Seven leading designers from Continental Europe – all members of the EIGCA – reveal their favourites in mainland Europe.

**THE CONTINENT’S ARCHITECTS GIVE THEIR VERDICT**

**MICHIEL VAN DER VART**
Netherlands

- I have the luxury of having a course just around the corner that is a real treat, Utrechtse ‘De Pan’. It was on rather dull land but Kyle Philips managed a wonderful routing and all holes are individual challenges.
- I unfortunately have not been to the great courses in the Netherlands and Belgium but I would definitely put Morfontaine and Vanderkam on top of my list.

**CHRISTOPH STAEDLER**
Germany

- Although I have not been to any of the great courses in the Netherlands and Belgium, I have been to many of the Morfontaine’s courses. I think they are a wonderful combination of natural pine trees and heather.
- Most of the links courses – Korsholm/Rosemarkie (Royal Hauge) and Nordmølle are probably the best.

**CHRISTIAN LUNDIN**
Croatia

- “I have not seen them all but having won the Golfing Award in 2001, (Thank The Stippelberg) could compete with the best! Again, I might be biased as I worked on it!”
- “I was working on some of the best courses I’ve been lucky enough to see in my career in the work of Harry Colt, such as Venetia with its campaign to preserve its heritage. It was the finest course I have ever played.”

**ALAN RIKS**
Belgium

- The course in Continental Europe which I enjoy playing the most is Utrechtse ‘De Pan’. This is an inland links course with sand dunes and heather and trees.
- “Great courses are for me a great tourist course. It’s a perfect example of how to combine real estate with reducing the quality of the course and safety.

**MARCO MARTIN**
Italy

- Morfontaine is a course I very much would have loved to design. The pines, heather and sandy soils create a fantastic theatre. Simpson carved out a masterpiece here.
- “I like to play it when the course is one of the most dramatic golf courses on earth.”

**BRUNO STEENSELS**
Belgium

- I really enjoyed playing Chateau de Chantelou (Golf of Puy) in southern France. It impressed me a lot and I thought the routing through difficult terrain was smartly done.
- “The Links course at Donnafugata Resort is the best Italian course that runs up and down among the hills facing the Mediterranean Sea.”

**FRANCO PIRAS**
Italy

- Tricky question... but maybe Troia in Portugal? More exposed sand, possibly some new seaside holes? It must be really great to play on a site like that!
- “The Stippelberg could compete with the best! Again, I might be biased as I worked on it!”

**THE COURSE YOU ENJOY WORKING ON MOST?**

- Kyle Phillips’ work at Troia is very creative. A course to be analysed and played many times.

**THE COURSE IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY THAT YOU ENJOY THE MOST?**

- Morfontaine is a course I very much would have loved to design. The pines, heather and sandy soils create a fantastic theatre. Simpson carved out a masterpiece here.
- “It is difficult to decide and it depends on how many years we go back. Harry Colt’s De Pan is still a masterpiece. So De Pan, and then in the UK, Kingsbarns.”

**THE COURSE WITH THE MOST APPEALING SETTING?**

- Utrechtse ‘De Pan’ in the Netherlands is an inland links course on the coast of the Netherlands.
- “The bikes are a real treat. Utrechtse ‘De Pan’ in the Netherlands is an inland links course on the coast of the Netherlands.”

**THE COURSE WITH THE DESIGN YOU ADMIRE MOST?**

- Utrechtse ‘De Pan’. A course no-one knows (opened since 2000)?
- “I have not seen them all but having won the Golfing Award in 2001, I think The Stippelberg could compete with the best!”

**THE COURSE YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO WORK ON?**

- Troia, Portugal. Excellent holes through sand hills covered with a variety of native vegetation.
- “I would like to be part of the renovation of a great historic course, one of my favourites is the Golf de Charly.”

**THE BEST MODERN COURSE (OPENED SINCE 2000)?**

- “It is difficult to decide and it depends on how many years we go back. Harry Colt’s De Pan is still a masterpiece. So De Pan, and then in the UK, Kingsbarns.”

**THE COURSE THAT SURPRISED YOU MOST?**

- Territorial, Portugal. Excellent holes through sand hills covered with a variety of native vegetation.
- “Great courses are for me a great tourist course. It’s a perfect example of how to combine real estate with reducing the quality of the course and safety.”

**THE COURSE YOU HAVE THE LUXURY OF PLAYING OVERALL?**

- De Pan, Utrecht. Sandy ground, gentle rolling terrain. A short course no today is designed to give a lot of birdie chances but surely balanced in punishing play.
- “I have been working on some of the best courses I’ve ever played. At the Stippelberg, I really enjoyed playing Chateau de Chantelou.”

**A COURSE NO-ONE KNOWS ABOUT BUT SHOULD?**

- Hameiljatla, Finland, is a course that probably a lot of people have never heard of but the course plays fun though raw Finnish countryside.
- “It is difficult to decide and it depends on how many years we go back. Harry Colt’s De Pan is still a masterpiece. So De Pan, and then in the UK, Kingsbarns.”

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*The European Institute of Golf Course Architects is the professional body for golf course architects working or based in Europe. The EIGCA advances professionalism in golf course design through the provision of continual learning opportunities and making members accountable through a Code of Conduct.*