



# MASTERS MAKEOVER

Our man and some computer remodeling  
make 'the best finish in golf' even better

BY RON WHITTEN

**M**ost golfers dream of winning the Masters. Me, I just dream of remodeling Augusta National.

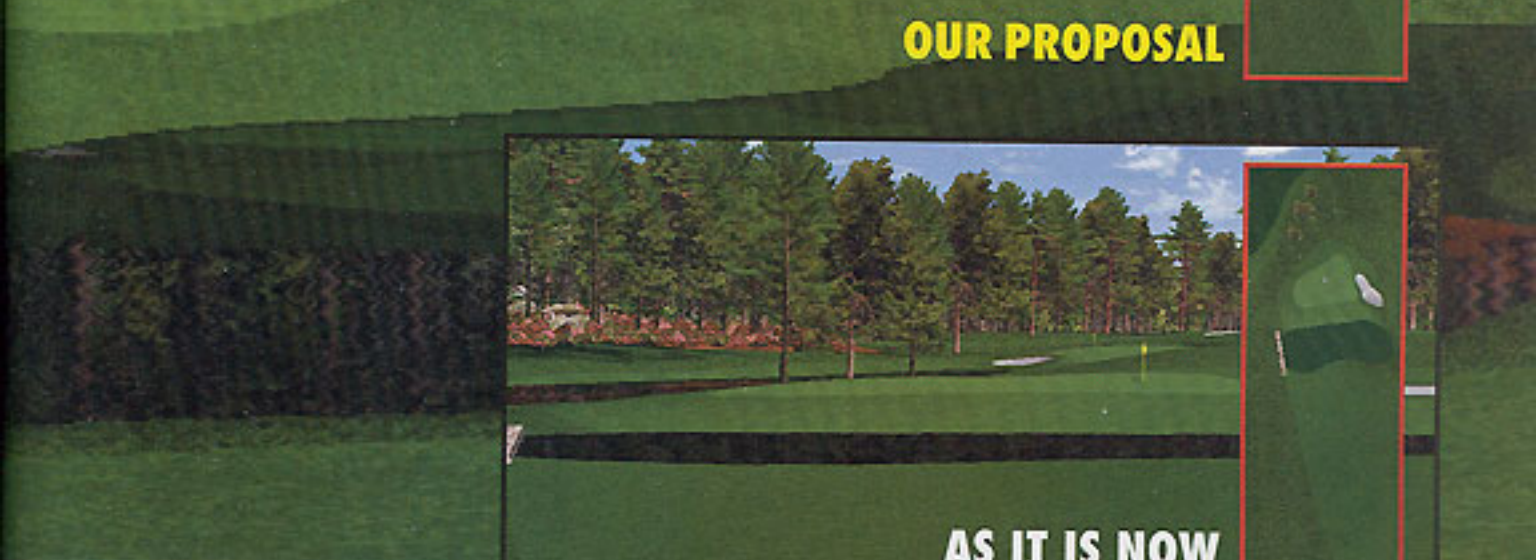
Not a major remodeling. Not even the entire course. Just certain holes, particularly the last four which provide the best finish in golf every year but are still overshadowed by Amen Corner.

If I ran Augusta National, I'd alter the last four holes to keep them competitive in the face of today's high-tech equipment (and high-tech





## OUR PROPOSAL



## AS IT IS NOW



players like Tiger Woods), to have them reflect their Alister Mackenzie heritage and to make them even more spectator-friendly.

Dave Relford (a design associate of Arthur Hills) converted my rough sketches into blueprints. Then the computer-modeling experts at Friendly Software Corporation in Toledo, Ohio, transformed those blueprints into graphic portraits, both before and after the proposed changes. Those who really run Augusta National are free to download any or all of our suggestions.

