



A model of a proposed resort in Lebanon planned by G&G Hauser of Austria.

Austrian Hauser brothers eye Lebanese golf projects

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Austrian golf course architects Gerold and Gunter Hauser are performing feasibility studies for the first public golf courses in Lebanon.

Three new resorts have hired the brothers for the work, as many hope for a boom in tourism, recreation and sports centers after many years in which

Lebanon has been embroiled in war between political and religious parties and unfriendly neighbors.

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like Byblos and Baalbek (where more than 16 cultures from the Phoenicians to Romans are registered), snow-capped mountains and ski resorts speckle this country where the famous cedar of Lebanon grows everywhere.

Currently, the only golf course is near Beirut airport and is strictly private. High fees make golf unaffordable for most of the inhabitants and even the tourists.

"Within the year of 2000 there will be built at least three golf schools, driving ranges, par-3 courses and putting ranges," predicted Gerold Hauser.

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Closer to home for the Hausers is former train factory Wr. Neustadt near Vienna, Austria, which is set to become the home of an innovative golf center.

"It will be the first indoor nine-hole course in the world and will include a shopping mall with golf stores, exhibition booths and experts offices," said Gunther Hauser.

The factory is the former RAX-Werke. During World War II, it was a factory for jets and rockets. After the war, trains, ships and wagons were made in this structure. It contains more than 30,000 square feet of space, spanning 300 meters in length by 100 meters in width and reaching 28 meters high.

"This hall is really amazing," Gunther said. "Every hole of the par-3 course should be built in a recognizable style, from American to Australian, from African to Asian, and finally to European."

Outdoors will be a golf school, with driving range, chipping and putting areas and a putting course. This last will include Zielgolf, a worldwide patent of G&G Hauser, as well as a mini-adventure golf course for children, a putting course for handicapped people and a low-budget hotel with 200 beds.

Start of the planning is complete and construction will start 2001, with parts of Golf World scheduled to be opened in 2002 and 2003.

The owner of the project, Christian Blazek, is trying to find companies to take part in several workshops. Interested parties should call 43-2672-83979-17 or send e-mail: blazek@magnet.at.

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