



TEE BOX

Q&A
with Drew Rogers

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

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“Our aim is to squeeze the very best out of each hole”

At Olde Eight in South Carolina, Drew Rogers is preserving an existing routing but completely revamping the look and strategy of the course.

Olde Eight Golf Club, formerly known as The Links at Stoney Point, in Greenwood, South Carolina, is set to reopen in October 2025 following a comprehensive renovation by Rogers.

The architect is preserving the original Tom Jackson routing but completely redesigning every hole to deliver a new golfing experience. Rogers is working alongside Total Turf Golf Services, Leibold Irrigation and Better Billy Bunker. Work also includes the construction of a new short layout, practice facilities and a putting course.

What were your first impressions of the course?

What attracted us to the Stoney Point site was its solid arrangement – it has a sequencing and fit that we felt could be improved upon within a typical renovation. The palette is strong, and the bones are good. The terrain here has nice variation and movement and the sequence through the site exposes its diversity, with both open and wooded areas, mixed vegetation, varied elevations and even some accented exposures along the banks of Lake Greenwood.

What are the goals of the redesign?

First and foremost, we will be establishing a completely new architectural identity and experience. We do have the challenge of there already being a golf course here – so the positioning and sequence will not change – but the elements within the golf envelope will most certainly take on a more refined and purposeful character, and in most cases be presented in a much more dramatic fashion.



"Elements within the golf envelope will most certainly take on a more refined and purposeful character," says Drew Rogers

The course is being lengthened to its limits and many holes will feature strategically angled elements that will define the holes visually and beg the skilled players to think, while the shouldering off-line areas will be expansive and playable for the average golfers. I think players will immediately appreciate the balance in the way the course is ultimately presented.

We certainly don't play favourites when it comes to golf holes as we like to think about the course as more of a 'whole' than pieces and parts. But with Olde Eight, there is a desire and commitment by the ownership and team to make the course very distinctly unlike anything else, which we sometimes see a lot of today. What we liked about this property originally was just how well the course was originally visioned, so the routing does allow for solid variety and distinction. Our aim is to squeeze the very best out of each hole so that the entire experience comes together as something very distinctive and memorable.

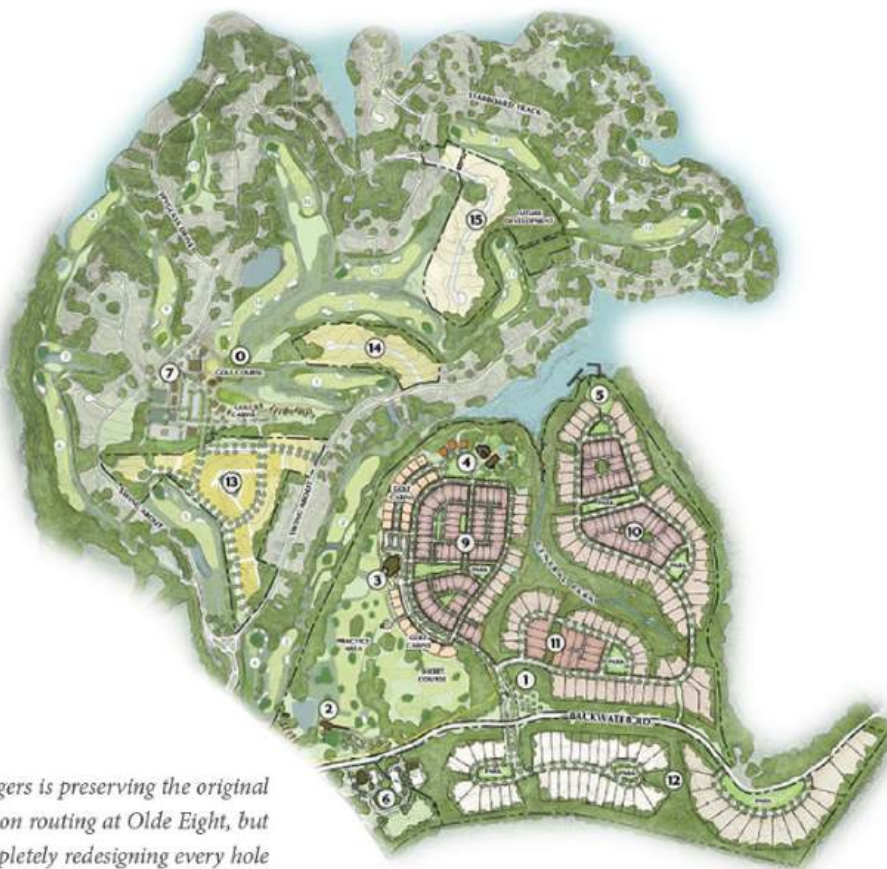


What can golfers expect from the new short course and practice facilities?
Construction of the short course and practice academy is slated to begin later this year on adjacent virgin ground that is close to holes two and three. There will be golf cottages in both of those areas as well as near the large putting

course - to be named Piedmont - near the first tee. The vision for the short course is for it to be entirely bunkerless, with the ground contours to be the star of the show. The focus is on fun! The academy facility will accommodate members at one end and academy students at the other. The target area will be expansive, divided into two arcing fairways where players can practice draws and fades from those opposing tees. Both ends will also have putting greens and short-game practice areas.

What makes this project special?
What makes Olde Eight truly unique and appealing is its commitment to family and community. Designed as more than just a destination, Olde Eight aims to create a place where visitors feel compelled to stay - a community that seamlessly blends world-class golf amenities with the warmth and connection of a close-knit neighbourhood.

The creative and development team here at Olde Eight is probably the strongest I've ever been a part of, and we're excited to create a unique golfing experience like no other, and we're excited to welcome guests soon.



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