



ISSUE 50 // FALL 2020

BY DESIGN

Excellence in Golf Design from the American Society of Golf Course Architects



WATCH THIS SPACE

How small parcels of land can be transformed to add a new dimension to a golf club

THE SINGLE BUNKER

Brandon Johnson, ASGCA, shares his appreciation of a lone trap on a golf hole

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Jan Bel Jan
President, ASGCA

Times have changed

As I approach the end of my time as ASGCA President and prepare for my first ‘virtual’ ASGCA Annual Meeting and Golf Industry Show, the world is a very different place to what it was at the start of my tenure, 16 months ago.

I take comfort in the fact that many people have spent some of the difficult time we have all faced reflecting on the things that are most important to them. For many of us, that includes spending time in nature, with the people to whom we are closest, enjoying a sport we love.

The way in which we want to do that may be different today to what it was in years gone by. There will always be strong demand for a traditional 18-hole round of golf. But clubs are also now well aware that people increasingly enjoy other forms of the game, whether that be fewer holes, time on the practice range, a shorter course or something else.

Our cover story for this issue, which begins on page 14, profiles five clubs that have worked with ASGCA members to make space for a new dimension to their golf offering. These facilities have been warmly welcomed by members and guests – providing them with a new way to enjoy the game that fits with their modern lifestyle.

On the subject of changing times, I was surprised to learn we have reached the 50th issue of *By Design*. I remember the first issue arriving in my inbox like it was yesterday. Our editor Toby Ingleton takes a moment to reflect on that milestone, and provide some insight into our new look, on page 24.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Jan".

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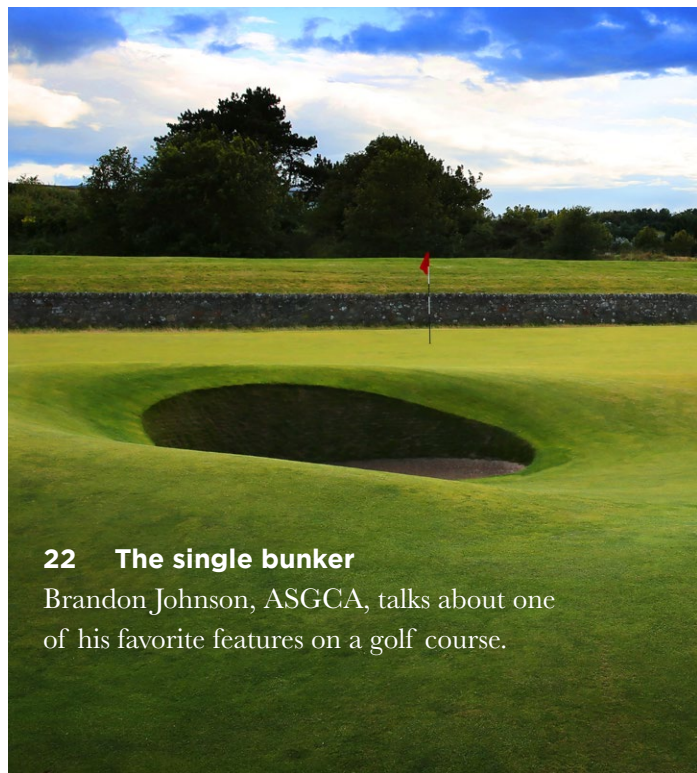
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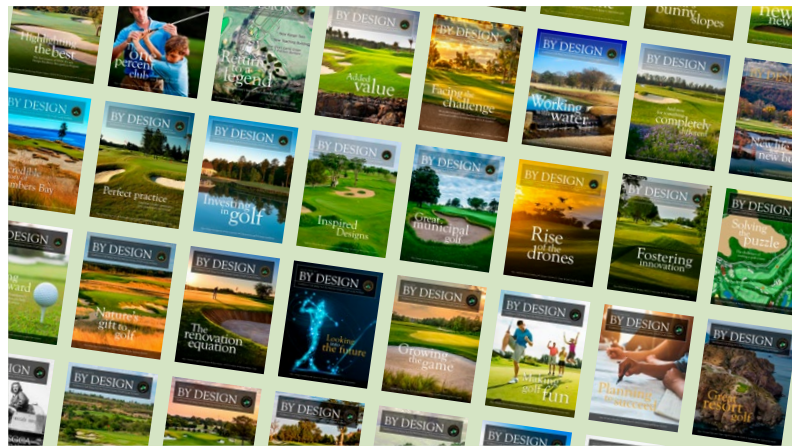
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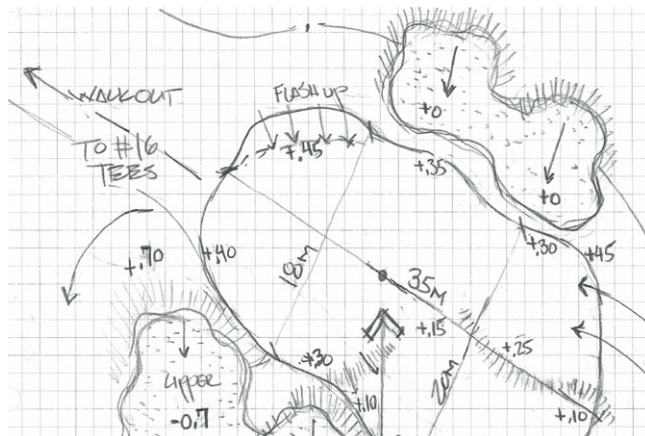
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Birdwood course opens at Boar's Head

The new 18-hole Birdwood course at Boar's Head Resort in Charlottesville, Virginia, has opened after a redesign by Love Golf Design, led by Scot Sherman, ASGCA.

The project was instigated by the resort's desire to introduce multiple infrastructure improvements, including a new golf building, tennis facilities and entry road. The new course now extends into a previously unused 50 acres of the property.

"Our challenge was routing the new 18 to interface with the existing clubhouse while still also passing by the historic Birdwood Mansion," said Sherman. "So, it was clear that new property was to be used in the process. This certainly opened up wonderful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and gave us very interesting property on which to build the new 18 and other facilities."

The new golf facilities cover just over 220 acres. Love Golf Design opened up about 50 acres

of unused property south of the old layout to build nine new holes. The corridors for five existing holes were reused in the new layout, while four others were rerouted.

"There really are 18 stand-out holes on the course, which is testament to the quality and interest of the property and surrounding views," said Sherman.

