



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ECOLOGE DESIGN | ECOTOURISM PLANNING | ARCHITECTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY

HITESH MEHTA Knowledge Creation Resume

SUMMARY

Mr. Mehta is one of the world's leading authorities, practitioners and researchers on holistic eco-planning and eco-design, and both the landscape architectural and architectural aspects of ecolodges. In July 2006, **National Geographic** Adventure magazine identified Mr. Mehta as one of five Sustainable Tourism Pioneers in the world. In July 2005 he was named by **Men's Journal**, a New York based Magazine as the "25 Most Powerful People in Adventure" in the world.

From 1997-2006, Mr. Mehta was a Vice-President and Head of the Ecotourism and Environmental Planning Market Sector at EDSA, (Florida) the world's largest Landscape Architecture and Planning Firm. In January 2007, Mr. Mehta re-started his firm **HM Design** which began in Kenya in 1991 and is currently working on projects in Costa Rica, Kenya, Indonesia, China, Panama and Dominica.

For 24 yrs, Hitesh has been creating knowledge and sharing it around the globe. An accomplished author, teacher, researcher and international recipient of several project awards, Hitesh exemplifies the holistic landscape architect responsible for spreading his very own "quadruple bottom line" philosophy of sustainability: financial; environmental; social and spiritual. In Florida and Kenya, he has taught Landscape Architecture courses within University Architecture Departments. Hitesh is also an environmental planner, professional architect, photographer, and Hall of Fame cricket player from his birthplace, Kenya.

WORKS

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Hitesh's 22-year professional career in Landscape Architecture spans over 30 countries and has worked in offices in Nairobi, San Francisco, Oakland CA, Silver Springs, MD and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. From 1997-2007, Mr. Mehta was a Vice-President at EDSA where he started and led the first Ecotourism Planning Market Sector of any large company in the world. For the past ten years, he has dedicated his professional approaches to only eco-projects and was Project Manager for the multi-award winning Crosswaters Ecolodge.

2007-Present **HM Design**, President, *Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*
1997 – 2007 **EDSA Inc.** Vice President, *Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*
1996 – 1997 **CHK Planners and Architects.** Landscape Designer *Silver Springs, MD*
1990 – 1996 **HM Design**, Founder and Principal, *Nairobi, Kenya*
1989 – 1990 **Amphion Environmental**, Environmental Planner, *Oakland, California*
1988 **EDAW Intern**, *San Francisco, California*
1986-1988 **Mehraz Ehsani and Associates** Design Associate, *Nairobi, Kenya*
1979-1985 *Various Design/ Build firms, Internships while I was a student. Nairobi, Kenya*

HITESH MEHTA | ASLA, RIBA, ASSOCIATE AIA, MAAKA, MAAKLA

232 NORTH-EAST 16TH TERRACE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301, USA

T/F: 954.525.8358 | E: HM@H-M-DESIGN.COM | W: WWW.H-M-DESIGN.COM | SKYPE: NAIROBI2



PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Full member, American Society of Landscape Architects.
- Associate, The American Institute of Architects.
- Member, Royal Institute of British Architects
- Registered corporate member, Landscape Architects' Chapter of the Architectural Association of Kenya (A.A.K.).
- Registered corporate member, Architects' Chapter of the A.A.K.

PROJECT AWARDS

Mr. Mehta was Principal/Project Manager/Team Member for landscape architecture, architecture and planning projects that won following awards:

- 2010 **"American Society Of Landscape Architect's (ASLA) General Design Honor Award"** for Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, China
- 2010 **"WTTTC Tourism for Tomorrow Destination Stewardship Finalist Award"** – Ministry of Tourism, Montenegro (2010).
- 2009 **"China Best Design Hotels Awards"** for 'Best Concept Hotel' and 'Judges Choice' to Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, Shanghai, China
- 2008 **"India Ministry of Tourism Best Planned National Park Award"** to Corbett National Park, India
- 2006 **"American Society Of Landscape Architect's (ASLA)" Research and Site Analysis Award"** for Crosswaters Ecolodge, China
- 2001 **"American Institute of Architect's (AIA) Merit Award"** for Bahsecehir New Urbanist Town, Turkey
- 2000 **"Architects Association of Kenya (AAK) Commercial Category Award"** for Diagnostic Center, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2000 **"American Society Of Landscape Architect's (ASLA) Award of Excellence"** for EDAW Intern Program, USA
- 1998 **"United Nations (UN) Habitat Award"** for Bahsecehir New Urbanist Town, Turkey
- 1994 **"Tacoma Chapter AIA Design Award"** for Commerce Connections and Public Spaces Transit Project in downtown Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 1993 **"Washington State Concrete Institute Grand Award"** for Commerce Connections and Public Spaces Transit Project, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 1991 **"Most Creative Stand"** awards for Reef Hotels at the Kenyan Tourism Exhibition Show, Nairobi, Kenya
- 1989 **"AAK Residential Category Award"** for Chestnut Groves, Nairobi, Kenya

