



Ask the Expert

Why should I consider turf for my next project?

Artificial turf has evolved as a system, and these days, the playability it offers can be comparable to natural grass. I don't think high performance was a possibility with turf back in the day. Now it's demonstrably better than what it was 10 years ago. Considering that and the functionality of artificial turf, it can't be overlooked.

The number one thing to consider is

the functionality of having a consistent field. If you think about your average municipal field, sportsplex, high school, or community center—if those fields are natural grass, they may not receive the maintenance they need to remain a good playing surface. Artificial turf offers a big advantage over those kinds of systems because it provides that consistency of play, instead of be-



Philippe Aldahir
Director of Turf
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With more than 3,000 successful installations, **Shaw Sports Turf** is leading the way toward a future where synthetic turf athletic fields outnumber natural ones. Given the versatility of different turf systems, they pride themselves on helping customers pick the best fit for their field throughout the entire process. As a former natural grass specialist, Philippe Aldahir has been on the other team. But now, as the company's director of research and innovation, he knows turf deserves a chance to be king of the court. Here, Aldahir explains why turf may be the perfect fit for your next project.

coming a mudhole, weedy, or agronomically unsafe. If you have to grow grass, you're at the mercy of Mother Nature, but with synthetic turf, the consistency is already there.

But not all turf is made to perform as well as Shaw Sports Turf. With Shaw, you can design turf systems with entry-level playability, advanced playability, or with world-class elite playability. The way you do that is by turning the knobs of the components you install—what type of subbase, underlayment, turf fiber, and infill. You can have extreme performance in artificial turf. Our professional teams gravitate toward those systems, and they play very close to natural grass.

I'm understanding and dispelling

turf myths as I work in this industry. I used to be a natural grass specialist, and now that I'm on the other side with artificial turf, I'm learning a lot. When I was in natural grass, turf was an afterthought. It was there, but it wasn't the focus. I think that has changed because the popularity and performance of the systems have increased greatly. We have been dedicating a lot of research, development, and innovation resources toward this. I don't see it as grass versus turf anymore; I see it as grass and turf. They coexist.



Read more from Shaw Sports Turf in the **July+August issue of gb&d**, when Aldahir explains what makes their turf safer and stronger.



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