The new routing has also allowed space for the construction of a new six-hole short layout, along with a one-acre putting course



Photo: Boar's Head Resort

Golf Industry Show moves to virtual format



Photo: GCSAA

The GCSAA and its Presenting Partners – ASGCA and GCBAA – have announced that next year’s Golf Industry Show will shift from an in-person event in Las Vegas to a virtual format.

“We believe the virtual event will offer opportunities for those who may have not been able to attend in-person shows due to travel costs or time away from work,” said GCSAA president John R. Fulling Jr. “It is a unique situation where we have the ability to connect more industry professionals from all corners of the world than ever before.”

Registration for GIS 2021 will open on October 13. A preview of the virtual platform and more information about the show is now available on golfindustryshow.com.

adjacent to the clubhouse. The project also included the building of a new practice facility for the University of Virginia’s men’s and women’s golf teams, short game practice areas for members and resort guests, and a larger practice ground for all players.

“Some of our favorite holes are those on the six-hole short course,” said Sherman. “These short holes give us an opportunity to take some chances we would not usually take.”

Toro launches sustainability platform



Photo: Dave Sansom, courtesy of Forrest Richardson

The Toro Company has launched its Sustainability Endures web platform, with the aim of making a positive impact financially, socially, and environmentally.

“Sustainability Endures is both a celebration of our long-standing focus on social and environmental responsibility, and a signal of our continued commitment to expand our positive impact around the world, which is inherent in our legacy of excellence,” said Richard Olson, chairman and CEO of The Toro Company.

Toro was a partner in the Forrest Richardson, ASGCA, redesign of Baylands Golf Links (pictured), which helped reduce flood risk in Palo Alto, California. Read more in the February 2019 special edition of *By Design*.

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Marzolf completes Fox Chapel restoration

ASGCA Past President Tom Marzolf of Fazio Design has overseen the completion of a golf course restoration project at Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pennsylvania.

The project has included building 97 new bunkers to shapes as seen on Seth Raynor's original 1923 course. Sand lines, mowing lines, green shapes, fairway widths have all been restored. Greens have also been restored at the second, fourth, fifth, seventh and ninth holes.

"In an era that rewards things new, this course will serve as the benchmark restoration on how to properly and historically preserve the game and recreate the flair of the 1920s golden era of golf course architecture," said Marzolf.



Photo: Fox Chapel Golf Club



"I ended up working on and learning about every piece of equipment"

David Whelchel, ASGCA

In the latest podcast from *Golf Course Industry's* "Tartan Talks" series, David Whelchel, ASGCA, talks about his varied career and how he got into the golf course design industry.

Whelchel's interest in golf design was sparked while visiting Pinehurst as a golf coach. "I played No. 2 in a practice round with the kids and we would talk about how we would play the holes," he said. "It was the best golf course I ever played and from there I ended

up picking up books to see what design was."

Following advice from his friend and golf course architect Ron Garl, Whelchel tried his hand at golf construction. He ended up being connected with the director of golf at DisneyWorld, Phil Ritson. "He was going to be involved in a project called Golden Ocala and he got me involved in the construction crew," said Whelchel. "I was the only one on the crew that knew anything about golf, so I

wound up running most of the golf construction. I ended up working on and learning about every piece of equipment.

"A couple of projects later, Ron rang me and asked if I still wanted to get into the design side of things and I said, 'yes' and moved into a trailer near the project site three days later. That's how I got into it. It has been a great ride."

Listen to the full "Tartan Talk" at golfcourseindustry.com.

Here are links to other recent "Tartan Talks," now featuring over 20 episodes:

- Todd Schoeder, ASGCA, discusses six-hole loops, complex projects and working with an overlooked major champion.
- ASGCA Past President Steve Smyers shares lessons and stories from his career as a golf course architect.

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Stephen Rabideau, CGCS | Director of Golf Courses, Winged Foot Golf Club

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City Park redesign helps reduce Denver flood risk



Photo: Todd Schoeder, ASGCA

City Park golf course in Denver, Colorado, has reopened following a complete redesign by Todd Schoeder, ASGCA, of GrassRoots Golf Design.

The project was initiated to manage stormwater that naturally flows through this area, improve

water quality, and reduce flood risks in surrounding neighbourhoods after large storms.

Schoeder’s new layout retains the original Tom Bendelow course character, preserves sweeping vistas of the Denver skyline and uses many existing hole corridors.

“Even though the course is designed to flood and temporarily store a massive amount of water, you would be hard pressed to identify where and how the engineering works,” said Schoeder. “The golf design was seamlessly woven into the stormwater management system.”

Photo: ASGCA



Mike Davis discusses Winged Foot on podcast

USGA chief executive officer Mike Davis is one of the latest guests to appear on the “ASGCA Insights” podcast. He talks about Winged Foot Golf Club in New York, which will host the US Open on 17-20 September.

“Gil Hanse did some great restoration work on both the West and East courses – it really brought back some of the wonderful attributes there,” said Davis.

“What’s so great about Winged Foot is that the architecture shines with how it has evolved over time. Tillinghast’s original design has so many subtle little doglegs, meaning you can’t just bomb the ball to be successful. Players will have to maneuver the ball. And the greens are some of the best we play a US Open on. It will be marvelous.”

To listen to the full discussion with Mike Davis and other ASGCA Insights podcasts, visit: asgca.org/podcasts.

Cervone develops master plan for Pittsburgh muni

Jim Cervone, ASGCA, has been working with the First Tee of Pittsburgh to transform the Bob O'Connor golf course at Schenley Park in Pennsylvania. Cervone proposes the existing 18 to be replaced by a par-33 nine and a nine-hole par-three course.

“The course has been around in its current form since 1903 and is completely dysfunctional in the twenty-first century as it plays across public roads seven times,” said PGA professional Eric Kulinna. “It was built for a golf ball used in the early 1900s that only went 210-220 yards. With today’s golfers hitting modern balls such long distances, the course can be hazardous when shots go awry.”

