Ribbon cuttings

Sebonack Golf Club, Southampton, N.Y.

What does it take these days to make an impression in the golf world? How about 300 acres of choice waterfront land in upscale Southampton, N.Y., with neighbors like National Golf Links of America and Shinnecock Hills.

With the experience of designer Jack Nicklaus and

the boldness (and cockiness) of Tom Doak, you have a pretty interesting architectural tandem joining hands, if not banging heads. Judging from the results of Sebonack, the two seem to have overcome their different stylistic approaches and found a thoughtful synthesis, with Doak's handiwork especially evident in the routing and bunker work and Nicklaus' input obvious in the strategy and greens.

Owner Mike Pascucci spared no expense – upwards of \$100 million total – in the process of designing and building the private club. Sebonack is committed to an ambitious environmental protocol for maintenance that includes sparse, firm links-like conditions, runoff recapture and the exhaustive monitoring

of all ecological data. Sandy dunes areas and fescueladen playing areas give this place a historic sensibility.

You won't find any real estate here, just solid golf holes. Nothing comes cheap these days, though the membership fee (north of \$550,000) hasn't prevented plenty of folks from lining up to join, even before the official Aug. 23 opening.

- Bradley S. Klein

