

On Course

Current News from Forrest Richardson & Associates, Golf Course Architects

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REPOSITIONING: FINDING A "NEW" COURSE



Mira Vista Country Club's No. 8 hole as it will look after restoring the creek and implementing a tree management program. Below: Robert Hunter c. 1920s



At far left: The existing conditions at No. 8 with the creek filled-in, loss of view and overcrowded trees. Research, such as this early issue of Fairway Magazine provides great insight into the original design and aesthetic of the course. Mira Vista has begun the process to transform the club back to its original vision.



The coming era of golf will see more and more courses entirely transformed — rebuilt — as “new” experiences.

“It is not only a reality, but smart,” says Forrest Richardson. “With an existing course we have entitlement, prior uses, available water and, in many instances, hidden qualities that are just waiting to be given a new life.”

Transforming is often a step beyond remodeling, but it can also involve uncovering the long and lost qualities that lie beneath older layouts.

“When you have something to begin with, it is essential to uphold the history and the legacy,” cautions Richardson. “It is nearly impossible for anyone to recreate authenticity — when we see it attempted, the result is often less than true.”

For Richardson the advice is simple: *Make sure that you invest in ample research, and that the authentic elements of the golf course are integrated*

to the new vision. “Success is measured when you create something new, but yet still familiar,” he adds.

At Mira Vista Country Club the focus became Robert Hunter and his legacy as a great designer with Alister MacKenzie. Hunter, who founded Mira Vista, will now become a celebrated name associated with the club as a well planned restoration and transformation unfolds. Before, not many members even knew of Hunter or his acclaim.

“When you combine a taste of the past with much needed physical improvements you are adding one plus one to get more than two — and that is magic.”

NEW RESORT PLANNING ON THE ADRIATIC SEACOAST

In early 2009 Forrest made the first of several visits to Albania to begin planning a destination resort and residential community on the sandy shores near Tirana, the capital city of Albania.

The project is being driven by American Global, an Albanian-American development corporation specializing in importing, trade relations and land.

THE S:T HANS CLUB OF SWEDEN BEGINS FORMAL PLANNING

Located on the edge of Lund, Sweden, S:t Hans will be an 18-hole daily fee course catering to the resident and tourist in southern Sweden.

The Forrest Richardson design includes a creative combination of stone walls, drainage ditches and an old barn to be restored as an integral part of the 3rd Hole. The project is slated to begin in 2010.



Håkan and Monika Rasmussen review the design plan for the S:t Hans Golf Club, a farmland site in Lund, Sweden.

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