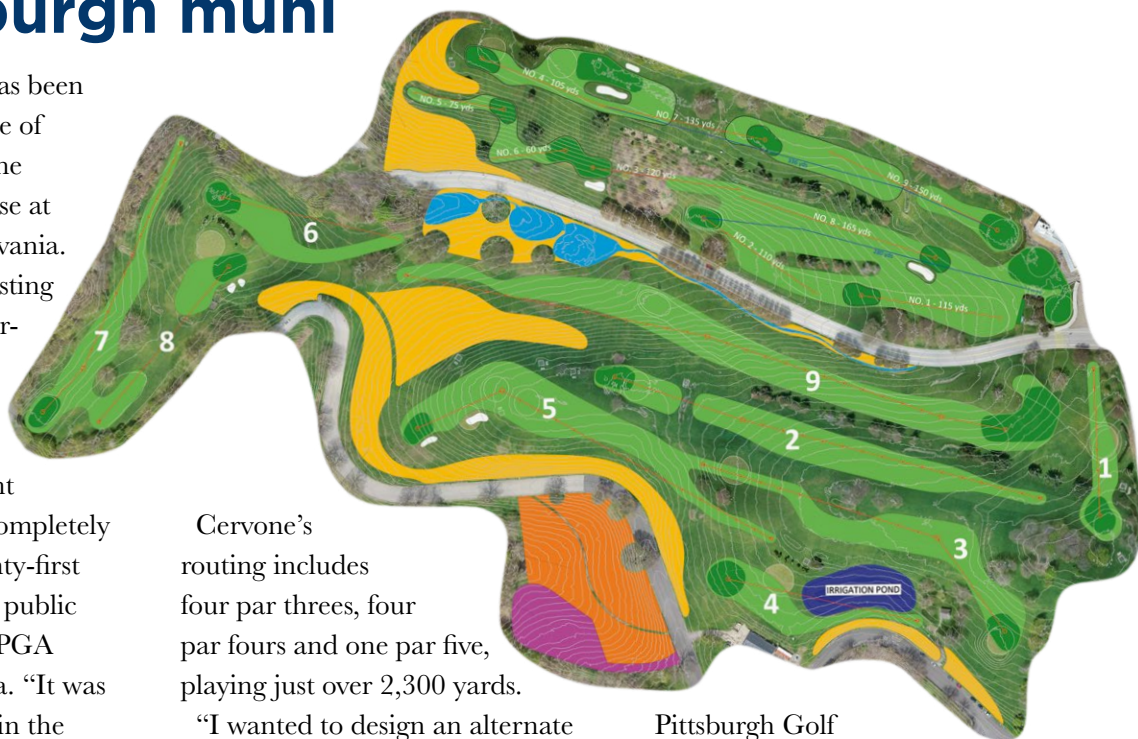


Image: Jim Cervone, ASGCA

Cervone’s routing includes four par threes, four par fours and one par five, playing just over 2,300 yards.

“I wanted to design an alternate type facility and build in a lot of flexibility,” said Cervone. “Also, my plan includes new practice tees, a putting course, and a separate short game area in front of the

Pittsburgh Golf Club building. This alternate facility, and especially the short game area, will serve Carnegie Mellon University golf team as well as the First Tee.”

ASGCA prepares for its first ever ‘virtual’ Annual Meeting

The ASGCA Annual Meeting will take place on 2 October as a virtual event.

The meeting will include an address from ASGCA President Jan Bel Jan, the transfer of the presidential gavel from Bel Jan to incoming President Forrest Richardson, ASGCA, a report from ASGCA Executive Director Chad Ritterbusch and much more.

The virtual meeting will also include the presentation of the 2020 Donald Ross Award, which was pre-recorded in August when Bel Jan visited Clearview Golf Club in Ohio to confer the award to Renee Powell (pictured).

Read more about Renee Powell in our feature article from the summer 2020 issue of By Design.



Photo: ASGCA

Hanse progresses with Oakland Hills renovation

Photo: Mike Mulholland / MLive.com



Gil Hanse, ASGCA, is progressing with a renovation of the South course at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan, ahead of a planned reopening in July 2021.

The club's goals include getting the course back to looking more like its original Donald Ross design, providing a test for the best players in the hopes of hosting a

major tournament, and making it more playable for the members.

Head professional Steve Brady said: "In the Midwest this will probably be the place to be, I'd say."

The Reserve Club at Woodside opens new course

The Reserve Club at Woodside in Aiken, South Carolina, has opened its new Hollow Creek golf course, designed by Clyde Johnston, ASGCA. The course gets its name from the 110-acre nature preserve that is adjacent to it.



Photo: The Reserve Club

"The golf course is sited on rolling-to-slightly hilly land, which gave me the opportunity to create some nice views with downhill shots to some fairways and greens," said Johnston.

Nicklaus Design to create new 'golf enclave' in Florida

Centaur US Holdings has partnered with Nicklaus Design to create Panther National, a 'golf enclave' within a new private community in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

An 18-hole course will form the centerpiece of the community, along with a nine-hole par-three short layout.

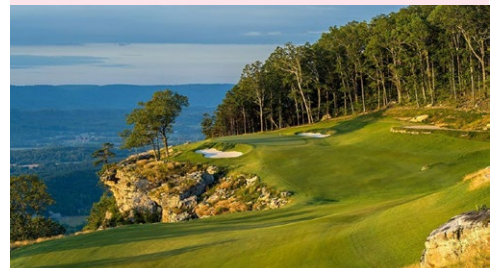
"What makes this project exciting is that the 210 acres available for the development has no restrictions to it, and we can create anything we want design-wise," said Chris Cochran, ASGCA, senior architect for Nicklaus Design.

SOCIAL UPDATE



Golf Course Architecture
@gcamagazine

Kyle Phillips renovates 14 holes at Verdura Resort following freak flood



Bill Bergin, ASGCA
@bergingolf

The 18th at McLeMore has been selected by Golf Digest as the best finishing hole in golf since 2000! We knew it was special and couldn't be more pleased!



Nathan Crace, ASGCA
@lipouts

More pics from the ongoing course-wide bunker renovation at @Theoaksgolfclub on the @MSGolfCoast. Coming along great! Personal note: Not the best decision to drive two hours for a site visit in 95° heat after 3 hours in the dentist's chair...

Search ASGCA on the below channels for more news:



Watch this space

With some creativity and ingenuity, small parcels of land can be transformed to add a new dimension to a golf club. Richard Humphreys explains more.

The National Golf Federation has this year reported a 15 percent increase in nine-hole rounds, as a percentage of total rounds. So, with more flexibility in our schedules, as 2020 unexpectedly provided, we're more inclined to opt for a 'quick hit' of golf.

Many operators are well aware of the desire among golfers to have an alternative to the traditional 18-hole round, but it's not immediately clear how they can integrate such an option into their existing property.

Here are five clubs that, with the guidance of a golf course architect, have arrived at a creative solution to broaden their offering.

