



Locker room of Skycrest Country Club at Prairie View, Ill., was transformed into one of warmth and sunshine by cutting a huge picture window into the entire end wall. Members relax here to enjoy nature's landscaping and to watch fellow players as they finish a day's round on the sporty fairways.

Glass Brings Outdoors Into New Clubhouses

Are American golfers getting the most out of their clubhouses?

Where else in the nation's built-up urban centers is natural scenery more abundant? Where else is the opportunity greater to enjoy nature's splendor—luxuriant grass, stately old trees, or perhaps a brook?

Millions of dollars have been invested in fine fairways, velvety greens, interesting bunkers and sand traps; additional millions have been spent for moderate to lavish clubhouses, and still more millions have gone into specimen shrubbery and foundation plantings, tying nature's landscaping to the ideas of man.

But how much thought has been given to bringing this beauty inside for the en-

joyment of members; to tying the outdoors with the indoors?

Only in recent years have golf clubs come to value the beauty assets that are theirs. Yesterday's clubhouses were built only to accommodate the activities of members, with little or no thought given to enhancing their livability or to joining the beautiful outdoors with the indoors. Windows were small and ill-spaced, and clubhouses were dark and dreary. Members were shut in, they were shut off from the outdoors.

But today club architects and managers are taking a cue from their members. Like members' homes, which reflect an architectural trend toward light, cheerful

interiors, clubhouses are making use of the scenery and are being made into play centers that give the feeling of living with the outdoors. Huge window openings and window walls permit members to enjoy all the natural scenery that is theirs. It is brought into the locker room, where the day's rounds are re-hashed; it is brought into the dining and drinking rooms, onto the dance floor, and into the lounge.

Two clubs in the Chicago area—Calumet at Homewood and Skycrest at Prairie View—are typical of the many throughout the United States that have "harnessed" the outdoors. Then there's the new clubhouse at Ottumwa, Ia., that has gone all out with an eye on nature's splendor.

At Calumet, where a screened porch overlooked long, green fairways, the space was converted into a year-round dining porch. Sidewalls were built of glass so as not to sacrifice the view for which the porch originally was built. The large window openings, some of picture window size, were tied together by warm-toned knotty wood paneling.

View Without Chill

In this structural change, insulating Thermopane was specified for the glass areas so the porch could be utilized for dining up to outside walls even in the coldest winter months. Individual panes of these windows are hermetically sealed by a metal to glass bond that leaves dry air between, thus giving inbuilt insulation that acts to reduce condensation and downdraft at windows.

Still another idea of "harnessing" the outdoors was tried at Skycrest CC, which has two 18-hole courses—the Sky course

and the Crest course. The club originally was the Kildeer club, built in 1922 and so named for a bird commonly found in the area. It was purchased in 1942 by Gene T. Dyer, Chicago radio station owner, who remodeled and reopened it in 1946.

One of the more important changes in the clubhouse was a large picture window cut into the end of the locker room. Dyer felt the one reason why people go to a country club is to enjoy the scenery. They reasoned that a picture window would be one way to give players a chance to relax and to enjoy the view. In addition to providing this view, the floor-to-ceiling plate glass window transformed an otherwise dark locker-room into one that admits abundance of daylight and sunshine. The room is done in chartreuse and white with dubonnet draperies, all adding up to an atmosphere of enjoyment and leisure. The large window is the main factor accounting for the change from the jail-cell look so common to locker-rooms.

The Ottumwa CC was designed by Architect Harold Spitznaugle of Sioux Falls, S.D. Here again the outdoors was brought inside the clubhouse by expansive window areas, many of which were glazed with Thermopane.

These are only three of the many clubs throughout the United States that have capitalized on nature-given scenery. Like Tam O'Shanter at Chicago, Augusta National Golf Course at Augusta, Ga., Williams CC at Weirton, W. Va., and River Crest CC at Fort Worth, where the picture window idea was tried earlier, they are following an architectural trend, and members know the real enjoyment that comes from bringing the outdoor indoors.



The gently rolling countryside is brought indoors for members of Ottumwa Country Club at Ottumwa, Ia., who prefer relaxing in the spacious lounge to trying their luck on the tricky fairways. Each of the many picture windows has a different tree-studded view to present for their enjoyment.