

ONCOURSE

Insights, Trends & Examples from Richardson | Danner Golf Course Architects **Modern Practice**



Innovation and alternatives to the traditional “green grass” range

- **Indoor Simulators**
- **Amphitheatre & Event Space Overlay Uses**
- **Use of Limited Flight Balls (for less space facilities)**
- **9-hole Pitching Course Overlay**
- **Tracking Monitors (games and entertainment)**
- **Soccer & Sports Field Uses**
- **Covered Hitting Bays (for all-season use)**

Rethinking the Practice Space

Practice ranges only became popular as the modern-day growth of the game moved its way across America in the 1960s. Until then, many courses relied on using holes near the clubhouse for practice. It was simply not the norm to set aside ten or more acres designated for “range” use.

Today, with the advent of technology to track shots and swing speeds, we are presented an opportunity — to look beyond the traditional practice area and its consumption of acreage. A “range” might be replaced with an all-indoor facility, or it may be that a smaller practice area can be configured using limited

flight balls. Each has the potential to free up acreage for other higher and better uses.

We are also busy planning overlay uses that can co-exist with practice areas. Examples have included amphitheatres, soccer fields, short course layouts and event spaces. The idea is to create flexible uses for the 8-12 acres that might ordinarily be used solely for hitting practice shots. Creativity — and bringing more uses to golf courses — is just one way we can leverage the open space benefits of golf and bring more people into the golf facility to be introduced to the game.

The Soccer-Range-Concert Concept

A concept for integrating golf practice with soccer and seating for 10,000 as a concert and outdoor event venue. Created for a Southern California site, the three-tier field and concert surface allows visibility from the hitting bays — and in reverse — allows seating that looks down to a stage and projection screen.



Invented in the early 2000s, Almost Golf’s P.5 Ball travels about 1/3 the distance of a regular golf ball. This allows all sorts of creativity in using and creating new practice opportunities.

