

January 5, 2009

To whom it may concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the introduction to golf course design seminar #1 from Ray Hearn.

As an aspiring golf course architect, I contacted Ray Hearn regarding a local golf course design that was supposed to be built, but was lacking funding. I asked him how I could become a golf course architect, and he told me about his seminar. I immediately enrolled and have been thrilled with the course ever since.

The assignments are well thought out and very thought provoking. Due to the nature of the seminar, the assignments are done on your time and are delivered on the 1st of every month and due at the end of each month. This is more than adequate time to work a full time job and still get the assignments completed. Feedback comes in a very professional and timely manner. Ray does not hesitate to tell you if you did a very good, and always mentions how any assignment could be better. The readings drive home the overall assignment and are very poignant. I had read most, not all, of the books, but not with as much purpose. They have a whole new meaning to me now. Some of the assignments are for you dissect other designer's work and others allow you to design your own golf holes. I really loved these options as it is always great to use and critique a hole that you have played. I found it even better to design my own holes and receive feedback on those also. Ray is always willing to answer any and all questions and responses come within 24 hours.

Any golfer could easily benefit from this seminar. I know that I now look at a golf course with a different eye, a designer's eye. I see bunkers and other hazards with a strategic focus and make sure that I also see the points that a lot of designers don't want you to see. All well designed golf holes have safe areas and should have many options of play. Those are much more apparent to me now, and I have definitely showed those multiple options in my designs for my projects.

I would recommend this seminar to anyone at who plays golf, especially those looking to become a golf course architect. It is a great opportunity to learn from someone who has been in the business for a very long time and a very respected architect.

Steve Kolarich

Former Member of New York PGA

Thunder610@verizon.net