

Winners in Golf Inc.'s 10th annual Clubhouse Competition demonstrate ideal blend of form, function

By Bruce Buckley

Clubhouses with a VISION

Clubhouses represent a delicate balancing act. The wide range of businesses that make up today's golf course operations all converge at the clubhouse.

Tee time reservations, retail, dining and any number of amenities for members and guests all must find their place within the comfortable confines of a building that serves as the centerpiece of a golf facility.

The clubhouses that stand out in the eyes of golfers — and the eyes of the judges in Golf Inc.'s 10th annual Clubhouse Competition — perfectly blend all of the operational aspects within a space that sets the theme and the feel of an entire property, through both its interiors and exteriors. This year's judges looked for clubhouses that had a clear vision and successfully carried it

out in terms of architecture, interior design and operational efficiency.

Finding that balance is no small feat. A golfer could drive up to an impressive arrival, but that impact is lost if the feel is not carried out through the interior design. A clubhouse

can have beautiful aesthetic qualities, yet if members and guests are confused by the layout, that frustration eats away at their overall experience. Operationally, staff members need to be able to work efficiently within the space without bothering members and

guests.

It's a situation that can be frustrating for operators.

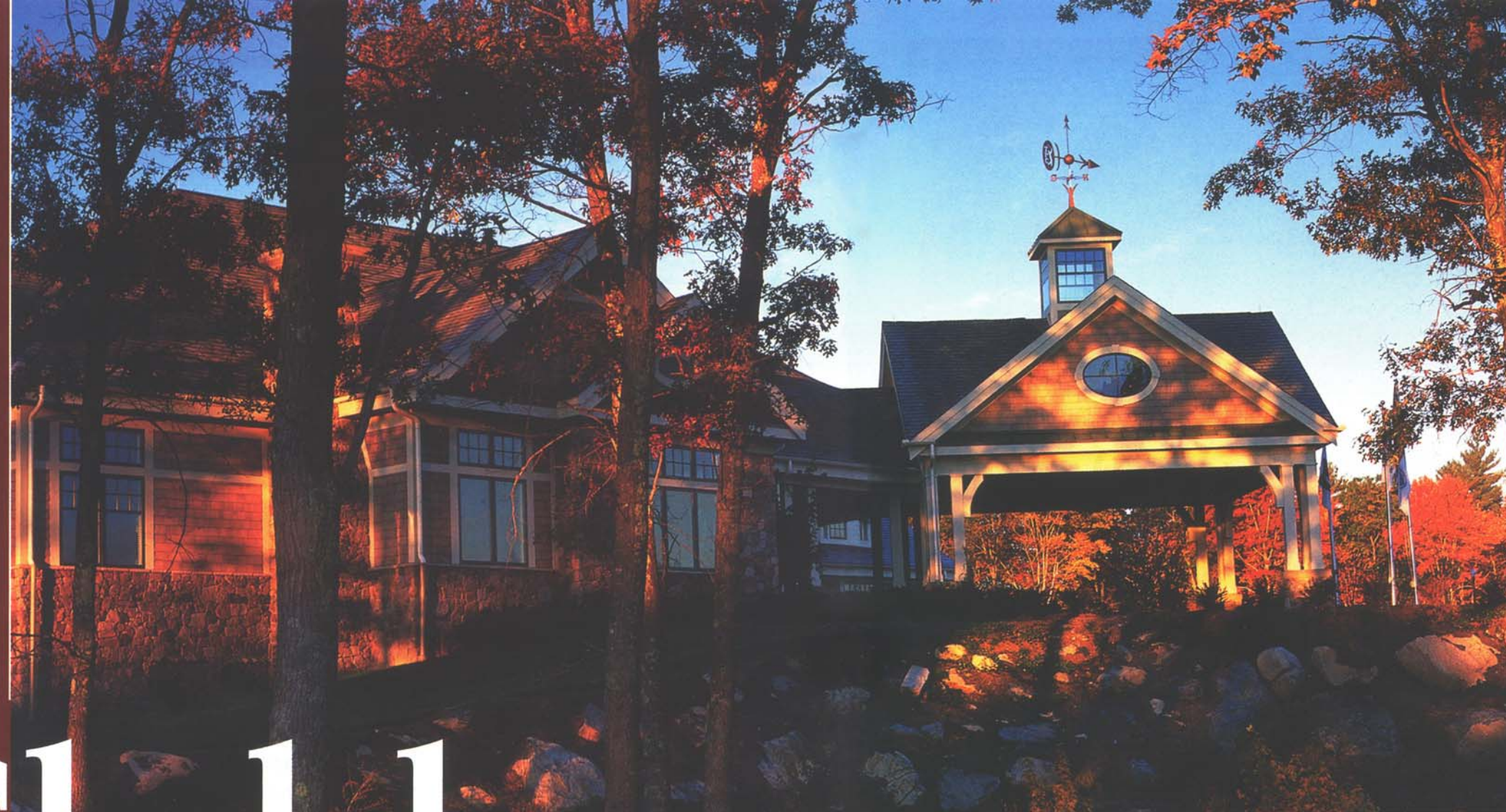
Phil Green, president of Scottsdale, Ariz.-based management firm OB Sports and one of this year's judges, said that operational aspects have often been an afterthought in the

design of clubhouses in the past. In looking at this year's entries, however, Green said he is optimistic that designers are finding a better balance these days in areas such as dining.

"We're starting to see more separate banquet space set aside from the rest of the operation,"

Green said. "It's always been kind of a tug of war between doing banquets or not doing them because of the problems it can cause for members. A lot of these designs show that you can have banquets taking place without having to shut down your restaurant facilities."

There is no cookie-cutter formula for creating a successful clubhouse. In the search to establish a unique identity for a facility, there are numerous areas where designers can slip up, but this year's winners all found a way to keep everything in balance.



Private Club

First Place

**Tournament Players Club of Boston
Norton, Mass.**

Owner: TPC of Boston

Architect: Niles Bolton Assoc.

Interior Designer: Niles Bolton Assoc.

Description: The inspiration for the clubhouse was turn-of-the-century New England coastal resort architecture. The building has a fieldstone base with shingle siding bordered by wide trims and metal roofing elements. Large expanses of glass framed by transom and sidelights take advantage of the golf course views. The clubhouse orientation benefits from the natural topography, while heavy hardwood cover helps provide a stately presence as a backdrop to the 18th green.

The rich color palette is walnut, ivory, smoke and nickel. The coffered ceilings, wall brackets, period lighting, over-door transoms and wainscot walls reflect the historic regional style.

Fabrics and textures are sophisticated and understated to create a warm and comfortable backdrop for any occasion. Embellishments include antique black-and-white images of regions and notable personalities, sportsmen and scenic history.

Comments: *Harvey Maruya:* "The best overall balance between the exteriors and interiors.

They blended the wood planks, wood shapes and stone very well in terms of the texture and the character. Great job in how they laid out all of the different functions and how they divided between the operational aspects and the guest aspects. The circulation and traffic flow are very clear."

Phil Green: "Great job with the site orientation and the sense of arrival in both the exterior and interior."

