

REES JONES

(1941 -)

BACKGROUND

Younger son of golf architect Robert Trent Jones. Graduated from Yale with a history degree in 1963. Went on to study Landscape Architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Served briefly in the Army, but never really left Montclair, NJ, where he was born, raised, worked for his father and ultimately based his own design practice.

Joined his father's business in 1965. After involvement in over 50 Trent Jones courses, entered the practice on his own in 1974.

His architecture differed from that of his father, but his career followed a similar path. Initial success was slow. Co-authored an influential Urban Land Institute publication, *GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENTS*, in 1974. Became the youngest person to serve as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1978. But didn't gain national attention until his preparation of The Country Club at Brookline, in Massachusetts, for the 1988 U. S. Open. Curiously, it occurred at the same age as his father had been when the remodeled Oakland Hills made Trent Jones a household name. Instead of making The Country Club tough as nails (as Trent had done at Oakland Hills), he restored the aging Massachusetts course and enhanced its fundamental playing qualities.

His work at The Country Club drew universal accolades and led to jobs remodeling other U.S. Open courses, Hazeltine National and Congressional (both, ironically, Trent Jones designs).

His original designs, too, helped turn the direction of golf design away from the glitz of the 1980s into the gentler notions of the 1990s.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Rees Jones has preached and practiced what he terms "definition in design." He wanted his holes to clearly indicate to golfers how they should be played. Hazards were visible, bunkering often directional, targets accessible and framing mounds along fairways and around greens deflected errant balls back into play.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Extremely large, free-form bunkers often used for decorative rather than penal purposes. Gentle mounding throughout courses, softer in fairways, bolder in roughs and around greens. His early greens are usually perched upon small plateaus. His later greens flow seamlessly into fairways.