



NEW CONSTRUCTION: PUBLIC
1st Place

Harbour Town Golf Links

Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Owner: The Sea Pines Resort

Clubhouse Architect: Grady L. Woods

Interior Design: Kent Interior Design

Contractor: Choate Construction

It's not often that an ownership group can boast two award-winning clubhouses. The Sea Pines Resort has accomplished the feat in back-to-back years. Last year, its Plantation Golf Club, also in Hilton Head, took first place and Best of Show in Golf Inc.'s annual competition. This year, its Harbour Town Golf Links takes first place for a public clubhouse.

Riverstone Group, which is owned by the Goodwin family, bought Sea Pines



in 2005 for \$23.4 million and vowed to invest profits into the property. The family, which owns Kiawah Island Golf Resort near Charleston, S.C., has a history

of investing in properties to make them premier destinations. That has led to the two new clubhouses, in addition to three golf course renovations.

Riverstone Group invested \$17 million in Plantation Golf Club and \$22 million in Harbour Town's clubhouse. It chose different architects for the two projects, as it wanted each to represent its own version of Lowcountry hospitality.

"Harbour Town needed to fit into its environment," said Steve Birdwell, president of Sea Pines. "It is reminiscent of a Mediterranean village. The buildings are stucco with metal roofs. And there are some tabby ruins in the area from the 1700s. We used tabby material — oyster shells to complement the ruins."

Grady Woods, the architect, used the same site as the previous clubhouse. But, at 51,949 square feet, this one is much larger. The clubhouse needed to meet PGA Tour standards, as it hosts the RBC Heritage tournament each April.

The new clubhouse features wide hallways where Sea Pines showcases paintings of each tournament champion.

"There are great spaces throughout the club to highlight the history of the tournament and the champions we have had," Birdwell said.

This includes a locker room that is equipped with 140 lockers, one for each player in the tournament. The lockers bear the name of each pro throughout the year, giving guests a connection to the tournament.

But it is the grand staircase that is the focal point of the new clubhouse.

"We wanted to find a great way for people to travel from the first to the second floor," Birdwell said. "It is an iconic shot for weddings and a focal point."

The curved staircase uses reclaimed white oak flooring, custom millwork, mosaic inlays and refined crown molding.

"The millwork in this entry is impressive, and the overall design is light and airy and fits the location," wrote judge McGehee. "With a very traditional layout and selection of furnishings, the execution is kept fresh with on-trend additions like reclaimed-barn-wood beams and



industrial light fixtures."

The clubhouse is designed to optimize views of the iconic candy-striped lighthouse. Sea Pines improved the walkway leading to the lighthouse, allowing for a connection between the yacht basin and the clubhouse.

"An equal emphasis was placed on

beautiful landscaping and the arrival sequence, which is also very characteristic of the clubhouse location," judge Hart wrote. "The delightful use of porches and terraces connects members to the course with beautiful views, and the sweeping grand-entrance stairway provides a cheerful welcome to the inside."