KNOWLEDGE CREATION

EDUCATION

Master of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Berkeley, 1989, GPA-3.94
Bachelor of Architecture, University of Nairobi, Kenya, 1985, Summa Cum Laude

AUTHOR/ EDITOR of BOOKS



Hitesh Mehta is responsible for writing/editing the two seminal books on planning/design and guidelines for Ec lodge Development. His latest book- **Authentic Ec lodges** is the first coffee-table book in the field of sustainable tourism. *“HarperCollins is both honored and delighted to publish Hitesh Mehta’s **Authentic Ec lodges**. As one of the world’s leaders in sustainable landscapes, Mehta is a visionary in his field. **Authentic Ec lodges** promises to be a must-have reference guide, perfect for anyone interested in the future of tourism facilities, sustainable landscape architecture, and the health and well-being of our planet”* Signe Bergstrom, Editor Collins Design.

Hitesh Mehta’s first book – **International Ec lodge Guidelines** is now used as a text-book in several universities and colleges around the world. *“This book is excellent: good information; clearly organized; comprehensive”*. Clare Cooper Marcus – Professor Emeritus- University of California at Berkeley. *“By far the best and most exhaustive book to-date covering sustainable design for site protective tourism”* Stanley Selengut - Ex-Board Member, National Park Service USA.

- 2010 **“Authentic Ec lodges”**- 280-page book published by Harper Collins, USA.
- 2009 **“Wild Beauty Accommodations– Montenegro ”** - published by GTZ, Germany.
- 2002 **“International Ec lodge Guidelines”**- published by TIES, USA

AUTHOR AND CO-AUTHOR OF CHAPTERS in BOOKS

- 2008 **“Ecotourism in Madagascar: How a Sleeping Beauty is finally awakening”** in the book “Responsible Tourism: Critical issues for conservation and development”, Earthscan Publishing, London.
- 2007 **“Towards an International Ec lodge Certification”** –in the book “Quality Assurance and Certification in Ecotourism” -published by CARI, Australia.
- 2006 **“Lodge du Grouped de Ngwesie”** –in the book “Le Guide des Destinations Indigenes” - published by Esprit, France.
- 2004 **“Visual Impacts in Tourism”**. in the UNWTO Book – “Indicators in Sustainable Tourism” published in Madrid, Spain.
- 2004 **“Oman Declaration on Built Environments for Sustainable Tourism”** –UNESCO
- 2002 **“Site planning” and “Architecture Design”** in the International Guidelines Book, published by TIES, Washington DC.
- 2002 **“Cairns Charter on Partnerships for Ecotourism”** – Ecotourism Australia
- 1999 **“Ecotourism and Environment Handbook”** – PATA, California.

RESEARCH PAPERS WRITTEN AND PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

- 2003 **“Small Island Sustainable Planning; A Case for West Caicos”**
- 2003 **“North West Point Sustainable Tourism Plan”** for UNESCO World Heritage Convention Virtual Congress
- 2002 **“The Sacred Cow in Ecotourism Planning”**
- 1998 Provided research for a chapter in **“People Places”** – Clare Cooper Marcus.
- 1996 **“Decay of Nairobi Urban Open Space”**
- 1995 **“Lodge Design in Kenya : Working towards a new paradigm”**
- 1994 **“Sustainable Design and Technology”**
- 1993 **“Building Technology in Kenya: The Challenge”**

ARTICLES WRITTEN IN MAGAZINES AND NEWSLETTERS

- 2009 **“Faint Footprints”**, Discovery Channel Magazine



- 2009 **“Ecodesign in Rural and Remote Australia”**, Segra On-Line Magazine
- 2006 **“Going Green”**, Courier Magazine
- 2004 **“The Ahimsa of Ecotourism”**, Jain Spirit Magazine
- 2000 **“Community Empowerment through Planning”** Green Hotelier Magazine
- 1999 **“Here be Ecolodges”** – Quarterly News letter of The International Ecotourism Society

PEER- REVIEW OF FOLLOWING BOOKS

- 2008 **“Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who owns paradise?”** – second edition – Martha Honey (2008). Island Press.
- 2005 **“Saving Paradise, the story of Sukau Rainforest Lodge”** - Albert Teo
- 2003 **“The Business of Ecolodges”** - Edward A. Sanders and Elizabeth Halpenny.
- 2004 **“Nature Lodges and Justification for Biodiversity Conservation”**, TIES.
- 2003 **“Marine Ecotourism Guidelines”** - Elizabeth Halpenny.
- 2000 **“Rethinking National Parks for the 21st Century”** - National Park Service, USA
- 2000 **“Designing Tourism Naturally”** – Western Australia Tourism Commission
- 1999 **“The Green House Effect – An integrated approach to sustainable tourism and resort development”** - Sweeting J, Bruner A. (2000). Conservation International.

