

## **ROBERT TRENT JONES JR.**

(1939 - )

### **BACKGROUND**

Elder son of golf architect Robert Trent Jones. Undergraduate degree from Yale. Tried law school at Stanford, but left to join his father's firm in 1960. Formed a California office to handle the Western and Pacific Basin business. He stayed in this position until 1972, when he created his own design firm.

Interested in politics since his undergraduate days, when he interned in the office of a U.S. Senator's office. Served a term as chairman of the California State Parks and Recreation Commission in 1982. Was a U.S. Delegate to the Helsinki Accords Conference in 1980. Counted among his friends such political figures as Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Benigno Aquino of The Philippines and Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia.

Very aggressive in his negotiations for designs throughout his career, and pursued projects as far flung as Australia and Finland. By the 1990s, after completing the first 18-hole course in Russia, his firm had worked in so many countries around the globe that, like his father, he boasted that the sun never sat on his designs.

Generally considered to have assembled one of the most talented staffs in the business. Associates over the years have included Gary Roger Baird, Donald Knott, Gary Linn, Bruce Charlton, Kyle Phillips, and Michael Poellot.

Served a term as President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1989. Wrote extensively on his philosophy of design in a book, GOLF BY DESIGN (Little, Brown & Co., 1994), in which he promoted the idea that studying a course's architecture could help lower scores.

### **DESIGN PHILOSOPHY**

Jones has always worked on creating a specific theme for each course, based upon its locale. A parkland course is lush and green, with flowers and foliage. A seaside course is dry and hard, with deep pot bunkers so sand won't blow out. A mountain course has rugged features, even boulders scattered across a hole as if they'd tumbled down from higher slopes. A Hawaiian course has roughs of tropical jungle and greensites that afford ocean vistas. Unlike his father, he altered his architecture to fit each site.

## **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS**

Always an eye-catching hole, be it a par-3 with floral gardens from tee to green, an enormous 10,000 square foot green wrapped around a water hazard, a "Zen" bunker meant to emulate a Japanese garden, a double fairway, or a double green.