A golden triangle

On the outskirts of Boston lies Wellesley CC, a private club with an 18-hole course and a design pedigree that includes ASGCA founding fathers Donald Ross and

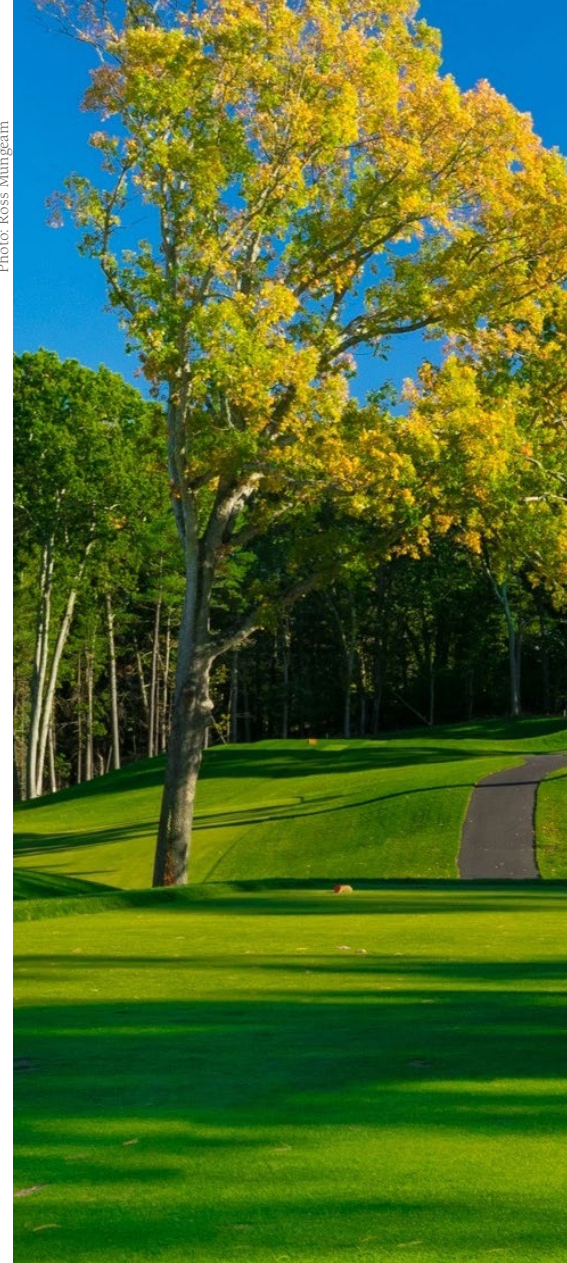
Wayne Stiles, and more recently ASGCA Past President Geoffrey Cornish. Mark Mungeam, ASGCA, formerly a partner in Cornish's design firm, has continued to work with the club.

When Wellesley mooted a desire to broaden its offering, Mungeam's thoughts immediately turned to an unused eight-acre triangular parcel of land located between two existing holes at the southern tip of the property.

"The parcel utilized was the only 'open space' available on the property," says Mungeam. "It had not been part of the original nine-hole course designed by Donald Ross in 1910. In the early 1960s the course was expanded to 18 holes and this parcel was utilized for two new par four holes that were immediately disliked.

"The club purchased some additional property, and by the late

Photo: Ross Mungeam



1960s the two holes were abandoned, aside from one of the greens being retained for short game practice."

Aside from that green, the two holes had become overgrown with trees and became the dumping ground for old equipment and waste from grounds maintenance. It was clear to Mungeam that the land had potential, but how could he maximize that?

"Wellesley is a very popular family club with a large number of members," continues Mungeam. "The amount of member and guest play created limited opportunities



Mark Mungeam, ASGCA, has created a six-hole par-three course for Wellesley CC on land that was formerly overgrown ground

for children and beginners to use the course. I felt that a smaller course would provide a great place for kids to play and learn absent of the intimidation of the championship course. It could also serve as a greatly expanded short game practice area for members”

Mungeam conceived a par-three ‘Carriage’ course, with six holes ranging from 65 to 150 yards, as well as a new practice putting green.

“My goal was to build a fun facility that created options in hole length and shotmaking. Although five holes fit best, I squeezed a 65-yard hole

in behind the first green to make it six. I liked the aspect of having three tee markers set at different lengths and angles so one could make three loops using the different markers to create an 18-hole course, if desired.”

Community appeal

When Ben duPont and Don Wirth purchased the three-course DuPont CC in Wilmington, Delaware, in 2018, their vision included the creation of a unique practice complex that would help to increase the appeal of the club, and grow the game.

The club has a strong community legacy, having originally been built as an amenity for DuPont Company employees, and with roots that trace back to the nineteenth century. “The new owners were looking to keep the facility a community amenity,” says Rob Wirth, the club’s CEO.

The club’s driving range was located on a remote part of the property, at the far end of the Nemours course, which meant members had to take a short drive if they wanted to practice.

The owners turned to Sanford Golf Design to propose a concept

LAND USE



Photo: DuPont Country Club



Sanford Golf Design created a new short game area at Dupont CC that can also be played as a five-hole short course

that would transform the club's offerings, and make new facilities much more accessible from a new clubhouse that would also be a key part of the overhaul of the club.

"The new owners wanted to do something different and innovative with their practice facility that utilized the latest technology, allowing golfers to practice every shot they'd encounter on the course, and provide a fun experience for the entire family while helping grow the game in the Wilmington area," says David Ferris, ASGCA, of Sanford Golf Design.

Ferris worked with the clubhouse architect to create a new plan that would repurpose 24 acres from the club's par-61 executive course, the Monchanin, for use as a new practice facility.

"The new practice facility provides a five-acre short game area with three practice greens that can also

be played as a five-hole short course. The new 15-acre practice range is set into Montchanin's former hole corridors, allowing for longer practice shots that truly replicate the on-course experience and a variety of target greens for practicing shots from 50 to over 200 yards."

The project also included a new 10,000-square-foot learning center, six indoor TrackMan hitting bays, and an outdoor area with views across the practice green and putting course.

"Members love everything about it," says John Burke III, the club's director of golf. "The vision came together due to David's ability to understand what we were asking for and then making the land work. I am grateful for his ability to do what he did to turn our facility into one of the best in the country."

A new nine-hole routing has been created from the holes that remain

from the Montchanin course. But a long-range plan has been developed to replace those with a new 18-hole par-three course that would further the owners' goal of growing the game.

