

By Glenn Gordon

"It's exhilarating to be out here at 5:20 on a Tuesday afternoon under a big sky in June," says avid golfer Irv Fish. He's talking about a compound of three new buildings at Windsong Farm, a private 18-hole golf course in bucolic farm country west of Minneapolis. The compound, designed and carefully integrated into the landscape by Yunker Associates Architecture, is a model of thoughtful simplicity. It's more than willing to play second fiddle to that big blue sky.

## RURAL RAPPORT



“There is a place for quiet, thoughtful buildings that are going to look good in 50 years. The more you look at these buildings, the more they draw you in.”

—JUROR COMMENT



“We weren’t looking for something big and ostentatious. We wanted a club that had the feeling of a neighborhood of front porches on a summer afternoon.”

—IRV FISH, CLIENT



Previous spread: From left to right, Windsong Farm's pro shop, locker building, and clubhouse, as viewed from a nearby rolling fairway.

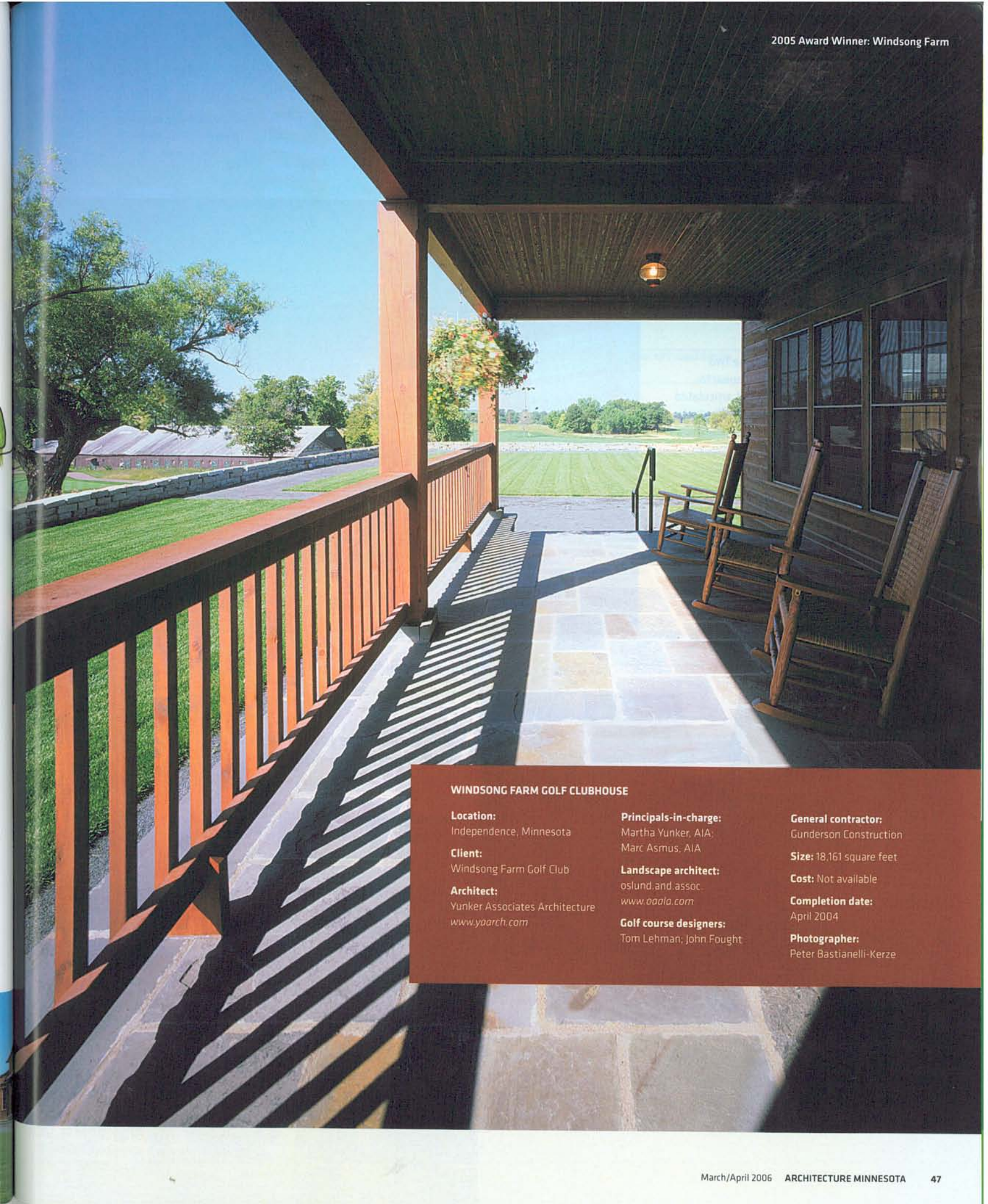
Above: YA's conceptual sketch proposed a compound of three discrete buildings at the scale of rural farm structures. Below: The locker building features square dormers and clerestories set right under the eaves. Low Chilton limestone walls delineate different "yards" of Windsong's small-town neighborhood. Opposite: The clubhouse's deep porch looks out onto the farm's old barn.

Windsong's building committee, led by Fish, a founding partner of the Twin Cities-based ad agency Fallon, Inc., and a current member of the executive committee of the United States Golf Association, selected Yunker Associates (YA) because the firm has a strong background in designing golf facilities and, more important, was uniquely equipped to capture Windsong's vision for the project. "We weren't looking for something big and ostentatious. We wanted a club that had the feeling of a neighborhood of front porches on a summer afternoon," says Fish. "YA is a relatively small firm and the designers show fresh thinking. They listened, and they also pushed back. They had the same passion we did for the project."

The site's gently rolling terrain gave rise to a design that reflects the down-to-earth rural character of the horse farm that originally stood there. Rather than a single imposing building, Windsong settled on

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**WINDSONG FARM GOLF CLUBHOUSE**

**Location:**  
Independence, Minnesota

**Client:**  
Windsong Farm Golf Club

**Architect:**  
Yunker Associates Architecture  
[www.yaarch.com](http://www.yaarch.com)

**Principals-in-charge:**  
Martha Yunker, AIA;  
Marc Asmus, AIA

**Landscape architect:**  
oslund.and.assoc.  
[www.oaala.com](http://www.oaala.com)

**Golf course designers:**  
Tom Lehman; John Fought

**General contractor:**  
Gunderson Construction

**Size:** 18,161 square feet

**Cost:** Not available

**Completion date:**  
April 2004

**Photographer:**  
Peter Bastianelli-Kerze