

BACKGROUND

Native Californian. Obtained a Naval Science Degree from the University of California in 1944 and a Masters in Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture from Southern Cal in 1948. Worked in land planning, subdivisions and park design until 1960, when he began designing golf courses within residential developments.

Was assisted early in his golf design career by his father, Franklin, a scratch amateur. Worked on a series of Palm Springs projects in the 1960s with legendary amateur golfer Johnny Dawson. Teamed with British Open champion Greg Norman on a series of designs in the early 1990s. In 1992, his son, Ted, Jr., joined the business.

Was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1983. Was honored with Fellow status by the ASGCA in 1994.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Although he has claimed to be more artistic than mechanical, his courses reflect both elements. Robinson was strong on engineering properly irrigated and drained courses. He also emphasized aesthetic beauty of his golf holes through lakes and vegetation planting. He believed in multiple tees, liberal driving areas, often edged by water on one side, and multi-level greens.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Often considered "King of the Waterfalls," because he's built more waterscapes of pools and cascades on his courses than any other architect. His bunkers, while shallow, were graceful curves and fingers of sand. His greens often featured two distinct levels.