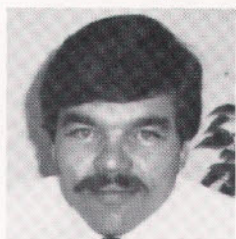


## An Architect's Opinion



### DESIGN REVIEW BEFORE RENOVATION

By Bob Lohmann

Golf is a game, but in order to survive, it must also be considered a business. Like every other business, a good golf club must have good people and a sense of purpose in order to develop a plan for the people to follow.

Because of the rapid growth of the golf industry, information on all facets of the game is becoming available to many people. Golfers are being introduced to different types of design concepts, maintenance procedures, and golf equipment.

As club members, superintendents, professionals, and managers travel throughout the area, state, and country, they not only play different golf courses, but they critique and compare them to their home course.

Most people desire to make their course one of the best in playability, variety, and playing conditions. As the playing season comes to an end in the northern climates, they should evaluate their golf course, remarking on the good as well as problem areas that were noticeable during the golf season. After the winter retreat from the golf course, the problem areas are somewhat forgotten when its time to "tee it up" in spring. Before the snow falls, the golf course should have a final critique that is recorded so it can be remembered and discussed throughout the winter months. The items to be studied should include problem areas, specific design features, and maintenance procedures that seem to distinguish the golf course.

Some of the areas to be considered would be:

1. Green and bunker design—size, shape, and location.
2. Size and condition of tees.
3. Variety and challenge of each

golf hole as well as the entire golf course.

4. Use of detailed landscape elements.
5. Amount and condition of fairway area.
6. Types, location, and condition of trees.
7. Circulation patterns.

These areas are part of what makes up the character of the golf course. Those who have studied their home golf course and other golf courses found that character is very distinguishable. It is the essential quality that makes a successful golf course a great golf course.

When remodeling is being planned for the golf course, it should be to improve or modernize some area in either design or maintenance. Remodeling that is proposed to drastically change the course to look something like a Florida resort or a Tournament Players course will affect the character and possibly do more harm than good.

Hopefully, the club members, superintendents, professionals,

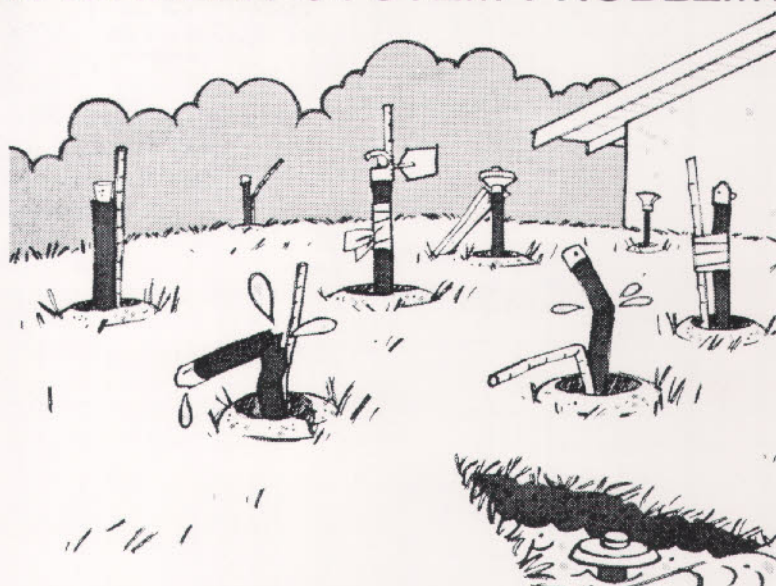
and managers realize the integrity present in their golf course and how it developed over a period of years.

All golf courses need improvement or modernization, but before any work is started, the present course conditions need to be evaluated. It is necessary to look back and analyze what is present, what needs improvement, and how to implement the improvements without destroying the wholeness of the golf course.

A successful golf club is not one that is continually changing, but one that is changing according to a plan that leaves the course playable during construction and recognizable after the work is completed. A great golf course, be it a new model or an old edition, is a creation and not a copy of good golf holes from various courses.

As we advance through this era of improved maintenance procedures and golf equipment, let's not forget about design and its importance in the development and existence of the character of every golf course.

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