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Golf Course Architects

RTJ II STAYS ACTIVE IN UNUSUAL TIMES

At home and abroad, projects big and small continue; a number of exciting new commissions are “on the drawing board”



Hoiana Shores #8 (photo by Rob Welk)

Palo Alto, Calif. (July 17, 2020) – With 2020 only half over, it’s already a year people will never forget. That includes the staff of Robert Trent Jones Golf Course Architects (RTJ II), who have been hard at work despite the global pandemic.

Throughout the United States and around the world, the RTJ II team has been actively engaged in all stages of course design—from initial site visits to overseeing construction—on a variety of projects large and small. Along with updating his own designs, Jones takes special pride in working on courses originally created by his late father, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., dubbed the “father of modern golf course architecture” in the second half of the 20th century.

“With the state of the world today, we’re glad to have a network of our own designs and those of Robert Trent Jones Sr.,” says Bruce Charlton, President, RTJ II. “We’re being called about many courses that are at an age that require updating. They need some help. There may not be many new courses out there, but we’re thrilled to be able to return to some of Bobby’s original designs, and those of his father, and bring them into the 2020s.”

Among the courses currently being worked on:

At **Sequoyah National, Cherokee, NC** RTJ II is overseeing a grass replacement on the 11-year-old course. Fairways, green surrounds, and tee surfaces are being replanted with zoysia (from bluegrass) to better withstand the hot temperatures of prime playing season. Other work on this

public course, owned by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, includes eliminating, reconfiguring, and lining bunkers. The greens will remain bent grass.

“Zoysia loves the heat,” Charlton reports, “and golfers were able to play in less than a week after the sod was laid. If it’s warm, it knits fast!”

At **Dorado Beach, West Course, Puerto Rico**, RTJ II is creating master plans and construction drawings for a major redo of Trent Jones Sr.’s West Course from the 1960s, long one of the top layouts in Puerto Rico. “It’s a good example of Jones Sr.’s work,” explains Charlton, “so we’re being very respectful while making adjustments to plan for a hotel and luxury villas, while modernizing the course with new irrigation, tees, greens, grasses, and bunkers.” Construction is scheduled to start late this year.

Pauma Valley, Jones Sr.’s first course in California (1960) is having its 10th green “touched up,” says Charlton, adding more hole locations to suit today’s faster green speeds. Further extensive modernizations being implemented include repositioning bunkers and recapturing original shapes and a landscape plan that will deal with old trees now affecting shot corridors and views.

After creating a new master plan for this RTJ II original (1993), **Kensington Golf & Country Club, Naples, Florida** will undergo a major revitalization: renovation of bunkers (including some eliminated), new grasses on fairways and greens, adjustments to most tees, and recapturing green surfaces to original configurations to recover lost hole locations.

Internationally, three 18-hole courses opened, or reopened, within the last six months. The all-new courses—**Costa Palmas**, along the East Cape of Baja, Mexico, and **Hoiana Shores**, in central Vietnam—recently reopened after being shut due to the coronavirus. While closed, maintenance continued on both layouts ensuring they were ready to welcome golfers back. RTJ II also completed the redevelopment of the Garden Course at **Tanah Merah CC** in Singapore, which features three independent loops of holes allowing a wide variety of golf experiences.

A number of “on the drawing board” projects at home and abroad can’t yet be announced. But RTJ II is in the earliest construction stages of a new project in the **Caribbean**. Holes are being staked in the field, Charlton reports, saying that they hope to be on site and moving towards construction shortly.

For more about RTJ II courses, sustainable designs, water conservation, and world-class public golf, visit www.rjt2.com.

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About Robert Trent Jones II

With headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects (RTJ II) is the preeminent golf design firm worldwide, having created 280 courses in over 40 countries on six continents. Trustees of a great tradition of golf course architecture, RTJ II is committed to working in harmony with nature to craft the best golf course on each unique site. The RTJ II design team has experience in every aspect of golf course development and the ability to provide support and expertise from conception through completion of any project. For additional information, visit the RTJ II website at www.rjt2.com or contact the firm at +1 650-475-0329 or info@rjt2.com.

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