

During an uneventful evening at the local Starbucks, yours truly recently handed out awards from the little-known and lightly regarded Golf Academy of Architecture and Sciences.

Winners received a small, gold-plated statuette known as the "C.B." (it depicts C.B. Macdonald rudely pointing at an innocent laborer during construction of The National Golf Links). The C.B. is designated for the finest (and not so finest) architectural achievements of the 20th century. So without further ado, here are the best and worst of the last 100 years:

Best performance by an ensemble cast: *The nominees* — Pine Valley GC (produced by Crump, Colt, Wilson, Tillinghast, Alison, Wilson, Flynn, Thomas and Maxwell; directed by George Crump). Pebble Beach Golf Links (produced by Neville, Grant, Morse, MacKenzie, Egan, Hunter, Lapham, various superintendents and Nicklaus; directed by Samuel Morse). *The winner* — A tie, proving that design by committee does work twice every 100 years.

Worst performance by an ensemble cast: *The only nominee* — Augusta National Golf Club (produced by Bobby Jones and Alister MacKenzie; meddling by Roberts, Maxwell, Roberts, Trent Jones, Cobb, Roberts, Cobb, Roberts, G. Fazio, Morrish, Cupp, Nicklaus, T. Fazio and Hootie, among others). Just when you thought they had done everything they could to erase any hint of Jones and MacKenzie, out came the Lon Hinkle trees and rough in 1999.

Best architect in a supporting role: *The nominees* — Howard Toomey ("Saving Private Flynn"), C.H. Alison ("Citizen Colt"), Billy Bell ("Rosebud: The Captain Thomas Story"), Robert Hunter ("The Outlaw Alister MacKenzie"), Seth Raynor ("The Phantom Menace: C.B. Macdonald"). *The winner* — Raynor. Doesn't he get a lifetime achievement award for putting up with C.B.?

Worst redesigned or added hole on a famous course: The par-3 third at Inverness. You leave Toledo and play among pines and lakes of Colorado before returning to Toledo.

Best par-3: The Redan at North Berwick.

Best par-4: 17th at St. Andrews.

Best par-5: 13th at Augusta National

The Best, Worst of 20th Century

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



WINNERS RECEIVED

A SMALL, GOLD-

PLATED STATUETTE

KNOWN AS THE C.B.

Worst hole: 7th at Stone Harbor. You know, the one with the jagged-edged island bunkers and the football-shaped green.

Best designs by era:

- 1900-1909 — Pinehurst #2 (yes, it took a while, but this is when it started).
- 1910-1915 — The National Golf Links (C.B. shows how to do it properly).
- 1916-1919 — tie, Somerset Hills and San Francisco GC (Tillie's two best?).
- 1920-1925 — Pine Valley (all 18 holes perfect from day one).
- 1926-1929 — tie, Cypress Point and Pebble Beach (Egan's 1928 redo is vastly underrated).
- 1930-1935 — tie, Shinnecock Hills and Augusta National (one ages gracefully, one doesn't).
- 1935-1959 — Prairie Dunes (second nine added in 1957 and worth the wait).
- 1960-1970 — Harbour Town (changed the direction of modern design).
- 1971-1980 — Muirfield Village (a rare moment for player designers).
- 1981-1985 — TPC Sawgrass (lost in all the fray is an excellent design).
- 1986-1994 — Shadow Creek (a panelist's dream. They say the course is good, too).
- 1995-1999 — Sand Hills (proof that if you build it, they will come).

Best architect: *The nominees* — Donald Ross, C.B. Macdonald, Pete Dye, A.W. Tillinghast, George Crump, Tom Fazio, Robert Trent Jones, Alister MacKenzie. *The winner* — MacKenzie. They're all unique but the "Good Doc" designed three of the world's top five.

Best design: Pine Valley in a close vote over Cypress Point.

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