

Re: Ray Hearn Golf Course Designs: An Introduction to Golf Course Design Seminar Series

I have enjoyed playing the game of golf for nearly 30 years, but in the last few years, I have begun to critique and visualize changes I would have made in the design of many of the golf courses that I have played. My curiosity, of course, began long before I understood the design process and the fact that many courses in existence were not designed by professional golf course architects nor developed by experienced contractors. As my interest on the subject expanded, I began to focus my interest on golf course design and the architect's thought process and design elements that went into each of the courses that I played. Up to that point, my knowledge of golf course design was limited to general information from books on golf and from information I found on the internet, which generated even more interest in the subject of golf course design.

In December of 2009, I became aware of a seminar entitled an Introduction to Golf Course Design that was being offered via the internet by Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs. I immediately researched the company and learned that Raymond Hearn and company had just been awarded the 2009 renovation of the year by Sports Illustrated Golf Magazine, as well as, having received many other accolades from various other golf publications. I immediately e-mailed Raymond Hearn and he responded to my inquiry and included an outline of the course, which could be completed from my home and around my work schedule. I considered the cost of the seminar to be very reasonable given the depth of the course and Raymond Hearn's many years of experience in the industry. I enrolled in the course via e-mail, ordered the required text books and was given the option to pay for the course in advance or to make easy monthly payments. I prepared for the start of the course with much anticipation because I was anxious to learn about golf course design from a successful practicing golf course architect who is widely respected in the industry and credited for creating great golf courses that are beautiful, challenging and yet fun to play for all golfers.

In the nine months that I have been involved in the course, I have found the class material to be very interesting, highly illuminating and extremely relevant to every aspect of the golf course design process. The reading material consists of selected chapters from books written by noted experts in the field of golf architecture. Raymond Hearn also provides an excellent summary of all of the material as well as his personal insights from his years as a practicing designer. My assigned submissions have received an ample amount of personal attention and feedback. Raymond Hearn has also "marked up" my graphic examples in a very positive manner to help illustrate how my design concepts can be further enhanced. I continue to be very motivated to write our assigned narrative for each aspect of the design process and I am eager to receive the thorough and timely review of my written and graphic design illustrations. I would highly recommend this design course to anyone who is interested in golf course design as an enthusiast, for professional development purposes, or if you are involved in any aspect of golf course development.

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