

Verona, Pennsylvania

# LONGUE VUE CLUB

Original Architect Benno Janssen of Janssen & Cocken  
Remodel Architect MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni Architects, Inc.  
Landscape Architect Albert Taylor  
Interior Designer Denham-Vitalie Design Associates Inc.  
Photography Jim Schafer and Mattie Edwards  
Golf Course Designer Robert White

There are few more beautifully sited golf clubs than Longue Vue, which was opened in 1925 and is located 200 feet above the Allegheny River valley in Penn Hills, an area east of Pittsburgh. Benno Janssen's clubhouse design, based on the English Norman vernacular and strongly influenced by Lutyens, is approached through the golf course setting. Its high-pitched roofs are laid with roughly cut Vermont slate of richly variegated colors from blue-gray to tan-pink. Tile thicknesses range to 2 inches, and the roofs have narrow gabled dormers set above shallow eaves. The clubhouse's most unusual feature is its U-shaped driveway that allows automobiles to pass through two masonry vaulted passages acting as porte-cochères on entering or leaving.

Most visually striking are the clubhouse's masonry-gabled ends and chimneys. The building is faced with thin gray-tan sandstone slabs from a nearby quarry laid in uniformly horizontal layers. The stone above the arched entrances and windows are set in fan-shaped voussoirs and are the structure's only ornaments.

Most prominent in the interior is the living room that originally doubled as the ballroom. The massive but simple floor-to-ceiling limestone fireplace is of the type Janssen favored. The hearth contains two tall decorative andirons by Samuel Yellin with trumpet-shaped chalices holding large polished brass balls as accents. Bays with French doors lead to the stone-paved White Terrace, one of four terraces named for the color of its furniture. The grill room is finished with oak wainscot paneling and another, smaller Janssenian fireplace surmounted by a large crest. Its hearth exhibits two more large Yellin andirons, this time shaped like medieval torch-holders.

Longue Vue is known for pairing its gardens and golf course. Based on its pedigree of original landscape architecture by Albert Taylor, it is one of few clubs that has a master gardener on staff. The resulting gardens are deftly integrated with the golf course.

The clubhouse is included in Clifford Wendehack's 1929 book, *Golf and Country Clubhouses*. It won the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce's architecture award for the best institutional building completed between 1925 and 1930, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

- 1 Clubhouse
- 2 River valley
- 3 18th green
- 4 Range tee
- 5 Putting green
- 6 1st tee

- 1 Site plan
- 2 Exit side of passage through Social Wing





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- 3 Approach side across putting green—exit passage on left
- 4 Terrace—view of Allegheny River valley
- 5 Approach drive through social wing—Green Terrace to the left



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- 6 Clubhouse from 18th green
- 7 Living room fireplace with Yellin andirons
- 8 Grill room
- 9 Original valley side elevation—men's wing on right
- 10 Aerial view of original clubhouse