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In Due Course: a classic golf course gains a bright new clubhouse

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a classic golf course gains a bright new clubhouse
**Golf** is an outdoor game in which carefully crafted clubs are used to hit a ball from the tee to the green and ultimately into the cup. Perhaps a key design objective for a golf course clubhouse is one where graceful attention to detail merges a comfortable, organized expanse inside with the undulating knolls and manicured greens outside.

The Bright Grandview Golf Course Clubhouse, on a municipal course owned by the City of Des Moines, offers unimpeded views in many directions that enhance the experience for patrons while assisting the staff with monitoring the goings-on at the facility. Blurring the line between inside and out is a success of this building.

"There are areas in the building where one can sit and literally have views out in four directions. For those passing by on the street, portions of the façade allow views directly through the building and beyond to the course," says Isaac Bracher, project architect at OPN Architects.

Located in a 1920s neighborhood at 2401 East 29th Street in Des Moines, the east face of the building focuses attention to the golf course, both literally and figuratively, by employing extensive glass and doors to a building-length terrace, says Bracher. Far-reaching roof overhangs and a colonnade are features of the concrete patio.

The design challenge and vision of the architects were inspired by the philanthropy and support of the neighbors.

One of the oldest in the country, the course was built in 1902, and the old clubhouse had seen better days. The new 12,100-square-foot facility is meaningful to many, which adds sentiment to the project. Bracher says the new structure, named in honor of Lois Bright and her late husband, H. Dale Bright, is a gesture to their significant donation that made the project possible. The Brights lived a few blocks from the golf course and have given to many organizations through their foundation. "I think one of the most interesting aspects of the project has nothing to do with architecture or design—it's the lesson of giving back to the community," says Bracher.

"We believe the new and improved clubhouse will once again be the place for parties, business meetings or just to hang out after a round of golf. The beautiful new building, in the words of the nearby residents, is something they are proud to show off and an asset they are glad to have in their neighborhood," says Ben Page, interim Des Moines Park and Recreation director.
Bright Grandview Clubhouse (clockwise from top). Exterior wood siding on the south elevation is detailed with custom, formed aluminum trim. Golf cart storage is located in the basement of the building. Morning sunlight streams into the dining room—providing an inviting place for golfers to await their tee time. The warmth of the wood from the exterior is carried through to the interior with the quarter-sawn Douglas fir woodwork at the bar. Fabric solar shades on the golf course side of the building are positioned in response to the rhythm established by a series of doors.

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— Isaac Brocher, AIA