Baths for the wolf

Blackwolf Run in Wisconsin and sister club Whistling Straits are owned by the Kohler Company, and together form one of the most popular golf destinations in the country. The two clubs have four courses designed by ASGCA Past Presidents Pete and Alice Dye, including the famous Straits course, host of three PGA Championships and the 2021 Ryder Cup.

When the courses at Blackwolf Run were laid out in the late 1980s, an area of land was set aside for future development between the first and eleventh holes of the club's Meadow Valleys course.



Chris Lutzke, ASGCA, designed The Baths of Blackwolf Run on land between the first and eleventh holes of the club's Meadow Valleys course

“Over the years, and with short courses becoming more popular and useful, it was decided that the unused piece of land – just an empty field really – would be used for a new short layout and putting course,” says Chris Lutzke, ASGCA, who began his career as an 18-year old working for Dye at Blackwolf Run and is now a principal of design firm Albanese & Lutzke.

Lutzke collaborated with Kohler Co. executive chairman Herb Kohler to create a vision for the land. He says Kohler came up with a couple of routings that they looked at together before they agreed on a final plan, which includes a par three course called ‘The Baths’ and a two-acre putting course, playable as an 18 or 27-hole routing.

“Initially, there were a couple of different sites for the putting course, but we decided to tie

everything together – both the short and putting courses and a pavilion – so that people could gather around at the pavilion and watch others play.”

The Baths is named after the four water features on the course, which

“My goal was to build a fun facility that created options in hole length and shotmaking”

has holes ranging from 60 to 160 yards, yet no forced carriers.

“We’ve carried on the same theme that Pete Dye used when he designed the River course, introducing a hard fescue and contrasting that to the bentgrass,” says Lutzke. “For the short course, we’ve created a different identity and it’ll be memorable.”

“While the primary routing of The Baths will be 10 holes, Chris and Herb have developed a figure-eight that gives our team the flexibility to create loops of six, 10, or even 12 holes,” says Dirk Willis, vice president of golf for

Kohler Co. “The expansion to 12 is possible because there are two additional par-three holes hidden within the boomerang shape of the putting course. It is a truly innovative design.”

“The par-three and putting courses will provide a dynamic experience for our international guests and local community,” says Kohler. “It

John Fought, ASGCA, (pictured centre) on the new putting course he laid out on a parcel of land alongside the entrance drive to Black Butte Ranch in Oregon



is important for these courses to aid in our continuing efforts to grow the game by creating opportunities for players of all skill levels.”

Perpetual putting

With its two 18-hole courses, Glaze Meadow and Big Meadow, golfers at Black Butte Ranch resort in Bend, Oregon, are very well served in the game’s traditional format.

Being conscious that a small parcel of land along the driveway near the ninth hole on the Big Meadow course was not being used, the resort approached John Fought, ASGCA, for inspiration.

Fought’s renovation of the club’s Glaze Meadow course in 2012 was

named as *Golf Inc.*’s Renovation of the Year, so the resort’s CEO Jay Head and director of golf Jeff Fought were confident to give him a free rein. “We at Black Butte Ranch like John’s vision and style,” says Jeff Fought. “We sat down with John and told him what our goals were, and we let him go.”

“It is an ideal location because all golfers must pass by this site when coming to the golf course to play,” says John Fought. “The property was heavily treed and was not used for anything.”

Fought concluded that the space would be ideal for a putting course, a perfect fit for the family-oriented resort.

“When I conceived the new putting course, I wanted something that was flexible and could be played differently so players would always want to spend time on the course,” he says. “I also wanted the new putting course to be simple to maintain with a minimal crew and it needed to be interesting, visually.

“Based on my experience in designing these courses, I felt like there were two ways to go. The first is similar to the Himalayas putting course at St Andrews in Scotland, and the second would be to design a continuous course that could be adjusted each day depending on the speed of the greens and scheduled play.”



Photo: Black Butte Ranch

Taking the ‘continuous’ option, his design for the ‘Little Meadow’ course is an ongoing stretch of fairway that snakes through and loops back to the start. It can be played in both directions and holes typically range from 50 to 100 feet. While it was conceived as a 12-hole course, it can be adapted to play as nine, 18 or pretty much whatever the resort team wants.

“The great thing about the new putting course is that it only takes 25 to 40 minutes to play. I think it will provide enjoyment for young and old for years to come,” says John Fought.

“We are doing an average of about 120 players a day on the Little

Meadow course,” says Jeff Fought. “This course can accommodate the very serious players as well as families that haven’t played golf before. It has gone way over our expectations! To see families, couples and novices enjoying the course every day is wonderful. We believe that this will create new golfers.

“This putting course is going to be a great introduction to golf for families and beginners. It is introducing people to a golfing activity that only takes 40 minutes to enjoy. It has opened new doors with juniors, family reunions and wedding parties. What a great new amenity for our resort!”

Short is sweet

As more clubs succeed with alternatives to traditional formats and travelers to resorts such as Bandon Dunes and Pinehurst return with fun and memorable experiences of their shorter formats, golf course architects are increasingly building alternatives into newbuilds or ‘blow up’ renovation projects.

Raymond Hearn, ASGCA, is currently in the process of a total rethink of Maple Lane GC in Sterling Heights, a suburb of Detroit. A portion of the land currently occupied by three 18-hole courses is making way for residential development, and Hearn is providing a golfing solution for the remaining area which offers a broader appeal, and environmental benefits.

His new master plan centers around an 18-hole course, but

crucially incorporates a short course that fulfills the desire for a ‘quick fix’ of golf, while also acting as an important water retention area during flood events.

“The operating partner Dominic Mocerri and I agreed that in addition to my new regulation 18-hole design, a lighted nine-hole par-three course would be a big hit for all types of golfers, especially among the youth, seniors, women, families and couples,” says Hearn. “For the better golfer, it would allow them to fine tune their short game to unique greens with varied yardages.”

The par-three course sits in a low area along the Red Run drain, which floods occasionally. Hearn’s design has elevated tees and greens, so they are not damaged in floods and substantial drainage to allow water to subside quickly.

“Dominic and I both felt that the par-three course would also be very successful and profitable,” says Hearn. “The local golfers in the community of Sterling Heights are very excited. The short layout will look incredible when viewed from the clubhouse or from the adjacent road. It will act as a beautiful natural billboard for the entire development.”

