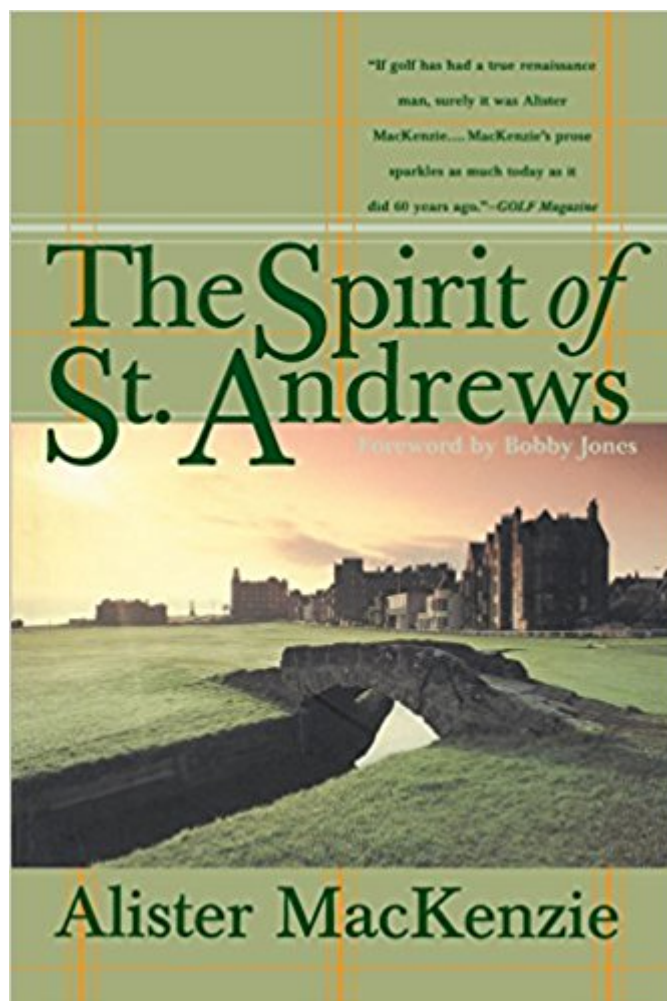




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# The Spirit Of St. Andrews



## Synopsis

Alister MacKenzie was one of golf's greatest architects. He designed his courses so that players of all skill levels could enjoy the game while still creating fantastic challenges for the most experienced players. Several of MacKenzie's courses, such as Augusta National, Cypress Point, and Pasatiempo, remain in the top 100 today. In his "lost" 1933 manuscript, published for the first time in 1995 and now finally available in paperback, MacKenzie leads you through the evolution of golf--from St. Andrews to the modern-day golf course--and shares his insight on great golf holes, the swing, technology and equipment, putting tips, the USGA, the Royal & Ancient, and more. With fascinating stories about Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen, and many others, *The Spirit of St. Andrews* gives valuable lessons for all golfers as well as an intimate portrait of Alister MacKenzie, a true legend of the game.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1933 Alister MacKenzie put on paper his considerable golfing knowledge. One of the game's most revered course designers--he conceived Augusta National, site of the Masters, and served the hallowed links of St. Andrews for years as consulting architect--MacKenzie synthesized his thoughts on golf's history, its equipment, its personalities, and his musings on what makes a great course and what makes a great hole, into a manuscript that lay hidden for more than 60 years. Finally available, it stands as one of the most courtly and cultivated treatises ever written on the royal and ancient game. His concepts of the psychology of design are as apt today as when he penned them, and his anecdotal spinings on his own golfing trials should inspire anyone who's thought of picking up a

club. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"If golf has had a true renaissance man, surely it was Alister MacKenzie....MacKenzie's prose sparkles as much today as it did 60 years ago."--GOLF Magazine  
"The Spirit of St. Andrews may have been written sixty years ago, but much of its content is timeless. MacKenzie never minces words, and his views on golf, golfers, and courses remind us that he was not only a brilliant architect but one of the most provocative characters the game has produced."--George Peper, Editor-in-Chief, GOLF Magazine  
"Alister MacKenzie believed that the chief object of a golf architect should be 'to imitate beauties of nature so closely as to make his work indistinguishable from Nature herself.' He showed us the way in this regard....I am lucky to have the book in my library."--Michael Murphy, author of *Golf in the Kingdom* and *The Kingdom of Shivas Irons*  
"In golf-as-religion circles, [the publication of *The Spirit of St. Andrews*] might be likened to the discovery of another Dead Sea scroll....It's a large dose of common sense about what makes a golf course interesting and fun."  
--Wall Street Journal

Easy read. Amazing that it was written c1929 and not published by Mackenzies' family until the 1990s. Seems like it was written in the manner of that day. Some repartition but not a problem. Seems like Mackenzie had no love for golf committies where members (who no knowlege of golf course design) changed every year. Very much like the way he wanted courses to retain the natural contours of the land and not be destroyed by bulldozers. Bought a copy for my brother in New Zealand who is the green-keeper at the Riversdale Beach links golf course. Bought another for a great kiwi friend who is into the history of golf.

Mackenzie makes good observations about golf course design which I feel are still applicable today...mainly that to maintain a golfers interest a course must have variety, difficulty, and beauty that appeal to golfers of all levels, and I think this is where the books shines. I'm not a good enough golfer to rate his comments on how to play golf, but I've read enough instruction books to know there are many paths up the mountain. There is quite a bit of space devoted to the technical aspects of course construction (circa 1930) that I found a little boring.

excellent

I feel that the spiritual aspect of golf is sometimes overrated or overwrought in various writings.

Here, however, is a long-lost gem wherein Mackenzie, typically, gets it just right. The last two chapters on the societal benefits of golf and golf courses are spot on. I would suggest that anyone who wished to truly understand the spirit of golf should read those chapters. It causes me to hope that there will be numerous quality golf courses built around Iraq and Afghanistan in the near future. If that could be accomplished and some of the local kids and healthy adults take to it, as inevitably they would, then we would achieve our goals of victory and the establishment of advanced societies in those places. It may take that to get there.

Brilliant book, so interesting to read about how golf architecture was originally done and you can't but help to think we have gone down the wrong road in recent times.

Great book

I love historical gaming and thought this book would help in my research on the game of golf. I am not a golf fan but like miniature golf. In any case, I did enjoy reading it and seeing all the historical pictures and writing to help in my research.

Fantastic golf book.

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