

The resort takes pride in its Sea Turtle Conservation Program. Experience the marvel of nature preservation through its on-site baby Olive Ridley and Leatherback turtle release.



GUACALITO DE LA ISLA, NICARAGUA: “During my initial site visit, the land was only accessible via boat. I felt I was the director of an episode of *Survivor*,” grinned David McLay Kidd, course architect. “I jumped overboard into knee-high water and my feet sank into the sugar white sand.”

Comfortably standing on the beach, David surveyed the land. “The lush green rainforest looked impenetrable. The only way I could explore was to wander up the dry arroyos,” recalled Kidd. “I’ve had experience building in difficult places. Determining there was ample land, the combination of beach frontage and immense trees had me wide-eyed and excited.”

After a day of note taking, David was whisked via helicopter to Granada for debriefing with Don Carlos Pellas, owner and visionary of the project. “He is one of the most successful businessmen in Latin America,” said Kidd. “During our meeting, he revealed the grand plans for Mukul Resort. His request was for me to build a world-class course—something I hear a lot—but, with one caveat. I couldn’t displace any of the majestic trees.”

Stumped (no pun intended), David scratched his head evaluating the demand.

“How am I going to build a golf course in a dense forest without disturbing hundreds of mature guanacaste, tamarindo, and mango trees?” questioned Kidd. “After many routing plans and several erasers, we finalized the design achieving Pellas’s mission.

“The course respects its environment and is maintained with sustainability as a core ethos,” lauded Kidd. “Bridges are constructed from wood harvested from the forest and volcanic stone, and irrigation is supplied by well water.

“The finishing hole is a par-3 that plays right into the Pacific Ocean with the green literally running onto the beach. It almost always plays downwind and you must hit it high and land it soft,” advised Kidd. “Be sure to kick off your shoes and putt out barefooted to finish the round!” ■

Mukul Resort is located three hours from Managua Airport (MGA). Each of the 37 ocean-view accommodations offers feature craft furnishings from Nicaraguan artisans, including carved native teak tables, sugarcane twig headboards, and rum barrel staves.

For more information on the resort and the incredible story of the Pellas family, visit MukulResort.com.