Mocerri says the short layout will be “a great, multi-generational shared experience second to none.” ●

For help in evaluating how your club could make the best use of its available space, contact your local ASGCA member via asgca.org/architects

Saving sand and money

Jeff Langner of Profile Products provides an insight into his organization's role in the development of the award-winning Compass Pointe course in North Carolina.



Jeff Langner

Jeff Langner is the brand manager for Profile Products' golf and sports business segments. He has driven company initiatives alongside the ASGCA, GCBAA and GCSAA frequently in his 13 years in the industry. He can be reached at jangner@profileproducts.com.

Compass Pointe in Leland, North Carolina, is a 2,300-acre resort-style luxury community known as one of the best places to retire in the state. In 2014, it was agreed that a golf course would be the key amenity and help drive an increase in home sales.

ASGCA Past President Rick Robbins, a North Carolina native, was tasked with designing the layout. His goal was to create a course that would be fun and more playable than most modern courses. However, Robbins faced several challenges.

First, 600 acres of wetlands were scattered throughout the site. After working with local agencies to properly define the areas, Robbins was able to map out a layout that would protect the wetlands. Still, the design needed to address potential drainage issues.

Robbins contacted Profile Products to evaluate the on-site sand for potential use in the greens mix. Financially, the cost to buy suitable sand and haul it to the property was prohibitive.

The evaluation showed most of the sand was too fine for use in its natural state, and the ability for water and air to penetrate the soil would be limited unless the sand was modified to give it a more porous character. John Maeder, golf business manager for Profile Products, assisted Robbins by developing a recommendation to blend the sand with Profile Porous Ceramics (PPC) Greens Grade, an inorganic soil amendment proven on thousands of greens across the country.

The PPC particle found in Greens Grade is 74 percent pore space, with 39 percent capillary (water) pores and 35 percent non-capillary (air) pores. Ideally, greens should hold the right amount of water during drought conditions but be able to drain very well during rain events. When blended with sand in a greens mix, PPC achieves this goal by improving both capillary and non-capillary performance characteristics while also increasing infiltration. PPC also adds valuable nutrient holding capabilities (cation exchange capacity) which results in



Profile Products' solution for Compass Pointe helped reduce costs and delivered quality performance and easier greens maintenance in the long term

less fertilizer inputs throughout the life of the green.

Profile recommended a mix of 90 percent sand and 10 percent Profile Greens Grade. By tilling the PPC mixture down six inches, this solution delivered greens-grade quality sand at less than 20 percent of the cost of purchasing and hauling sand from off-site.

“Rick has a great understanding of the client’s needs from an architectural and agronomic standpoint. This gives me clear direction when designing a rootzone mix,” said Maeder. “We were confident this solution would provide long-term maintenance benefits and significant cost savings.”

“Profile has great people to work with, very helpful,” said Robbins. “Their representatives do a great job helping us uncover the solution to any problem we’re facing on the course.”

Since installation, the course has endured a hurricane every season, without disruption to play. When Hurricane Isaias moved up the Carolina coast in early August 2020, the course was back up and running one day later.

“The greens drain very well,” said Robbins. “After hurricanes, some courses in the area are shut down for two weeks, but we’re open the next day. That makes a big difference in revenue at the end of the year.”

The course has also been put to the test during COVID-19 shutdowns, with significantly more traffic than in previous years. In 2019, the course played 35,000 rounds. By June 2020, it already had 25,000 with expectations to reach 50,000 by the end of the year. Despite the increase, the course showed no signs of wear and tear.

“Our greens are absolutely perfect; they have no blemishes, they are as smooth as they can be, and they are causing the superintendent no problems whatsoever,” said Robbins. “We receive daily positive feedback from the members about the greens – they love it and want to play the course every day. That wouldn’t be the case without Profile. The solutions delivered by that team gives us high sandy soil that drains really well.”

The course was honored in the 2018 ASGCA Design Excellence Recognition Program and has given the luxury community greater credibility, directly impacting the sale of homes from 50-60 to about 200 per year. The solution delivered substantial financial benefit to Compass Pointe and the quality of greens has had a positive impact on the growth of the community and longevity of the course. ●

The single bunker

Brandon Johnson, ASGCA, explains his fascination with the lone trap.



Brandon Johnson

Brandon Johnson, ASGCA, is a principal of the Arnold Palmer Design Company and has over 20 years of experience in golf design, starting his career as manager of design for The First Tee.

Alistair MacKenzie succinctly sums up the purpose and ideal placement of hazards on a golf course as follows: “A hazard placed in the exact position where a player would naturally go is frequently the most interesting situation, as a special effort is then needed to get over it or to avoid it.”

The varied landscapes over which golf is played allow for endless combinations of features – natural, man-made or a combination. If man-made features are thoughtful and artistic, and the combinations nuanced, this can present interesting, playful riddles for golfers to solve.

I’ve been fortunate in over 20 years as a golf course architect to travel, study and to be inspired by some of the most interesting examples of classic and modern golf architecture.

One of my favorite features on a golf course is the single bunker.

Elaborate artistic expressions of bunkers have recently taken center stage, a far cry from their primitive forms as windblown scars and scraps formed by burrowing animals.

While there is excitement in and flair to an elaborate nest of bunkers guarding the ideal line, I’ve learned to appreciate the simpler, more elegant solution as well: the single bunker. In contrast to splashing sand everywhere, it is more difficult to distil from a layout one perfectly placed and “essential” bunker location. You’re looking for a placement that might even dictate play on the shot prior, a bunker so pinpoint accurate that every player must eventually negotiate its request.

The Road Hole bunker at The Old Course at St. Andrews is one of the most ideally placed bunkers in golf course architecture. While not the only bunker on the hole, its influence dictates play on almost any shot to and around the green, with potentially disastrous repercussions for miscalculated plans of attack.

This single greenside bunker should weigh heavy on the mind and even influence tee shot placement if one is to genuinely consider reaching the green in two. Approach shots from the center or right of fairway are ideal, and



The single bunker on the Road hole seventeenth at St Andrews dictates play on almost any shot to and around the green

only from there can one realistically make a play for green. This bunker also sets up one of the most important leaves in golf. The short right and slightly more risky long left second shot options will avoid the bunker and leave a delicate pitch and putt for a par escape and joyous dash towards the home hole. The careless leave behind or around the bunker short will create confounding problems.

My other favorite single bunker is on another famed seventeenth, at TPC Sawgrass.

If the island green wasn't enough, Pete Dye cleverly places a tiny pit on the island to stand watch over that tempting far right pin location and feeder slope for the more conservative line.

