider the type of course it will be called upon to serve. There are two kinds of public courses and each requires different arrangement. First, the low fee course, generally charging \$1.00 or less for daily playing privileges; second, the high fee course charging \$1.25 and more.

The various units of the low-fee and high-fee course vary in size and capacity to a large extent due to the type of persons catered to by each. No definite rule can be applied to give the exact size of each unit. The entire plan depends on many local conditions some of which are: size of the community, distance from transportation, distance from center of population, competition, number of courses, etc.

Various other items, which can in some instances be incorporated in the plan, are:

Counter service along with table service.

Private dining rooms (small) for teas, bridges, small dinner parties, etc.

Banquet room for golf tournament luncheons and dinners.

Private locker rooms for tournaments.

One word about cost of buildings. In the low fee division it is rarely advisable to spend more than \$15,000 per course, while in the high fee course the cost varies greatly but it is unwise to spend less than \$18,000 per course.

An attractive building well planned is an asset to any institution. A building well designed, simple in conception, pleasing in detail and color leaves a lasting impression on the patron.