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Designer profile

Mark Muller is a highly respected course architect, with an impressive CV. *GCM* looks at his achievements over the last 27 years in the golf industry.

Mark Muller has been involved in the golf course industry since 1981. He began his career as a greenkeeper, worked in golf course construction and now runs his own golf course design company from Cape Town.

Mark was the greenkeeper at Kensington Golf Club when he attended the University of Massachusetts and graduated from its Winter Turf School in 1982. From there, he returned to South Africa and worked under Dennis Schmidt at the Gary Player Country Club in

Sun City. Mark was then employed by Jack Nicklaus Golf Services as a construction co-ordinator on various projects worldwide from 1984 to 1989 including the following:

- Britannia, Grand Cayman Islands
- Valhalla, Louisville, Kentucky
- Sunnyfield, Gozenyama, Japan
- Golf Club Crans, Switzerland
- Gut Altentann, Salzburg, Austria

After working abroad Mark returned to South Africa in 1989 and was responsible



Grant Bland and Mark Muller check levels at their latest project.

COMPLETED PROJECT LIST

The following is a selected list of design and/or construction projects that Mark Muller has been involved in since 1983. (® Denotes redesign of existing course)

INTERNATIONAL	INVOLVEMENT
Britannia, West Indies	Drainage foreman (9 holes)
Valhalla, USA	Construction coordinator
Sunnyfield, Japan	Construction coordinator
Golf Club Crans, Switzerland	Construction coordinator
Gut Altentann, Austria	Construction coordinator
Drachenwand, Austria	Designer (9 holes)
SOUTH AFRICA	INVOLVEMENT
Glendower GC	Designer and contractor ®
Reading	Designer and contractor ®
ERPM	Designer and contractor ®
Killarney	Designer and contractor ®
Country Club Johannesburg	Designer ®
Royal Johannesburg East and West Rand Park	Designer and contractor ®
Windsor Park Sabi River	Designer and contractor
White River GC	Designer (9 holes)
Bells Golf Academy – Centurion	Designer
Orkney GC	Designer and contractor ®
Strand Golf Club	Designer and contractor
Atlantic Beach GC	Designer and contractor
Stellenbosch GC	Designer ®
Mowbray GC	Designer ®
East London GC	Designer ®



Mark served as construction coordinator at Valhalla, pictured above.



The view of the 18th hole at Atlantic Beach Golf Estate.

for the design and redesign of numerous golf courses country wide including the following:

- Royal Johannesburg and Kensington (East and West Course) – redesign
- Country Club Johannesburg (Woodmead Course) – redesign
- Atlantic Beach – design and construction
- Killarney GC – redesign and reconstruction
- Rand Park – redesign and reconstruction

DEDICATED DESIGN SERVICES

In 1999 Mark decided to concentrate only on design and started Mark Muller Golf Design. To further his education and international experience, he successfully completed a two-year diploma course in golf design studies at the Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland, and is a graduate member of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects.

With his working knowledge of the design, construction and maintenance facets of the industry, the company is able to supply its clients with all the information necessary for a successful golf course project.

Mark has a dedicated staff of two assisting him and all projects are a collective effort. Grant Bland has a similar background to Mark having been trained in greenkeeping by his father Allen, and then working on construction projects such as Leopard Creek, Simola and St Francis Bay. Grant supervises the contractor during the construction phase and is now developing his own design skills as a golf course architect.

In order to be able to exchange drawings and information with engineers, town planners it is essential to operate on a CAD (Computer Aided Design) system. Morgan Watkins joined the company at the beginning of 2007 and runs the CAD and graphics division.

The Muller team hardly needs further recommendation considering the many prestigious golf clubs that have engaged their design services on a consultancy basis including, among others Royal Cape, Bryanston Country Club and the East London Golf Club.

The company is busy with numerous projects that are currently in the design stage:

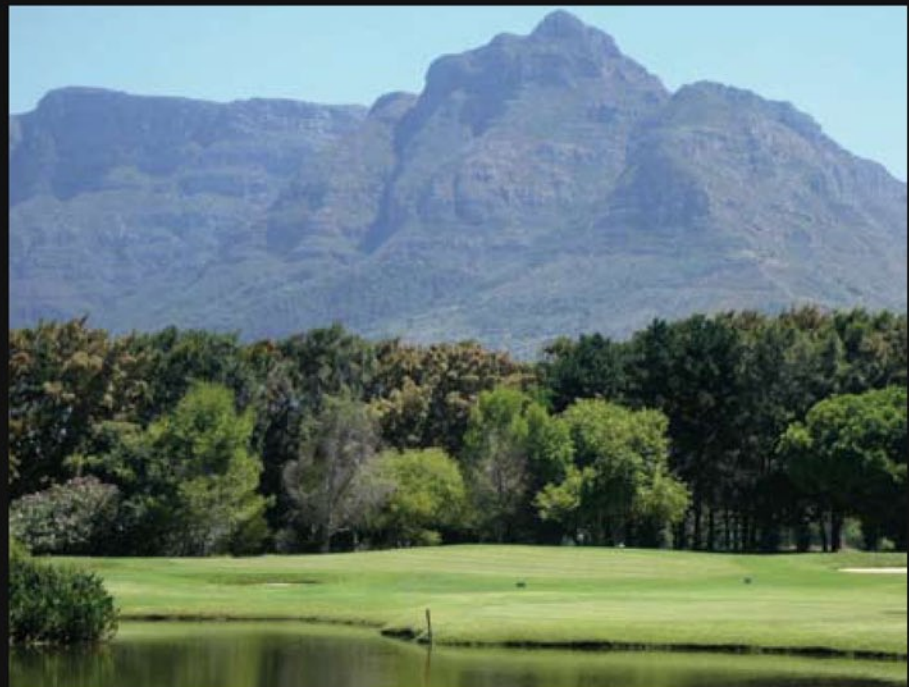
- Kuilsriver Golf Club – redesign and upgrade
- Silky Oaks – redesign nine holes and add nine holes
- Mount Royal – redesign nine holes and add nine holes
- Metropolitan GC – design new nine holes to accommodate the 2010 Soccer World Cup Stadium. ■



Graphic produced for the New Metropolitan Golf Club (Client – the City of Cape Town)



The 8th hole at East London Golf Club



The 16th hole at Mowbray Golf Club