

ARCHITECT spotlight TRIPP DAVIS

He humbly claims he was an “average player” while competing for the University of Oklahoma. But we checked, and Tripp Davis earned All-America honors for the Sooners’ 1989 national championship team. Not one to toot his own horn, Davis is nonetheless building his reputation as a tradition-loving course architect in the mold of the early 20th-century greats.

Davis, 34, spent a few unproductive seasons on the mini-tours before seeking another pro’s advice on a course-design career, an idea he had kicked around for years. “I called Larry Nelson, who was building a course in Atlanta,” he recalls.

“He told me to go back to college and study landscape architecture.”

Davis took that advice, returning to OU’s grad school then opening his own firm in late 1994. He’s since



completed a series of renovations and new projects throughout the Midwest, including a renovation of the Perry Maxwell-designed Muskogee Country Club, the oldest club in Oklahoma.

Perhaps Davis’ best-known work is his highly entertaining Scottish-replica layout, The Tribute, outside of Dallas. Next to open is Grand Elk Ranch, a private course built in Granby, Colo., with Craig Stadler as a design consultant, followed by Raven Nest, a municipal course in Huntsville, Texas.

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JULY/AUGUST