

THE LINKS OF TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA:

# Apartment Home Community Achieves High End Appearance With Concrete

A new Tuscaloosa apartment community is designed to give residents a unique and stylish place to call home with much more than the usual amenities.

“There is nothing like this in the Tuscaloosa area where you have an apartment community with a golf course, Olympic sized swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, and even a lake,” says the complex’s Community Director Jamie Nelson. Concrete has played a major role in the construction at The Links of Tuscaloosa located at Mimosa Park off Highway 69.

From the roads to the parking lots and golf cart paths, concrete has helped shape the upscale look on this project which includes 864 apartment units at last count. Developers call it “affordable luxury living.”

The project’s manager, Skip Croft, says concrete is one thing you will find at all of the Lindsey Developments. “Owner Jim Lindsey hates the look of patched asphalt with potholes,” says Croft. “His goal is to have neat and well maintained roadways, and he looks at concrete as a long term investment.”

Lindsey Construction always looks at the long term because the company also manages the apartments it builds and wants to keep maintenance costs down. There are also plans for similar developments in Auburn and Starkville to add to the 30,000 units Lindsey has already built.

The entire project calls for about 40,000 yards of concrete. It was used for the roads and parking lots with more than 1,728 parking spaces on the property. Concrete was also poured for the slabs, golf cart paths, second story decks and stairways.



*The golf cart paths at The Links of Tuscaloosa are also concrete.*

The cost of concrete, once considered a luxury on an apartment project like this, is now in line with the cost of asphalt on the front end. When you consider the longer life of concrete and less maintenance, many consider it a better investment.

Another added benefit of concrete is the safety factor.

“It is easier to light up parking lots at night with the white color. It just shows the light better than a dark surface,”

says Croft. That is especially important for college towns like Tuscaloosa with a lot of students in and out of the apartments. The lighter shades of concrete also mean less of a heat factor than you see with asphalt. “Asphalt gets hot and spongy and is hot to the feet,” adds Croft.

Concrete’s natural light color reduces the so called “urban heat islands” because it reflects solar energy more than darker colored materials. Scientists report that urban areas with more pavement and buildings are usually warmer, as much as eight degrees higher in temperature than nearby rural areas. Experts partially attribute that to the dark surfaces on roofs and paving.

While the main selling point for tenants at The Links of Tuscaloosa may be the idea of living on a golf course, for the builders it’s been as much about quality construction which includes a lot of concrete because of its competitive cost, durability, safety, environmental and aesthetic qualities.

“There has been a great interest in the properties,” says Community Director Nelson. The complex which opened in August has done so well, builders have moved on to Phase Two with concrete again being the product of choice for many key aspects of the development.

*Jim Lindsey, developer of The Links of Tuscaloosa, prefers concrete for roadways, sidewalks, and access areas because of its clean appearance and ease of maintenance and views the product as a long term investment.*

