Harvard Design seminar in June

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Harvard University Graduate School of Design will offer next month its annual Golf Course Design and Development Institute, a group of six courses related to the planning and design of golf courses and resorts.

The course offerings: Golf Course Development: Rounds, Rates, Revenues, and the Importance of Designing to the Market (to be offered June 16-17), Golf Course Development: Design Foresight and Impacts of Cost and Operating Expense (offered June 18), Golf Course Environmental Considerations (June 19-20), Golf Course Design (June 23-24), Golf Clubhouse Design and Site Planning (June 25-26), and Golf/Residential Site Planning (June 27-28). These courses may be taken in any combination for tuition discounts.

Instructors include golf course designers Geoffrey S. Cornish and Robert M. Graves; architects Kenneth De-May and Richard Diedrick; designers and environmentalists William Burbank and the course architect, Dr. Michael Hurdzan; golf development consultant Barbara Hanley; landscape architect and planner David Howerton; attorney Robin Baker; developers John Grab, Tony Green and Jimbo Grisebaum; and course architect and former professional golfer David Esler.

For a catalogue, contact the Office of External Relations, GSD, Harvard University at 617-495-1680.

Hurdzan makes news in desert

PALM DESERT, Calif. — The new Desert Willow Golf Resort North Course here features acres and acres of sand, a characteristic that course architect Michael Hurdzan said is just the way a desert course should be. Apparently, Smithsonian magazine agrees, as the North Course was one of several golf courses featured in a March 1997 article examining the trend toward more environmentally sound golf course design.

Hurdzan, who designed the course with PGA Tour player John Cook, told a crowd gathered for the recent grand opening at Desert Willow that natural is better, especially when it comes to landscaping and vegetation between and around the fairways, tees and greens.

"I think golf courses have become too plastic," Hurdzan said. "Our environmental awareness since the mid- to late-1980s has gotten better. The best golf is played on natural courses. Even though it is tough to have a natural golf course in the desert, let's do the best we can. Let's try to use less water and less fertilizer and less pesticides. Let's try to bring the native vegetation in."

Hurdzan and Cook are expected to break ground on a second 18-hole course at Desert Willow, the South Course, this summer. The South Course is expected to have more large trees, more grass and more lakes.

Clearing underway at S.C. development, minus architect

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The already active Rock Hill-are golf course market will soon have another player.

An 18-hole public golf course, tentatively named Plantation Hills, has scheduled a spring 1998 opening. Clearing has started for the golf course, which does not yet have a designer lined up. The course will be part of the $9.5 million Eastview Acres golf and residential community being developed on 540 acres off S.C. 5 west of Rock Hill. Eastview Acres, developed by Joe Miktuk and his J.C.M. Corp., will feature 10 lakes, tennis courts, a swimming pool and hiking trails.

The Rock Hill area is currently home to the private, 18-hole Rock Hill Country Club, the 18-hole daily-fee Carolina Downs (opened in 1985), and the new 18-hole Waterford Golf Club.

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