

On Course

News & Thoughts from Forrest Richardson & Associates, Golf Course Architects Summer 2019



PHOTO COURTESY OF FULL SWING

RETHINKING THE PRACTICE SPACE

Practice ranges only became popular as the modern-day growth of the game moved its way across America in the 1960s. Until then, many courses relied on using holes near the clubhouse for practice. It was simply not the norm to set aside ten or more acres designated for “range” use.

Today, with the advent of technology to track shots and swing speeds, we are presented an opportunity — to look beyond the traditional practice area and its consumption of acreage. A “range” might be replaced with an all-indoor facility, or it may be that a smaller practice area can be configured using limited flight balls. Each has the potential to free up acreage for other higher and better uses.

We are also busy planning overlay uses that can co-exist with practice areas. Examples have included amphitheatres, soccer fields, short course layouts and event spaces. The idea is to create flexible uses for the 8-12 acres that might ordinarily be used solely for hitting practice shots. Creativity — and bringing more uses to golf courses — is just one way we can leverage the open space benefits of golf and bring more people into the golf facility.

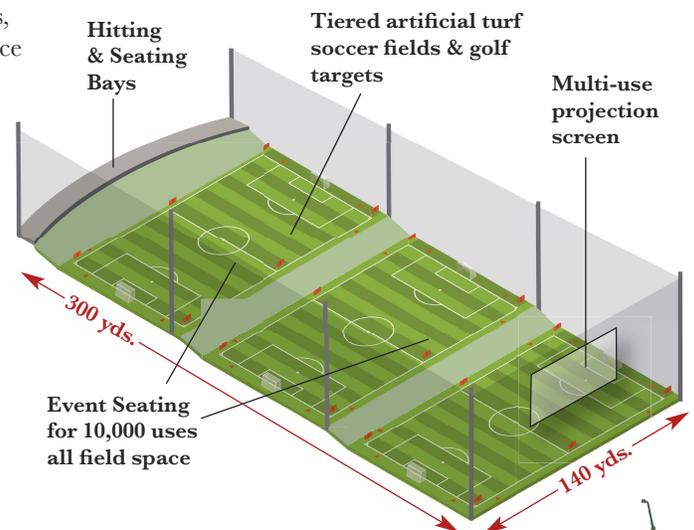
SEVERAL WAYS TO REIMAGINE PRACTICE AREAS

- Indoor Simulators
- Use of Limited Flight Balls (less space)
- Tracking Monitors (games/entertainment)
- Covered Hitting Bays (all season use)
- Amphitheatre & Event Space Overlay
- 9-hole Pitching Course Overlay
- Soccer & Sports Field Uses

Indoor golf simulators, such as the Pro-Simulator Line by Full Swing, are just one example of how practice, lessons, fitting and entertainment can be offered in small spaces

THE SOCCER-RANGE-CONCERT CONCEPT

A concept for integrating golf practice and soccer — plus seating for 10,000 as a concert and outdoor event venue



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