

## STUDENT JOURNAL SEMINAR TWO - GERMANY

It was my pleasure to return to Europe to be part of the second seminar of the EIGCA education program in Golf Architecture at Germany.

First of all I would like to describe how was the time between the end of the seminar and before the attendance for the seminar two.

Seminar one was a very productive approach to golf history and design, and there were two assignments we have had to submit after this first module with their respective dead line of each one, they were very dynamic and helpful in order to re-confirm what we learned with the lectures of history and design introduction.

### **HISTORY ASSIGNMENT**

The first one of the two assignments was a History essay. We have had to complete a written essay on “The History of Golf Development and Design in North America before World War II”. One of the aims of this essay was to discuss and describe the work of the key architects that were responsible for growing the game in North America during that period and analyse examples of their work and design philosophies in order to understand the character of the game, design strategy and the sense they gave to it with all the factors and influences that surrounded the period. On top of that, Economic, Industrial development and social factors were taken in consideration on the essay.

Despite the fact that it is not my native language I tried to explain my self in English the best I could, and to be able to transmit an idea about my personal understanding of the subject in my essay, I was very satisfied after I completed the assignment, not only with the result but also with the knowledge and the theoretical experience it provided



me.

*16<sup>th</sup> hole at Pasatiempo by Alister MacKenzie – Golden Age of Golf Architecture in North America*

## DINGLY DELL DESIGN PROJECT

This was the second of the two assignments and our first Layout Design, I enjoyed doing the project very much, it was an interesting site with some restrictions and issues to take in consideration, at the same time the condition itself provided enough challenge to the project; during the Design Process I was directly supported by my personal mentor; Architect Augustine Pizá, since I have the privilege to work with, in different activities; such as, Golf Project Management & “On Site” Duties, in a Nicklaus Signature Course in Punta Mita México, and Design work & Theory at his studio.

Getting back to the assignment process explanation I would like to introduce a little bit of the brief of the project. It consisted in redesigning a new layout, for the Dingly Dell Golf Course.

Principal goals to achieve of the assignment were;

- *Design a layout*
- *Provide 18 holes with a total length which is at least as long as the current course and with the same overall par.*

This part of the of the brief was the most important aim of the assignment, the layout and conditions of the new course represent a real challenge, not only because we were re-designing a new layout, but because the conditions, dimensions and the shape itself of the site.

- *Retain as many of the existing greens as possible, taking into account safety issues.*

After the analysis of the existing layout and several drawings of different routings the result was positive specially achieving this point, 12 of the 18 existing greens were kept on top of that, safety issues were a difficult task to sort, specially because of the dimensions of the site but at the end this was decently accomplished.

- *Improve the safety of the holes which are to be retained where possible without altering them too dramatically.*

An analysis plan with the safety borders of each hole was illustrated and presented in the drawings; despite the fact that the existing layout presented serious problems with safety issues, on the plans we can distinguish the different between each other of the layouts.



*Illustrations Above show the condition of the existing Site & the land we were able to use and the greens were kept.*

## ***SEMINAR TWO - DEULA REHINLAND, GERMANY***

### **LAY OUT DESIGN PRESENTATION**

First day all students presented their projects to the architect and other students. Achim Reinmuth was providing constructive comments and sharing his knowledge in the subject. It was a very productive day and we had the opportunity to learn of each others and the different process and results from everybody of the group, we achieve this activity with positive conclusions and the most important, share the knowledge and different techniques we use for the result we came out with.

### **SITE INSPECTION**

We visited a proposed golf course site and performed an analysis plan of potential holes by walking the site and inspecting its features, the position of lakes, over head electricity cables and out of bounds hazards were noted. On returning to the class room we were given two days to create a routing and strategy plan for the proposed site which was presented to the rest of the class at the end of the two day session. Christophe Stadler was available to tutor us during the session and it was very beneficial in assisting in the development of routing skills that are essential to any successful golf course architect. We were given a further layout assignment to complete in time for the next seminar in Dublin in August. This site is very complicated due to the terrain being very hilly. It has been very challenging to find a suitable routing in this site.

### **ECOLOGY**

We were given a lecture on indicator species which covered details regarding how to analyse a site according to the plant species that are present. We learnt that it is possible to judge a soils conditions i.e. alkaline, acidic etc by the plants that are growing there. We have had to complete a written essay on Seral Sucession in a specific ecosystem. Through completing this essay we have been introduced to the fundamental theories of ecology and how an ecosystem changes with time due to the plants that inhabit the environment.

## SITE VISIT

We visited Golf Club Gut Laerchenhof, a Golf Club Recklinghausen Jack Nicklaus golf course and site of the German Masters, we toured the site with the superintendent and he explained to us about the different turfgrasses that were utilised and problems with disease etc that they experience. We also visited Golf Club Recklinghausen which had just completed a number of renovations, and whilst on this visit we were accompanied by the architect who was commissioned to do the changes, David Krause. We also visited Golf und Land-Club Köln, an old established golf course, with a heathland feel to it, we were kindly given the opportunity to experience this course more intimately by playing the course.



## BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

We spent one day at the Duela's impressive indoor facility in teams building a bunker that we had designed in a session the evening before. This procedure exposed the class to the machinery and thought processes that go into designing and building a functional bunker.



## SURVEYING

This day we were introduced to Golf Surveying, we were supported in all the session by Nigel Henbury, the activity consisted of visiting an existing golf course and surveying three existing greens using a dumpy level. This exercise was very beneficial in allowing students to understand how to survey an area and record the data generated. We subsequently had to draw the greens complex that we had surveyed. This was beneficial in helping to gain a greater appreciation of contour lines. We have also been given a green design project that must be submitted on the first day of the next seminar in Dublin in August.

## **GREENS CONSTRUCTION**

We were given a lecture that explained the different types of green construction available to architects i.e. USGA, California, Push-Up, it was interesting to learn how complicated rootzone technology is and how the specific soils utilised affect the performance of the putting green. We were also given a literature review to complete for the end of September 2008 which further investigates green construction principals.

## **EARTHWORK DESIGN PROJECT CALCULATIONS**

We had a lecture on Design Workshop by Architect Ken Moodie, it was a very productive approach to theory design concept techniques, and we had the opportunity to learn more about specific subjects of golf design criteria's. Also we were introduced in calculating earthworks volumes and sections. This was beneficial in helping the students to gain a perspective on what earth needs to be moved according to the devised routing plan. These skills will also be utilised in producing the layout assignment that we received.

## **SUMMARY**

I will conclude by saying unequivocally that the past seminar experience was an excellent opportunity for all us (students) to be familiarized with the complexity of the profession, and at the same time, realize those areas that we feel to be weak, but looking forward to work hard, in order to improve on and get more confidence when a real job can demand for it.

I consider my self very fortunate for having the invaluable chance to be part of the seminar and I'm looking forward to see all the group and professor at Dublin again and I'm sure it will be excellent in all the ways.

Thank you for your time in reading this lines and I remain at your disposal.

Rogelio Abarca