

# CLUBHOUSE of the Year

Martis Camp and Boot Ranch headline this year's seven best clubhouses by working with local materials, local artisans and interweaving the clubhouses into the landscape.

By JACK CRITTENDEN

The number of new clubhouses has dropped in recent years due to the slowdown in new course development and the struggles that private clubs face both in the U.S. and Europe. But architects and interior designers continue to boldly move forward aesthetically, even if they have fewer canvases to work on.

Take, for example, Martis Camp. Its developers planned a high-end private club and community more than 10 years ago. But the Truckee, Calif., project faced significant environmental hurdles. DMB, developers of Lahontan Golf Club in Truckee and DC Ranch in Scottsdale, Ariz., brought in John Sather with Swaback Partners to tackle the mammoth challenge.

Sather designed onsite, worked with local artisans and materials and took great pains to achieve LEED Gold status.

"This is one that you appreciate for the phenomenal team that came together," Sather said. "Everybody rose to the challenge and gave their all because they realized they would not get

another opportunity like this.

The breathtaking clubhouse won first place in our private category this year and best of the competition.

Overall, we are honoring seven clubhouses this year — four new private clubs, two public courses and one renovation. Our three judges reviewed all entries and graded each project. We chose to honor the clubhouses that achieved high scores, regardless of category.

Our judges are all experienced experts on clubhouse design and operations. Jim Richerson is general manager and group director of golf for Kohler Co. Frank Benzakour is general manager of Middle Bay Country Club. Kenneth Hart is director of architecture at Chambers.

All three agree that Martis Camp achieved its goal of creating a timeless and iconic building that will last for generations. Boot Ranch in Fredericksburg, Texas, Emaar Misr in Cairo, Egypt, and the other honorees will also likely make an impact on the world of golf for the long term.

## PRIVATE: 1ST PLACE

Best of competition

### Martis Camp

Truckee, Calif.  
**Owner:** DMB/Highlands Management Group  
**Clubhouse Architect:** Swaback Partners  
**Interior Designer:** Vallone Design  
**Contractor:** Hayhoe Construction  
**By the Numbers**  
Private Club  
**Size:** 73,485 sq. ft.  
**Cost:** N/A  
**Dining:** Main, 99; Mixed Grill, 50; Private Dining, 23; Banquet Capacity, 200



The clubhouse at Martis Camp sits perched atop a 70-foot rock promontory, overlooking views of the course's 18th fairway. It is, as our judges said, "breathtaking."

"This was really a once in a lifetime opportunity that we feel will be revered in 100 years from now," said John Sather, the architect behind the project. "We had



## PUBLIC: 2ND PLACE

### The Oconee

Greensboro, Ga.  
**Owner:** Reynolds Plantation  
**Clubhouse Architect:** Hug & Associates  
**Interior Designer:** Angela Grande Design  
**Contractor:** Brasfield & Gorrie  
**By the Numbers**  
Public Course  
**Size:** 33,192 sq. ft.  
**Cost:** \$6.5 million  
**Dining:** Main, 96 Seats; Outside Terrace, 38; Mixed Grill, 17; Banquet Capacity, 240

The clubhouse was designed to convey the ambience of an upscale lodge influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement — elegant and refined, yet open and inviting.

The interior of the clubhouse is fitted with antique heart pine millwork throughout, creating a warm and inviting palette, accented with custom decorative lighting and finished with elegant and sophisticated wall coverings, carpeting and furnishings.

All social spaces are open and integrate into the Lounge, which serves as the heart of the facility. The Lounge features a large island bar with seating in the round. Multiple round banquettes add to the Lounge's elegant and welcoming feel.

The Dining Room is adjacent to the Lounge, separated only by a freestanding two-sided stone fireplace.

The large rear terrace is accessible from the dining room and the lounge and features both covered and uncovered areas for dining and outdoor events. A grand staircase descends from the terrace to a formal event lawn overlooking the golf course and practice range.

The clubhouse exterior is designed in the classical shingle style, with formal symmetry balanced with the natural texture of stained cedar shingles.

## What the judges said

This space was beautifully conceived. The airy atmosphere gives it a great sense of grandeur and elegance. It certainly gives you a "feel good" moment as soon as you enter the club. The choice of furniture compliments the whole building extremely well. What a great way to play public golf. Beautifully done.

—Frank Benzakour

