



## Meet the New Member: Mike Gorman, ASGCA Associate

ASGCA Essentials continues its series of quick “four questions” interviews with the 2018 Associate class. This month’s new member: Mike Gorman, ASGCA Associate. Mike is Project Architect with Robert Trent Jones, Jr., headquartered in Palo Alto, California. He lists representative courses primarily in North America and Europe.

He answered the following four questions:

**Q: Tell us about yourself: where you’re from, where you live, education, family, hobbies.**

A: I’m originally from Sacramento, California. I grew up in Northern California, and really enjoy the outdoors, I currently live in Mountain View, California. In the winter time I really enjoy skiing and in the summer time I love to find hiking spots in the Sierras, I also really enjoy outdoor photography, and in the rare chances it’s great to spend an early morning or late afternoon to explore neighboring places where we are building courses, such as Perugia, Italy or Hoi An, Vietnam. I graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor in Science in Landscape Architecture.

**Q: How did you become interested in golf course architecture as a profession?**

A: I’ve always had a strong passion for golf and particularly golf courses. After getting to as a low as a 2.0 handicap in high school and competing in regular amateur tournaments throughout Northern California, it became apparent that would be the pinnacle of my playing career. However, I wanted golf to still be an integral part of my life. From middle school all the way up to college I was on a golf course almost every day of my life. It was also during this time I became really interested in golf course design, and a curiosity of what makes a great golf course great. I feel like I’ve continued this curiosity through to the current day and am still learning and seeing new places that continue to inspire me.

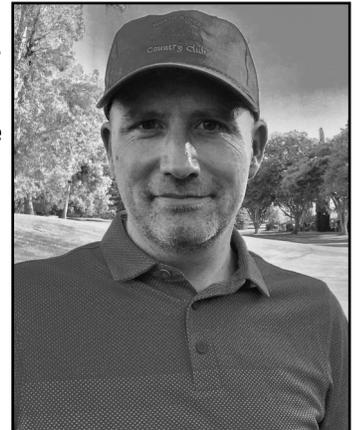
**Q: Is there a golf course architect (currently practicing or from the past) whose design philosophy you admire or emulate?**

A: I love to look at old plans from the 1930’s era. It’s great to have the opportunity to find and study the archival work from Seth Raynor, Charles Blair Mac-

donald and George Thomas. The drawings they produced were relatively simple however they contain detail in strategy, width, angles and maintenance practices that we can learn a lot from today. Specifically regarding strategic bunker placement a great hole with a singular well placed bunker and properly angled green is a great example of creating an interesting and playable hole that has a charm and simplicity that can stand the test of time.

**Q: Given your travel schedules and remote work options, are there newer tools RTJII architects use to stay in touch/ collaborate? Or do the old stand-bys of phone and email still do the heavy lifting?**

A: I think the most important collaboration method is making sure that on every project we team up with the absolute best on site field design feature specialists to help streamline the design process as much as possible. We try to be as field oriented as possible, in order for the courses to end up being the best they can be the people on site full time need to have comprehensive understanding of golf course design, and the best projects results in empowering people on the ground to implement the design in a free-flowing manner emphasizing flexibility to make great design decisions on the spot in the field.



**Mike Gorman,  
ASGCA Associate**