

On Design

THE ULTIMATE

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by Helde Aungst, managing editor

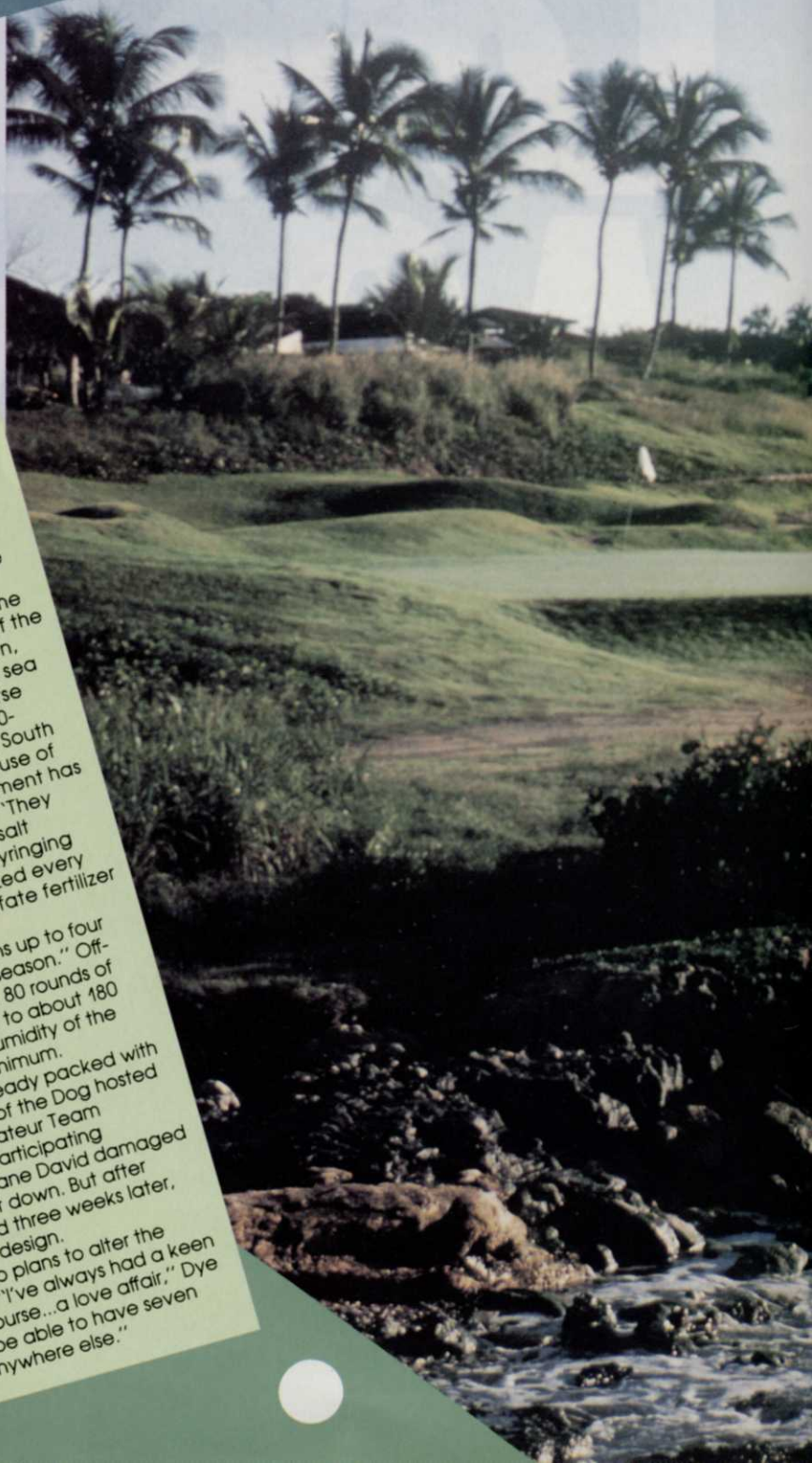
The course may have a strange name—Teeth of the Dog—but it's a classic in the world of golf. Teeth of the Dog is the only complete holes on an ocean. Built in 1970, the Pete Dye creation is the highlight of the Casa de Compo Resort in the Dominican Republic. "Golf" magazine rated it 29th in the world," Dye says. "It's one of the first courses built since 1960 to crack into that group." Other courses making the list include old-time clubs like Pine Valley.

Golfers enjoy a panoramic view of the Caribbean while playing at the Teeth of the Dog. The No. 7 hole on the South green, pictured here, is only four feet above sea level. A crew of 24 cares for the course year-round. The crew mows the 6500-square-foot Tidwarf Bermudagrass South green daily at $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch. "Because of the proximity to the sea, management has to be continuous," Dye explains. "They syringe twice a day to keep the salt content down. Because of the syringing practices, the greens are fertilized every week to 10 days with a high sulfate fertilizer because of the salt intrusion."

The crew aerates the greens up to four times during the summer "off-season." Off-season play consists of about 80 rounds of golf. That number skyrockets to about 180 during the winter. The low humidity of the area keeps disease to a minimum.

The young course is already packed with history. In 1974, the Teeth of the Dog hosted the prestigious World Amateur Team Championship, with 40 participating countries. In 1978, Hurricane David damaged the No. 7 hole, closing it down. But after minor repairs, it opened three weeks later, matching the original design.

Dye says he has no plans to alter the design in the future. "I've always had a keen feeling about this course...a love affair," Dye says. "You'll never be able to have seven holes on the sea anywhere else."



GREEN

Photo by Tom Doak

TURFGRASS DRAINAGE RESISTANCE

Turfgrass managers need to understand the difference between water stress and drought stress. In the second part of LAURENCE M. LAWRENCE's feature, turf writer writes: we look at what it takes for plants to adapt to drought.

by Jeff Van Dyke, Turfgrass Water Management

Plants gain water through the roots and lose it through the leaves. Turfgrass managers must understand the difference between water stress and drought stress. In the second part of LAURENCE M. LAWRENCE's feature, turf writer writes: we look at what it takes for plants to adapt to drought.

