

Meet the modernists

Utilising ever more imaginative techniques and harnessing contemporary machinery, we celebrate the latest additions to Britain's glittering portfolio



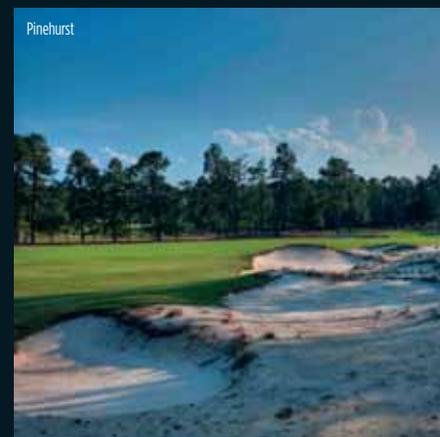
The Grove



Kingsbarns



Pinehurst





Pacific Dunes



Trump International © Brian Morgan



THIS was a rebirth. It had been a time of anodyne design, of spiritless resort courses parked on the side of hotels and housing developments.

What was desired was target golf and signature holes that could be hyped in television broadcasts.

The glorious era of the links looked over forever.

But by the end of the 1980s a new breed – who looked backwards for their inspiration – had emerged to transform golf architecture.

They say history is cyclical and originality is now on the comeback trail.

“Our architects spend millions to enclose and define every shot with mounds, while smoothing down every bump in the fairways, attempting to eliminate blind shots and bad bounces from the game.”

So writes Tom Doak, who has come to represent what’s been branded the ‘minimalist manifesto’.

“The result? Instead of building character, we’re raising a generation of coddled champions who can’t even shrug off a bad lie and dig themselves out of a divot.”

Doak espouses a return to the game’s original values, with designs that emphasise shot making, overcoming natural hazards and playing from a number of different lies in the fairway.

“The minimalist’s objective is to route as many holes as possible whose main features already exist in the landscape, and accent their strategies without over-killing the number of hazards,” he says.

Quail Crossing and Pacific Dunes, along with sympathetic restorations of Alister MacKenzie classics Cypress Point and Pasatiempo, have been the result. He is not alone in his sharp opinions.

Take a look at Pinehurst No 2, a renovation of a classic North Carolina course that made Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore the hottest duo in golf design.

The Major championship

venue bore little resemblance to Donald Ross’s classic design before Crenshaw and Coore got their hands on it.

But a year-long restoration restored the spirit of the original and features long since hidden.

The sandy areas, an integral part of the initial inspiration but almost completely faded from view, were brought back with glorious success.

It was a radical reverse towards the retro. Its subsequent celebration, though, showed what can be achieved if you are prepared to take a risk.

Crenshaw and Coore join Doak in trumpeting the minimalist philosophy. Courses fit the lie of the land and it is this thinking – and the visual results – that has made them so highly sought after.

Martin Hawtree still sketches out his designs with pencil and paper, shunning the temptation to use computers in every stage of the process.

More than a century of knowledge, cultivated and nurtured over three generations, helped him carve out Trump International, the stunning links among the sand dunes on the Aberdeenshire coast.

This is a course whose design echoes the philosophies of the likes of JH Taylor, James Braid, MacKenzie and all those earlier pioneers.

Today, the minimalist movement has gained some serious traction but designs remain a balancing act.

Golf courses change. They are living and breathing entities. Trees age, grow, and die. Dunes move and coasts erode. Nothing ever stays the same.

So while it’s now fashionable to hark back to a glorious point in the past and attempt to recreate it, change doesn’t always make something better.

But that’s what sets our great modern designers apart. They work with the landscape to create, rather than manipulate.

May they continue to always keep it simple.

Case Study Trump International

Russell Talley, architect at Hawtree, who designed Trump International, reveals the challenges in creating a modern course

“One of, if not the most, important phases of designing a golf course is finding the best possible sequence of 18 holes on a given piece of land’s topography.

In the case of the Trump International Golf Links Scotland, the magnificent dune landscape and its bold topography lent itself to finding the flatter areas of the site – between the high dunes – to create natural fairways for the par 4 and 5 holes as a general guideline, and using the par 3s to bridge the gap between the longer holes, and generally where the terrain was more bold in a smaller area.

