

On Course

News & Thoughts from Forrest Richardson Golf Course Architects

Short Courses



The Hills Course at Promontory Club in Park City Utah — Hole No. 12 “Island”

THE JOY OF IMAGINING A HOLE-IN-ONE

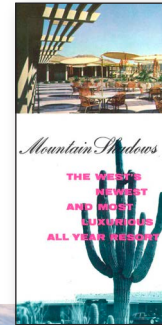
Once popular, the short course concept is making a strong comeback. Forrest Richardson’s mentor, Jack Snyder, broke ground in 1960 with the original Mountain Shadows — a par-56 ‘Executive’ course that could be played in just a few hours and enjoyed by all ages and abilities.

In 2017 we gave Mountain Shadows a new beginning, continuing its great run to entertain golfers without relying on length. In 2022 Mountain Shadows gave the world of golf a new first — it cracked the \$100 per round barrier for an all-par-3 experience. Living proof that golfers are looking for new ways to play the game, and will easily pay for quality and formats that do not involve as much time as the traditional 18-hole round.

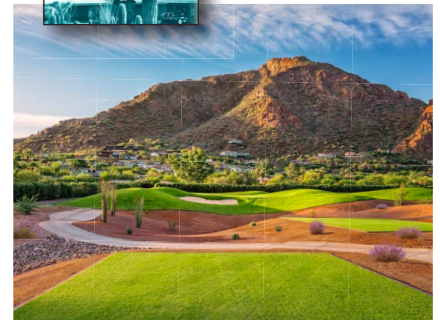
Since then our work on short courses has grown — including work in Alaska, Hawaii and throughout the U.S.



Routing plan for The Hills Course at Promontory Ranch Club in Park City, Utah, a Forrest Richardson 18-hole par-3 course that joins the private club’s Dye and Nicklaus courses.



What’s old is new again. Our remake of this iconic 1960s mid-century modern resort course has been awarded “Best of Arizona” by GolfNow. (vintage brochure)



The 14th at Mountain Shadows Resort — 75 yards of pure fun that equalizes players by demanding accuracy over brut power or length

SHORT COURSE TID-BITS

- The term “Executive Course” was coined by golf architect William Mitchell, who reasoned that an executive could still have time for a round of golf at the end of the day if the design were shorter
- Celebrated writer Ron Whitten uses “Precision Course” to describe short, non-regulation length layouts
- The concept of “revenue per yard” and “cost per yard” was first introduced by Forrest Richardson in 2020
- Par-3 courses offer the most optimum pace of play, as every hole self-regulates the time it takes groups to finish
- Forrest Richardson has led the charge for innovation in alternative course ideas



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