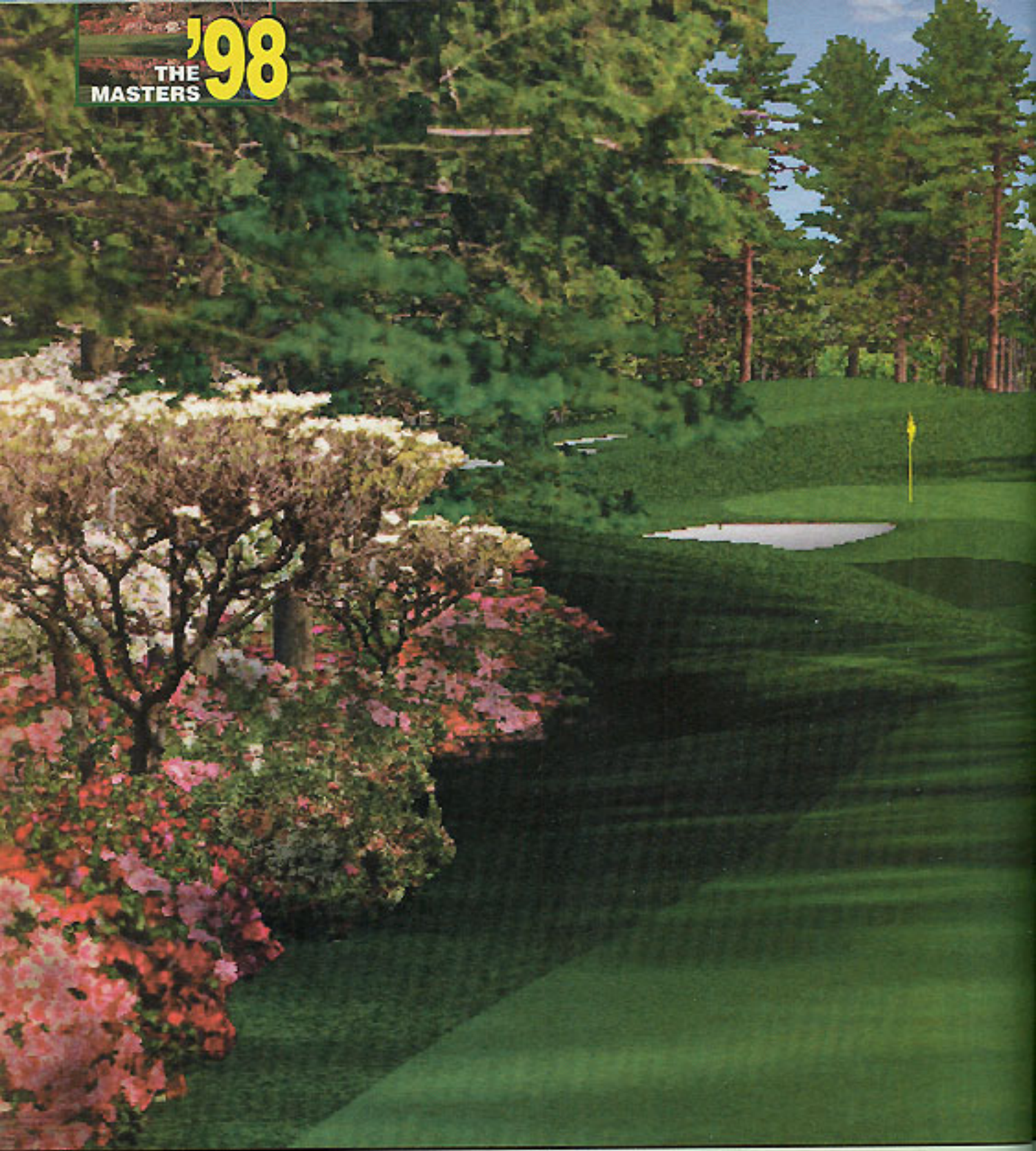
### No. 15: Adding length

Is it sacrilege to change the venue of Gene Sarazen's famous double eagle? Well, the hole was changed long before now. When Sarazen holed his 4-wood second shot back in 1936, the big, squarish 15th green was guarded by a creek. The present pond, smaller green and right-hand bunker all came later. Besides, do we really want to see some player duplicate Sarazen's feat, but using a 9-iron or a wedge?

By moving the green back and to the right, we would add 35 yards to this 500-yard par 5, enough to demand long or medium irons.

The revised diagonal green, begging for a rare fade, would be a reproduction of Augusta's original 16th, a gem of a Mackenzie roller-coaster green, and guarded by a reconfigured pond. The tightly mown pond bank would be preserved, along with the trio of towering pines that have always backdropped this hole.





### No. 16: A new angle

To avoid congestion behind the new 15th green proposed on the previous page, golfers should walk to the 16th green along the left side of its pond. So a new 16th tee would be necessary, built well left of the old one.

It's the only change needed on this excellent par 3, a replacement hole created by Robert Trent Jones 50 years ago.

The proposed tee not only would provide additional flexibility, allowing the hole to be played from 135 to

210 yards (it's now 170 for the tournament), but also would shift the angle of approach.

The 16th green would become shallower, the back bunker would come more into play, and it would take a high draw to stiff it again.



## OUR PROPOSAL

the traditional back-left Sunday pin location.

To reach this new tee, golfers would cross a narrow ravine. That's the perfect spot for a new memorial bridge dedicated to Jack Nicklaus, the only six-time Masters champion.



**AS IT IS NOW**