

## AL MADINA A'ZARQA APPOINTS WORLD RENOWNED GOLF COURSE DESIGNER

*Thomson Perrett & Lobb to create 18-hole PGA standard golf course at the city*

**Muscat, Oman: 14 April 2009:** Blue City Company 1 (BCC1), the real estate development company tasked to deliver Phase 1 of Al Madina A'Zarqa, the most significant real estate infrastructure project in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the appointment of world renowned Thomson Perrett & Lobb to design the initial golf course to be constructed at the project.

As part of Phase 1, BCC1 will develop an 18-hole PGA standard course consisting of two par threes, two par fives and five par fours per nine. Adjacent to the course will be a gated golf community, a club house, restaurants and other ancillary amenities to compliment the varied styles of high quality residences and hotels to be constructed. The balanced development will be situated in a natural environment of expansive views and extensive open space.

Richard Russell, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BCC1, said: "We wish to create dream course for the golfers of all skill levels and we are very pleased to be working with such a prestigious and globally recognized name like Thomson Perrett & Lobb. Thomson Perrett & Lobb's course design expertise will ensure a world-class signature course that supports the vision of both Al Madina A'Zarqa and Oman in creating a leading international tourism destination."

"At Al Madina A'Zarqa we are building a new city; to ultimately become an integral component of the continued visionary economic development of the Sultanate of Oman," Mr. Russell added.

Thomson Perrett & Lobb will capitalise on the unique location of the course, sitting as it does adjacent to the Indian Ocean and the Al Khor, in the design. The surrounding properties and hotels will have spectacular views from their elevated location overlooking the golf course.

Founded by Peter Thomson, a five-time winner of the British Open and Chairman of Thomson Perrett & Lobb, this golf architectural company is firmly established as one of the world's leading course designers, Thomson Perrett & Lobb has designed golf courses extensively throughout Australia, Europe, Middle East and Asia. The company designed the Open Course at Moonah Links –

Home of the 2003 Australia Open, Carya Golf Club in Turkey and Marriott Momi Bay in Fiji. They are currently working on projects in Egypt, Turkey and the UAE.

“Al Madina A’Zarqa is the most exciting and unique development in Oman, if not the Middle East. We are extremely impressed by the potential of the golf course for the city, Oman and the Gulf. It is very appealing to be able to play a part in the development of this pioneering project, we can assure you, this golf course will become the focus of attention to the international golfers of all levels who knows what he is looking for,” said Tim Lobb, Principal, Thomson Perrett & Lobb.

In future phases the world class course will be expanded to include an additional 18-hole course, a state-of-the-art Golf Academy and equestrian facilities, all of which will be welcome additions to Al Madina A’Zarqa’s unique leisure offerings.

Al Madina A’Zarqa will radically expand the tourism facilities in the Sultanate of Oman and the City will become a world destination centering its economic development on trade, sports and wellness, medicine and healthcare, education, entertainment and tourism and hospitality. The City will generate large scale employment opportunities for Omani nationals, promote freehold property ownership for nationals and expatriates alike and serve as a hub for leisure activities in the Sultanate.

Thomson Perrett & Lobb’s, golf course architects, origins date back to 1965 when Peter Thomson, formed the founding design practice based in Melbourne, Australia. Since then, the company has expanded and opened a further office in Beijing and, in 2004, Tim Lobb joined Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett to head up TPL in London, giving the business a truly global reach. Together, Thomson Perrett & Lobb have more than 75 years’ experience in creating internationally recognised, integrated golfing facilities in more than 30 countries worldwide. The principals are actively involved in the business and the team includes vibrant professionals with qualifications in golf architecture, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering and CAD. Current projects are in UAE, Oman, Egypt, UK and Turkey.

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## About Al Madina A'Zarqa

Located on a natural peninsula 60 minutes from Muscat, Al Madina A'Zarqa (previously known as The Blue City) is a 32 square kilometre (12.36 square mile) waterfront city being built along 16 kilometres (9.95 miles) of shoreline adjacent to the Gulf of Oman. Al Madina A'Zarqa is more than just a resort real estate development; the city is being designed and built to include all the elements needed for a thriving metropolitan community. When complete, the city will be home to 200,000 people who will live, learn, work, relax and play in surroundings that are harmonious with the existing Omani landscape, architecture and culture.

Al Madina A'Zarqa will serve as a growth engine for the Omani economy and will radically expand the tourism facilities in Oman. The city will generate large scale employment opportunities for Omani nationals, promote freehold property ownership for nationals and expatriates alike and serve as a hub for leisure activities in the Sultanate.

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