In the book he authored with Mark Shaw, *Bury Me in a Pot Bunker*, Dye said: "When we finished the hole, the apple shaped green was

"You will be left with a terrifying shot from an awkward lie, trouble staring you in the face from all directions"

slightly larger at twenty-six paces long and thirty paces wide. On the bottom of the apple was a single pot bunker and on the top a narrow stem leading to land."

Aside from the skinny access path, that tiny thumbprint bunker is the only place where you can miss the green and still find dry land. Then, you will be left with a terrifying shot from an awkward lie, trouble staring

you in the face from all directions. It's the same trouble you successfully avoided moments earlier, but now it's back and poised for round two.

Some say this is "Dye-abolical", a sadistic joke from a master architect, but I tend to believe it's a sense of humor, not persecution, that underlies this feature. ●

Brandon Johnson writes about the single bunker and three of his other favorite features on golf courses in the July 2020 issue of Golf Course Architecture. Read online at golfcoursearchitecture.net.

A half century

Toby Ingleton takes a moment to reflect on the first 50 issues of *By Design*.



Toby Ingleton

Toby Ingleton is the editor of *By Design* magazine. He is also the founder and publisher of *Golf Course Architecture*, the global journal of golf design and development. Read more at golfcoursearchitecture.net.

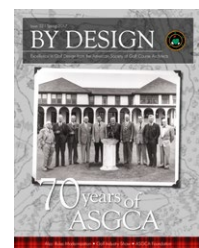
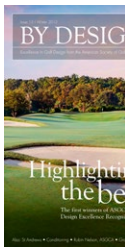
In what seems like the blink of an eye, we have published 50 issues.

The seed was planted at Pinehurst, at the ASGCA Annual Meeting. Not the inaugural 1947 gathering hosted by ASGCA founding father Donald Ross (although without that, there would be no *By Design*), but the 2006 meeting, which was the 60th for the Society.

I had just launched *Golf Course Architecture* magazine, and was invited to attend, along with our editor Adam Lawrence. That 2006 meeting was Chad Ritterbusch's second as ASGCA Executive Director, and he felt that it would be an excellent opportunity for us to meet members and spend time to learn more about their projects and philosophies.

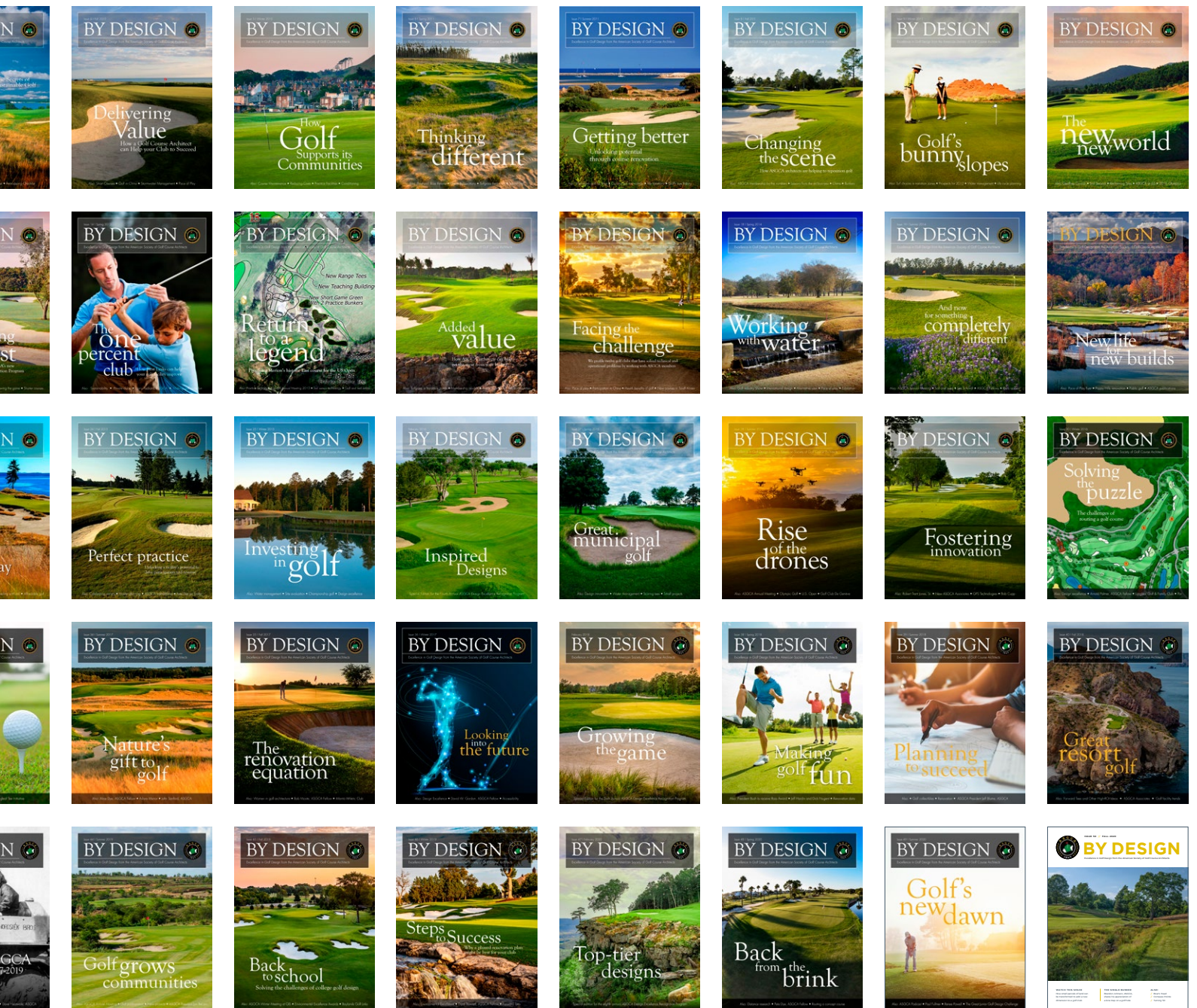
A couple of years later, when the members gathered at St Andrews, the idea for an ASGCA publication was fully formed and by the 2009 meeting in Seattle, we were ready to launch our first issue.

While there has been much transformation in golf (not least at Pinehurst itself) between then and now, our cover topic for that



first issue – ‘growing the game’ – remains at least as important now.