INTERVIEWS / FEATURES / MENTIONS IN MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS

Interviewed/featured/mentioned in over 85 international magazines / newspapers / books including:

- 2010 New York Times; Hinge (Hong Kong), Brunei Observer
- 2009 Discovery Channel Magazine; National Geographic (Adventure); GEO Magazine (France); Sydney Morning Herald (Australia); China Urban Design
- 2008 National Geographic (Traveler); China Architectural Journal; Outside Magazine
- 2007 Idiot’s Guide to Green Living (Book); Conde Nast Traveler; Chiken (Japan)
- 2006 Travel and Leisure; Awemainta (Aruba); El Universal (Colombia)
- 2005 Mens Journal; Architecture Update (India); Indagare (USA)
- 2003 World Ecotour Magazine (Brazil); Daily Nation (Kenya); Oman Daily Observer
- 2002 Caribbean Travel and Life; Le Figaro (France);
- 2000 Landscape Architecture Magazine (USA); Phillipine Daily Inquirer
- 1999 Japan Landscape Design; New Sabah Times (Malaysia); Audubon

TEACHING and MENTORING

Hitesh Mehta’s academic career in the profession dates back to 1990 when he taught at the University of Nairobi, Kenya and later became Chairman of the Landscape Architecture Section. He is credited as having taught the first English course in Africa on “Theory and History of Landscape Architecture”.

- 1996 - Present Mentoring and assisting Thesis students (Landscape Architecture and Architecture) from all around the world including USA, Australia, Kenya, Trinidad, England, India.
- 1997 – Present Conducted lectures at universities in USA (6), Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Kenya, South Africa, China, Brunei and Costa Rica.
- 1997 – Present Conducting for George Washington University and The International Ecotourism Society, 1-5 day Eco- Planning and Eco-Design workshops in Australia, India, Kenya, USA, Philippines, Rwanda, Canada, Australia, Caribbean and Malaysia



- 2004 – 2005 Adjunct Professor - Taught “**Site Planning**” course at Architecture Department - Florida Atlantic University
- 2003 Presented on “**Ecotourism Planning**” in ASLA online seminar
- 2000 – 2001 Adjunct Professor - Taught “**Ecotourism Planning**” course at FIU Hospitality School
- 1992 – 1995 Chairman of Landscape Architecture, Dept. of Architecture, Uni. of Nairobi
- 1990 – 1995 Assistant Professor (US Equivalent) in Landscape Architecture at Uni. of Nairobi

PUBLIC SPEAKING, MODERATING AND FACILITATING

Hitesh has a global reach and is a well sought-after International Speaker and Moderator. In July 2005 he was named by **Men’s Journal** as the “*25 Most Powerful People in Adventure*” in the world for his influence in the planet on the importance of Physical Planning in Adventure Tourism.

- 1995-Present** Presented as a Keynote Speaker/Guest Speaker, acted as Panel Moderator and Facilitated Seminars in over 60 Conferences, Seminars in 30 countries including two ASLA, three IFLA, three APA, two AIA and 4 LABASH conferences.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

- 2008 CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) - TV
- 2001 NBC 6 TV
- 1995 Kenya Broadcasting Corporation TV
- 2010 “**Naansense**”, Washington DC Indian Radio Channel
- 2009 “**By Design**”, ABC National Radio (Australia)
- 2006 Power 96 FM Radio. Interview on Green Roofs on behalf of ASLA.
- 2005 Turks and Caicos Local Radio

PHOTOGRAPHY

Landscape architecture and project related Photographs have appeared in over 40 books/magazines/newsletters in all six continents including following selected publications:

- 2010 “**Authentic Ecolodges**”- All 600 photos in published by Harper Collins, USA.
- 2005 “**Ecolodges: Exploring Opportunities for Sustainable Business**”, World Bank.
- 2000 “**Tourism and Biodiversity: Mapping Tourism's Global Footprint**”. Costas Christ, Conservation International.
- 2006 **Landscape Architecture** Magazine
- 2008 **National Geographic Adventure** Magazine
- 2001 “**Eco Guide**”- Distributed to over 500,000 households through Miami Herald.

SERVICE

- Part of a group of four that was responsible for creating the Landscape Architects Chapter in Kenya which until today is one of only two Chapters on the whole Continent.
- Currently creating for IFLA, a brochure on Landscape Architecture in Africa. Organized the first Conference on “Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa”. International Federation of Landscape Architecture (IFLA) Education & Africa Committee Member.



- Reviewed and made comments on the first draft of the LEED Criteria (1996)
- Is/was a judge and on-site inspector for the Tourism for Tomorrow (WTTC), World Legacy Awards for Heritage Tourism (National Geographic/Conservation International) and Ecotourism Awards (Conde Nast Traveler).
- Member of Juries for both FAU and FIU Architecture/LA Studio student presentations.
- Longest Serving Board Member of The International Ecotourism Society (1999-present)
- Advisory Board member of Adventure Council
- One of five Founding members of Ecotourism Kenya.
- International Advisor to Japan Ec lodge Association and French Ecotourism Association.