

Never be afraid to laugh at yourself, after all, you could be missing out on the joke of the century.
- Dame Edna Everage

DESERT GOLF COURSES - By: JUSTIN LINDBLAD

At one time, deserts were perceived as poor sites for golf courses. With new irrigation, and innovative maintenance techniques, golf course designers have more options to choose from when laying out desert courses. When the designer utilizes the topography of the surrounding mountains, it offers more deceptive uphill and downhill transitions not normally associated with typical desert courses.



When playing a desert course you can conceptualize that designer's work overtime creating features in this type of environment. For example, non-indigenous grasses for fairways and greens are specified by the designers; lakes are also manufactured for visual contrast and improved aesthetics. At the most extreme situations, the designer will also add flatness to steep slopes creating tee areas that provide extremely unique views to the hole.

Desert fairways and greens have two common characteristics. Due to the sandy composition of the soil, the conditions of both these areas are very firm. With the intense sunlight combined with the innovative irrigation systems currently utilized, turf grass is allowed healthy growth which can be tightly manicured. Together these factors result in extra bounce and roll, which leads to extra distance to your game. This extra roll can make your short game and recovery play more difficult due to the lack of control you have on the green.

In the state of Nevada, water for irrigation is becoming a serious problem, and there are increased governmental limitations. These issues force designers to create tight, narrow courses with adaptive desert landscape. These constraints are heightened by the fact that desert rough and transition areas are difficult to recover from. All and all, with the constraints and design elements that designers utilize to shape the desert courses, they truly provide a unique and inspiring experience.

THE CAROUSEL AT THE GREEN

Located in the thriving Green Valley neighborhood in Henderson, many are familiar with The District and its mixed-use outdoor urban environment consisting of luxury lofts, office space, and retail.

Phase II of this multi-use space is highlighted by a central park space called The Green. Multiple seating nodes were created through the sea of low stone seat walls faced in red flagstone, enhanced by decorative iron fencing, and lush planters. An informal stage is framed by a steel trellis where lights and speakers add electricity to the plaza. Stroll along the pedestrian promenade lined with Lacebark Elm trees or relax along the promenade. A carousel brings The Green to life at night providing music and lights which draws kids and their families into this wonderful space.



The repetition of form and color create a relaxed atmosphere where the people take center stage. Unique and eclectic, the District blends a rich textural palette with clean landscape forms to create a truly distinctive outdoor experience. Next time you stop by The District for some shopping or a bite to eat, take a walk across the street and checkout The Green.

FAVORITE FLORA:

BAUHINIA BLAKEANA - HONG KONG ORCHID TREE



Ever since the 7th grade Lindzay Green thought she wanted to become an architect because of her love of design. But about 2 years into her studies at Arizona State University she had an opportunity to work with a landscape contractor, so she took the job. This is when it happened. She recalls seeing the bright fuchsia flowers, and the heart shaped leaves and it struck her that she could become a landscape architect and design with living things. The thought of this changed her life and after a few more years in the Landscape Architecture program at UNLV, Lindzay was combining her love of design and her new love of plants.

The Hong Kong Orchid thrives in mild winter areas such as Hawaii, California, and Arizona. Here in Las Vegas, this semi-deciduous tree can be grown in areas protected from the coldest winter days and nights. Fully grown Bauhinia blakeana can reach 20ft. high and wide but can also be pruned down to a size that would make a great accent in a large pot on a patio. The flower colors can range from maroon to pink. Blooming from late fall to spring adding some color to the landscape at a time when most plants are going dormant for the winter.

Next month is a great plant that can be used throughout Las Vegas in almost any landscape...

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



RED ROCK WINTER STORM
RED ROCK, NV
NICOLETTE FISK