One of the most notable trends in golf over the intervening years has been the rise of alternative facilities, like the 789-yard Cradle course at Pinehurst, that are great fun for established golfers but also a suitable introduction for those who are new to the sport. Accessible and high-quality ‘taster’ experiences are key to driving growth in golf participation. Our cover topic for this 50th issue explores how clubs are working with



golf course architects to integrate such facilities into their properties.

The years in which we have been producing *By Design* have been described by some as a new Golden Age for golf design. Certainly it seems that with fewer golf courses being built, golf course architects are grasping those opportunities they get. New layouts like Streamsong Black in Florida, Cabot Cliffs in Canada, TPC Danzante Bay and Twin Dolphin in Mexico, and Bernardus in the Netherlands will grace 'Best

course' lists for years to come.

The renovation market has been fascinating too. The restoration of Pinehurst No. 2 may be the best known, but many clubs have seen a surge in popularity following a renovation, such as Meadowbrook in Detroit, Vestavia in Alabama and Braemar in Minnesota.

To mark this 50th issue, we've had a renovation of our own, too. The magazine has always been a digital experience, but with more people than ever viewing *By Design* via

smartphones and tablets, we wanted to ensure that the magazine was as appealing and easy to read on small devices as it is on large. We hope that you enjoy the new look.

Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors Profile Products, Rain Bird and Toro. These organizations do great work to advance golf, and have made *By Design* possible since the very first issue. ●

View the entire back catalog of By Design at asgca.org/by-design-magazine

Oaks Prague

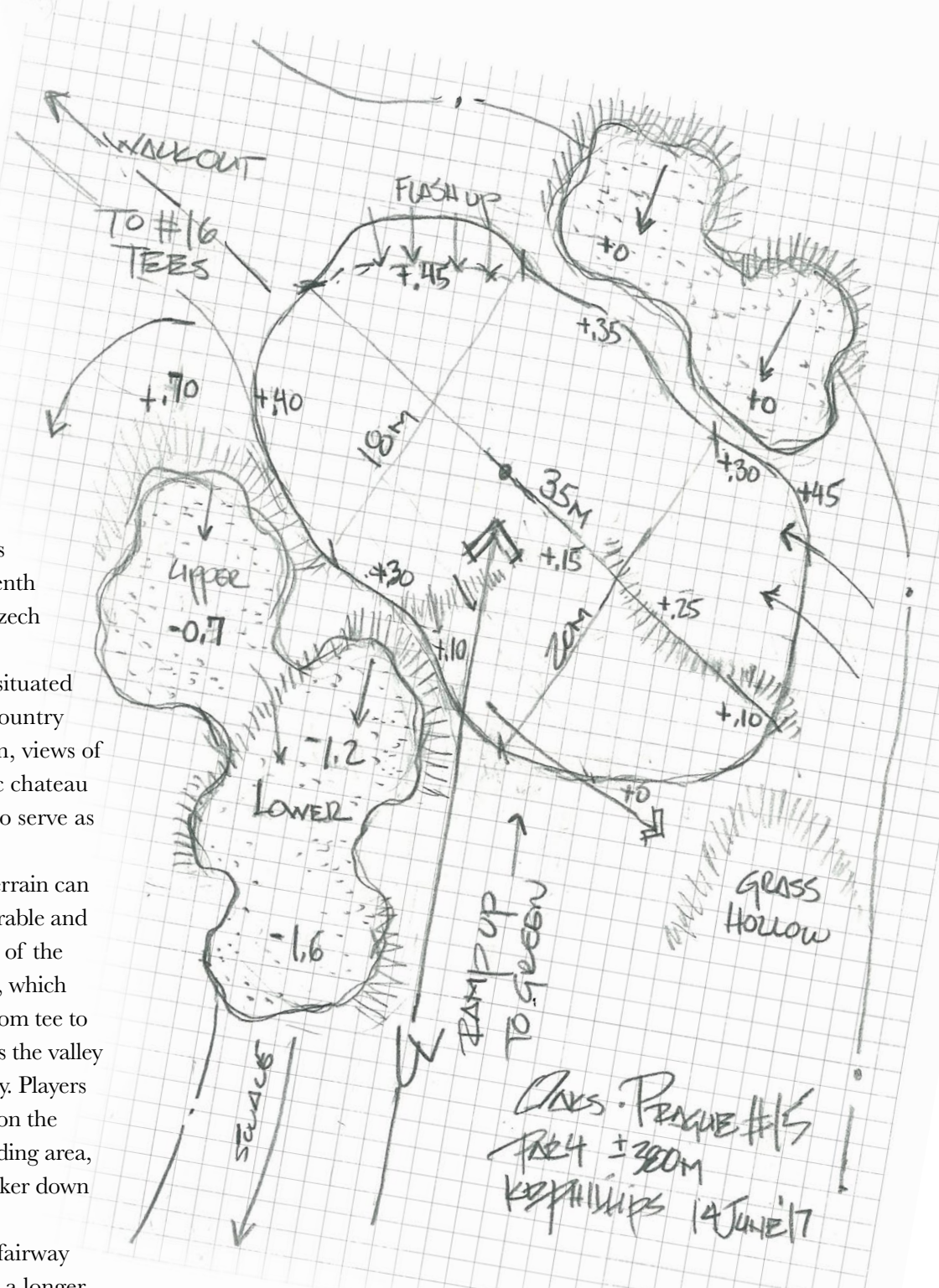
This new regular piece for *By Design* takes a leaf from a golf course architect's sketchbook. With architect Kyle Phillips, ASGCA, we examine his original green sketch for the fifteenth hole at the new PGA National Czech Republic course at Oaks Prague.

"This championship course is situated within a beautiful 140-hectare country estate and features rolling terrain, views of the Prague skyline and a historic chateau that is currently being restored to serve as the clubhouse," says Phillips.

"Sometimes the most difficult terrain can become some of the most memorable and fun holes to play. This is the case of the 388-meter par-four fifteenth hole, which plays uphill just over 20 meters from tee to green. Drives need to carry across the valley to the generous dogleg left fairway. Players should consider the two bunkers on the right side that indent into the landing area, as well as the large gathering bunker down the left side.

"Favoring the right side of the fairway will leave a better angle, but also a longer approach to the diagonal green. The gently tiered green slopes from back to front and is open on the right side, leaving the option for a run up approach to the front right portion of the green. Back-left pins are well guarded by bunkers front left and behind the green."

The 18-hole PGA National Czech Republic course at Oaks Prague is previewing for play this fall, with the grand opening scheduled for 2021. ●





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