



# to remodel or not to restore?

**G**olf courses are under attack by pests which cause brown patches and black layering on greens. Committees are on the defense not only against biological forces but physics as well. The ball is flying farther due to aerodynamic dimple patterns and core material technology. People use big headed drivers to hit shots over the traditional hazards and trees. In response, should a classically designed worthy course, having stood the test of time, be remodeled? Before any decision, just consider these ideas.

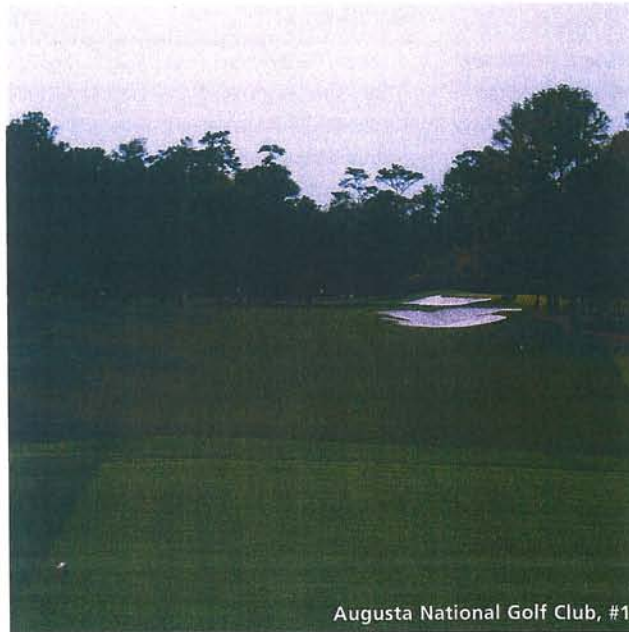
**Remodel:** A blow up and rebuilding of existing, poorly designed or neglected features: the tees, greens and bunkers. Even altering the current routing while lengthening many holes will be an improvement. A course, once overlooked and ordinary, could be transformed into a Cinderella as we did at Haworth Country Club (NJ) or now at Bahia Beach Resort (Puerto Rico).

**Refresh:** Keep the routing as is, and resurface the grasses with modern hybrids for faster, truer putting and tee surfaces like Kensington Golf & CC in Naples (FL) is currently implementing. The club should consult with the architect of record, if active, to learn the ethos of the original work.

**Restore:** Where a classic course has been let go or too many mature trees have closed in the air and light needed for good turf or artful features have been foolishly obliterated by a cost cutting budget, such as the abandonment of bunkers during World War II, restoration of the original design is a good option, e.g., the San Francisco Golf Club recent work.

**Revisit:** By revisiting the condition of the course, you can replace or renovate without remodeling. Do an audit of all the physical assets, the maintenance shed and equipment, the irrigation system, as well as the course itself. All of these aspects have a "life expectancy" and will need repair or replacement as well.

There's one more **Re**. Where there are great holes designed by a master golf architect in his day and the maintenance is up to modern standards, restraint, please. **Restraint** is the watch word. Leave greatness alone! Once the bulldozers push the beautifully crafted features, they will be lost forever. Therefore, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. ■



Augusta National Golf Club, #1

## remodeler ou restaurer?

Les parcours sont soumis à des attaques vicieuses. Champignons. Balles. Drivers. Les obstacles traditionnels se morfondent de leur nouvelle inutilité. Doit-on alors revoir les parcours qui ont passé le test du temps? Avant de décider, notez ce pense-bête.

**Remodeler.** Oui, s'il s'agit d'effacer les défauts d'un parcours – tees, bunkers, greens – même en le modifiant pour allonger des trous.

**Rafranchir.** On ne touche à rien, en scalpant tees et greens pour y semer une nouvelle herbe hybride offrant des surfaces plus franches et rapides, mais en respectant la conception originale.

**Restaurer.** Sur un parcours qui a évolué sans direction (arbres envahissant de leur ombre, soins réduits, etc.), retrouver le dessin original est une bonne option.

**Revoir** les équipements. Leur durée de vie a une limite. Maintenance et remplacement doivent être bien programmés.

Et, le plus important, se **restreindre**. On ne touche pas à un parcours de qualité bien soigné. Ce qu'un bulldozer enlève est perdu à jamais.