The 6th hole, a short par 3, is a prime example where the topography is so enormous that only a teeing area and green area could be developed to connect the 5th and 7th holes. The outcome is one of

the most spectacular par 3s in golf.

The modern day golfer very much appreciates this kind of hole in its beauty and challenge, wedged between other holes that test their abilities and are equally as

varying distances and drive playing angles.

Beyond the distance of the course the challenges on and around the greens plays a vital role in the enjoyment and appreciation of the golf course, which TIGLS also

“surface”, which takes time and is dependent on the climate to allow enough maturity to develop within the turfgrass colony – both below ground and above the ground surface.

It’s a long process for this maturity and bedding in to



beautiful in their own setting.

Multiple tees are part and parcel of modern design allowing golfers to choose how difficult the round can be from

demonstrates.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of any new golf course is to allow the turf to develop into a playing

occur, with Mother Nature ultimately in charge of matters, no matter how much attentive maintenance is involved to aid maturity along.”

PEN PICS

Tom Fazio

The 71-year-old has more credits listed in the top 100 American courses than any other living architect and has designed more than 120 courses during his long career. Pinehurst No 4 and No 8 are among his creations, along with the exclusive Lake Nona complex in Florida.



heavily on the principles of Alister MacKenzie and is known for his “minimalist” designs – concentrating on using the land’s natural features to create a hole.

He helped restore both Pasatiempo and Cypress Point, while his Renaissance Golf Design company has created the likes of Quail Crossing and Pacific Dunes.

Martin Hawtree

Creator of Trump International, in Aberdeenshire, Martin Hawtree also loaned his talents to a redesign of Royal Birkdale. A third generation



course designer, following his father and grandfather, he is tasked by the R&A with making modifications to courses on the Open rota.

Kyle Phillips

Having learned his craft under Robert Trent Jones II, the Californian has been responsible for creating a host of classics around the world. His key works include The Grove, in London, Kingsbarns and PGA National, in Sweden. Phillips believes in creating courses using the natural features of the landscape.



Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore

Set tongues wagging when they completed the restoration of Pinehurst No 2, reintroducing sandy areas, native wiregrasses and natural bunker edges to Donald Ross’s classic design. Their portfolio also includes renovating California’s Riviera, the site of the PGA Tour’s Northern Trust Open, and Shady Oaks, in Fort Worth. Arguably the best known designers of the modern age, they show huge deference to classic architecture.



Tom Doak

A student of Pete Dye, Tom Doak has leaned



Modern classics

Highlighting brilliant new designs that you simply must play



Waterville

EDDIE HACKETT

WATERVILLE LINKS

County Kerry, Ireland

'Where champions tread and golfers embrace perfection', so say Waterville of Eddie Hackett's masterpiece. He joined Claude Harmon and John Mulcahy to create a course that can be stretched to more than 7,300 yards off the back tees and plays host to some sensational golf holes. A breathtaking view awaits those who climb the elevated tee to the par-3 17th as the back nine weaves its way around the glorious dunes.

MARTIN HAWTREE

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeenshire

Play through the great dunes of Scotland at Trump International, a Martin Hawtree design that is destined to be considered a classic. The views of the North Sea and the dramatic coastline have been carved into some incredible golf holes and, while the championship course stands at 7,400 yards, each hole has six separate tees that ensures every level of golfer can enjoy the stunning links and find a challenge.

ADRIAN STIFF

THE PLAYERS CLUB

Bristol

Nine televised EuroPro Tour events have been staged at Adrian Stiff's complex and there's a reason the professionals keep coming back. The flagship Codrington course is framed among woodland and has lakes and bunkers in play on many holes. The Stranahan is an ideal challenge for higher handicappers but demands accuracy, while the nine-hole Watergarden has been likened to the par 3 course at Augusta.

HAMILTON STRUTT

MURRAYSHALL

Perth

Some 350 acres of mature woodland were in Hamilton Strutt's hands at Murrayshall and he used the area's natural contours to meander through tree-lined fairways, undulating parkland and a series of natural burns that were used to protect the greens. Strutt then returned to design the Lynedoch, taking advantage of the woodland and the wild flower meadows to create two wonderful courses, which are celebrating their 35th anniversary.