



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

## HITESH MEHTA Two-page Resume

### SUMMARY

Mr. Mehta is one of the world's leading authorities, researchers and practitioners on sustainable tourism and ecotourism physical planning and both the landscape architectural and architectural aspects of ecolodges. In July 2006, **National Geographic** identified Mr. Mehta as one of five Sustainable Tourism *Pioneers* in the world for his Ecotourism/ Protected Area planning work and for his knowledge dissemination through books, research papers, teaching, international conference key-note presentations and eco- landscape design and planning workshops. Mr. Mehta is also a *Professional Photographer* and Hall Of Fame *Cricket* player from Kenya.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

- With 22 years of experience in Landscape Architecture and Planning, Mr. Mehta has worked in over 30 countries in six continents.
- From 1997-2007, Mr. Mehta was a Vice-President at EDSA where he started and led the first Ecotourism Planning Market Sector of any company in the world. He was Project manager for the multi-award winning Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa. He also worked on Sustainable Tourism Plans for National Parks that protect the last remaining endangered species such as Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda; Chimpanzees in Uganda and Rwanda; Giant Pandas in China; Tigers in India and Black Rhinos in Kenya.
- 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, China, Namibia, Indonesia, Panama and Dominica.

### project awards

- Mr. Mehta was Principal/Project Manager/ Team Member for landscape architecture and planning projects that won following awards: **ASLA General Design Honor & Research and Site Analysis Awards** for Crosswaters Ecolodge, China (2010 and 2006); **WTTC Tourism for Tomorrow Destination Stewardship Finalist Award** for Montenegro (2010); **China Best Design Hotels Awards** for 'Best Concept Hotel' and 'Judges Choice' to Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, Shanghai, China (2009); **India Ministry of Tourism Best Planned National Park Award** for Corbett National Park, India (2007-2008); **AIA Merit Award** for Bahsecehir New Urbanist Town, Turkey (2001) ; **Architects Association of Kenya (AAK) Commercial Category Award** for Diagnostic Center, Nairobi, Kenya (2000); **ASLA Award of Excellence** for EDAW Intern Program, USA (2000); **United Nations (UN) Habitat Award** for Bahsecehir New Urbanist Town, Turkey (1998) ; **Tacoma Chapter AIA Design Award** for Commerce Connections and Public Spaces Transit Project in downtown Tacoma, Washington, USA (1994); **Washington State Concrete Institute Grand Award** for Commerce Connections and Public Spaces Transit Project, Tacoma, Washington, USA (1993) and **AAK Residential Category Award** for Chestnut Groves, Nairobi (1989).

### KNOWLEDGE CREATION

- Editor/Author of three books: **Authentic Ecolodges** (Harper Collins, NY), **International Ecolodge Guidelines** (The International Ecotourism Society, DC), **Wild Beauty Accommodation Handbook for Montenegro** (GTZ, Germany).
- Author of seven research-based book chapters: **"Site planning" and "Architecture"** in the **International Ecolodge Guidelines Book**, published by TIES, Washington DC; **"Towards an International Ecolodge**

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

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*Certification* –in the book **“Quality Assurance and Certification in Ecotourism”** -published by CARI, Australia; *“Visual Impacts in Tourism”*. in the UNWTO Book – **“Indicators in Sustainable Tourism”** published in Madrid, Spain; *“Lodge du Grouped de Ngwesie”* –in the book **“Le Guide des Destinations Indigenes”** - published by Esprit, France; *“Ecotourism in Madagascar: How a Sleeping Beauty is finally awakening”* in the book **“Responsible Tourism: Critical issues for conservation and development”**, Earthscan Publishing, London and *“Ecolodge Planning and Design”* in the Ecotourism Handbook – **Pacific Asia Travel Association.**

- Author of eight Research Papers: **“North West Point Sustainable Tourism Plan”**; **“The Sacred Cow in Ecotourism Planning”**; **“Small Island Sustainable Planning; A case for West Caicos”**; **“Lodge Design in Kenya : Working towards a new paradigm”**; **“Decay of Nairobi Urban Open Space”**; **“Sustainable Design and Technology”**; **“Building Technology in Kenya: The Challenge”**.
- Provided research for a chapter in **“People Places”** – Clare Cooper Marcus.
- Peer Reviewer of following books: **“Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who own paradise? – second edition”** – Martha Honey (2008). Island Press; **“The Green House Effect – An integrated approach to sustainable tourism and resort development”** - Sweeting J., Bruner A., Rosenfeld A. (2000). Conservation International; **“The Business of Ec lodges”** - Edward A. Sanders and Elizabeth Halpenny. ; **“Marine Ecotourism Guidelines”** - Elizabeth Halpenny; **“Saving Paradise, the story of Sukau Rainforest Lodge”** - Albert Teo and Carol Patterson; **“Rethinking the National Parks for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”** - National Park Service, USA; **“Designing Tourism Naturally”** – Western Australia Tourism Commission; **“Nature Lodge Footprint and Justification for Biodiversity Conservation”** (2005) World Bank.
- Co Author of **“Oman Declaration on Built Environments for Sustainable Tourism”** – UNWTO and UNESCO; **“Cairns Charter on Partnerships for Ecotourism”** – Ecotourism Australia;
- Conducted for George Washington University and The International Ecotourism Society, 5-day Eco- Planning and Eco-Design workshops in India, Kenya, USA, Canada, Australia and Malaysia
- Adjunct Professor - Taught **“Site Planning”** course at Florida Atlantic University (2004)
- Adjunct Professor - Taught **“Ecotourism Planning”** course at FIU (2000).
- Chairman of Landscape Architecture, Dept. of Architecture, Uni. of Nairobi (1992-95)
- Assistant Professor (US Equivalent) in Landscape Architecture at University of Nairobi (1990-1995)
- Presented as a Keynote Speaker/Guest Speaker at over 60 Conferences, Seminars in 30 countries including two ASLA, three APA, two AIA and 4 LABASH conferences.
- Presented on **“Ecotourism Planning”** in ASLA online seminar.(2003)
- Co-Organized IFLA’s Seminar on **“Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa”** in Nairobi, Kenya. (1994).
- Interviewed/featured/mentioned in over 85 international magazines/newspapers/books.
- Landscape architecture and project related Photographs have appeared in over 40 books / magazines / newsletters in all six continents

## SERVICE

- International Federation of Landscape Architecture (IFLA) Education & Africa Committee Member
- Member of Juries for both FAU and FIU Architecture/LA Studio student presentations.
- Longest Serving Board Member of The International Ecotourism Society (1999-present)
- Mr. Mehta is/was a judge and on-site inspector for the Tourism for Tomorrow (WTTC), World Legacy Awards for Heritage Tourism (National Geographic/Conservation International), Ecotourism and World Saver Awards (Conde Nast Traveler) and Green Hotelier Awards (Caribbean Hotel Association).
- Reviewed and made comments on the first draft of the LEED Criteria (1996)
- Advisory Board member of Adventure Council
- One of five Founding members of Ecotourism Kenya.
- International Advisor for the Japan Ec lodge Association and the French Ecotourism Association.
- Organized the first ever street children Exhibition in Kenya