

Foothills Sentinel

The king of clubs Estancia launches bold clubhouse project



ROCK HEWN walls grace an artist's rendering of the immense and elegant clubhouse-to-be at Estancia.

SCOTTSDALE – Construction has begun on The Estancia Club's approximately 33,000-square-foot clubhouse that will serve as the centerpiece for the private club nestled on the northern slope of Pinnacle Peak.

Designed by the nation's pre-eminent architect of golf clubhouse facilities – William Zmistowski Associates of Boulder, Colo. – the new building will feature a “dramatic and timeless theme of understated elegance and refinement,” according to Mike Marsh, project architect.

The new building will complement The Estancia Club's Tom Fazio-designed championship golf course, which was recently honored as the top private golf course in the state of Arizona by *The Arizona Republic/Phoenix Gazette* – only two months after its opening on Thanksgiving weekend of 1995.

Inspired by the stone-faced architecture native to the rural edges of northern Italy, southern France and southern Spain, the new clubhouse will take advantage of its impressive Pinnacle Peak backdrop by utilizing a village-like silhouette composed of a multitude of forms and elements that grow out of existing rock formations on the site.

The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 1997.

“Our clubhouse combined with the spectacular natural site will certainly distinguish Estancia from other traditional clubs,” Marsh stated.

The building's “old-world theme” will be created through the use of native stone and boulders; European random-slatted tile roofs; heavy

timber beams and trellises harvested from early 19th Century structures; deeply recessed windows; stone arches, and thick stone walls combined with European plastering techniques and wrought iron detailing. The building's overall color palette of earth tones and textures will blend with the natural characteristics of the Sonoran Desert.

From the lobby rotunda members and guests will be provided with striking views along two different axis separating formal and casual functions. The club grill, formal dining, private dining and living rooms are designed to merge outdoor and indoor relationships, accentuating views of the tenth fairway looking directly at Pinnacle Peak.

The clubhouse's interior theme is eclectic – combining old and new elements in a classic European manner. Numerous antique doors, windows, corbels, and furnishings will enhance the building's timeless theme. Stone floors, axminster carpets, high wood ceilings, and overscaled details will establish “a sense of permanence.”

One of the most intriguing aspects of the club's design will be a swimming pool that nestles up to private dining terraces that are naturally integrated into the site with use of multi-level brick and stone terraces. The terraces will utilize a variety of materials to blend into the surrounding natural landscape.

Four tennis courts will be recessed into the gently-sloped site.

William Zmistowski Associates is recognized throughout the world for its sophisticated design

work for private country clubs, golf resorts and hotels.

The company has designed more than 60 clubhouses and 25 clubhouse interiors in London, Tokyo, Paris, Australia and the United States.

One of the company's highest profile projects was the design of the clubhouse for Desert Highlands in north Scottsdale.

“For many years William Zmistowski Associates has designed some of the finest clubhouses in the entire world,” said Michael Meldman, executive vice president of Haas & Haynie, and John Lang, chief executive officer of Pinnacle Peak Partners, co-developers of the club. “Our intent at Estancia is to create one of the most exclusive private golf clubs in the entire country. Our new clubhouse – like our golf course – will help us fulfill this goal. The new building will attract a great deal of attention because of its outstanding design and operational efficiencies that will benefit the members and the club's management staff.”

Situated on 640 acres at the foot of Pinnacle Peak, The Estancia Club is adjacent to an exclusive residential community incorporating 325 custom home sites on one-half to two acres ranging in price from \$200,000 to in excess of the \$1 million mark.

Offering only 375 equity golf memberships, The Estancia Club is one of Fazio's signature courses.

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