

**TRANSFORMATION OF GOLF RESORTS FROM
COLONIAL TO CONTEMPORARY ERA
BAR:613 RESEARCH THESIS**

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING SCIENCE
THE SCHOOL OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT

Golf course community developments exercise the unique opportunity of preserving and creating wildlife habitat. Industries in the management and development of Golf Courses have become particularly cognizant of their environmental responsibilities in recent times and are responsive to new research. This thesis research has a particular intent to provide guidance and encouragement for Architects designing contemporary golf resorts. Specifically, the author analyzes the transformation of golf courses and golf resorts and the trajectory they have taken to become more modern or more-so contemporary.

The author undertakes an authentication of how information was obtained for this study. This ranges from learning from related selection of case studies, data collection techniques, literature review, assumptions made, limitations in the research process and alternative methods used in the study.

The various facilities of the case studies examined are juxtaposed into a comparison which brings about an analysis which relates them with similar cases in the world, hence determining the challenges that face the facility developments and possible solutions in form of recommendations. This is to match the new world trends in planning and design of spaces within the golf facilities in Kenya. The author has chosen to study with the intension of investigating the various forces that influence the popularity of these spaces. These forces are both external (landscape design, built form, support facilities) as well as internal (entrances, circulation, interior design-light, color, lines and texture, organization of space, thermal, comfort-visual ventilation, acoustics and effect of external and internal sources of noise)

The author undertakes a study into the transformation of golf resorts from colonial to contemporary era hence the clarity of the fact that the developments are changing to accomodate an elaborate and chic design of golf courses and club houses. This transformation is in terms of materials, structure, layout, ventilation as well as orientation which helps derive appropriate recommendations and conclusions.

DECLARATION

This is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has not been presented for the award of any degree in this or any other university.

Signed.....Date.....
MACHARIA IAN WAMBUGU - STUDENT

This thesis is submitted in part fulfillment of the University of Nairobi examination board requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Nairobi

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DEDICATION

To God Almighty for being with me every step of this journey through Architecture school and all those who have been involved in my study in whichever positive way

Thank you All

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this thesis research is to provide guidance and encouragement for Architects designing within golf course community developments. The thesis analyzes the transformation of golf resorts from the colonial era to contemporary era of design. This study is chronological hence is a breakdown of the transformation of the golf resorts club house from colonial era to the contemporary era the likes of Royal golf club, Eldoret club, Karen country club and new courses like vipingo ridge.

The information obtained for this study ranges from learning from related literature review, selection of case studies, data collection techniques, assumptions made, limitations in the research process and alternative methods used in the study.

The examination of various facilities of the case studies concerned and giving a comparison with similar cases around the world. This is to match the new world trends in planning and design of spaces within the golf facilities in Kenya.

The forces being investigated in design of these spaces include external i.e landscape design, built form, support facilities, as well as internal entrances, circulation, interior design-light, colour, texture organization of space, comfort-visual, thermal, ventilation, acoustics and effect of external and internal sources of noise.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The specific focus of this thesis research is to provide technical guidance and encouragement for Architects designing contemporary golf courses. Developments like Royal golf club, Eldoret club, Karen country club and new courses like vipingo ridge have been upgraded from the old colonial era of design. The investigation is about the chronological transformation of golf resorts club houses from the colonial designs to the contemporary chic designs which are generally more modern. The thesis hence settles upon the idea that there is a continuation of change from the colonial era to the modern era which is contemporary.

This thesis also seeks to investigate how Architecture serves the game of golf.

Whether there is a specific Architecture of a golf club.

How golf resorts carry the character of the area.

1.3 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

- To analyse the transformation of golf resorts from the older colonial resorts to new contemporary golf resorts e.g vipingo ridge in kilifi.
- To investigate the use of modern eco-friendly golf course maintenance techniques e.g the use of oxidation ponds and water recycling for irrigation of the golf courses.
- The main objective is to isolate the identity of the golf resorts to their time of construction

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

- Is the change of design in golf resorts over time a chronological journey through time?
- If the transformation of these golf resorts is due to the availability of materials or the choice of materials?
- If the transformation of these golf resorts is subject to principles of design or the designer's preferences?

1.5 STUDY JUSTIFICATION & SIGNIFICANCE.

This study justifies the recreational purpose of golf resorts and more so seeks to determine the cause and effect of its change from the colonial era to the contemporary era in the world over. The selection of golf resorts rather than other establishments is due to their rich colonial heritage and the fact that there are several of these golf resorts which are spread out through the country as a result of the white settlers intending to carry the identity of these golf resorts to the towns they settled in.

The significance of looking into golf resorts is in order to get a futuristic projection of how golf resorts will be designed in the future and this will be beneficial to the Architects who will undertake the design of these golf resorts.

1.6 SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF STUDY.

This study limits itself to the chronological change of golf resorts from the olden colonial era designs to the contemporary golf course designs the golf resorts include Royal golf club, Eldoret club, Karen country club and new courses like vipingo ridge.

1.7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The bulk of the analysis will be done through case studies because:

- i)Material available for literature review is limited as few books dwell on the subject of residential dwelling units in golf courses.
- ii)Countrywide few golf courses with residential dwelling units have been completed.

The rest of the study will be undertaken through.

- i)literature review.
- ii)Verbal interviews with proprietors and users of the golf resorts.
- iii)Observation of the spaces in use by the golf resorts members.

- iv)verbal interviews with the consultants involved in the construction if possible.
- v)Analysis of the developments within golf environments in the country and with the help of drawings if available.

The author has decided to study an Architectural design of a golf resort like Royal golf club, Eldoret club, Karen country club and new courses like vipingo ridge and any other local architectural design of a golf resort influenced by a change from colonial to contemporary architecture.

CHAPTER BREAKDOWN OF THIS STUDY

Chapter 1 - introduction

This is the introductory chapter and comprises of the introductory remarks into the study.It constitutes problem statement, aims and objectives, scope and limitations,research questions, research methodology as well as chapter breakdown.it is a pacesetting chapter of what direction the study takes in subsequent chapters.

Chapter 2 - Literature Review

This chapter comprises of literature review of previous works by other scholars, some of which have been quoted in this chapter and the sources appropriately acknowledged, purely for academic purposes.This helps in understanding the subsequent study

Chapter 3 - Research Methodology

This chapter is the research methodology chapter.This is the sequential scientific way in which the author collects and analyses data. This helps in further elaborating and justifying the information obtained as reliable and thus can be depended upon .several methods have been used including observation, field work,photography and most importantly case studies.

Chapter 4 and chapter 5 - International case studies and local field work and analysis

This chapter is comprised of an array of 2 literature reviews dubbed case studies as well as field work analysis for the purpose of this study.They are basically intended to be a precursor of world trend into the cultural influence in the architectural design of golf courses.

Chapter 6 - Conclusions and Recomendations

This chapter is the broader view of conclusions.Chapter 3 and chapter 4 have been concluded at their level of analysis yet this chapter gives overall conclusions for the entire study based combined analysis of the entire study.The study closes with an appendix of bibliography.