



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

## HITESH MEHTA

### Community Planning Resume

#### SUMMARY

Mr. Mehta is one of the world's leading authorities, practitioners and researchers on holistic eco-planning and eco-design. With 22 years of experience in Landscape Architecture and Planning, Mr. Mehta has worked in over 30 countries in six continents including several conservation community projects in the US. An accomplished author (3 Books), teacher, researcher and international recipient of several community planning project awards, Mr. Mehta exemplifies the holistic land planner responsible for spreading his very own "quadruple bottom line" philosophy of sustainability: financial; environmental; social and spiritual. Mr. Mehta has conducted research on new-urbanist and communities in Florida and sustainable communities / eco villages in other parts of the world.

From 1997-2006, Mr. Mehta was a Vice-President and Head of the 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 community and ecolodge projects in China, Namibia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Indonesia and Dominica.

In Florida and Kenya, he has taught Landscape Architecture courses within University Architecture Departments. Hitesh is also a professional architect, photographer, and Hall of Fame cricket player from his birthplace, Kenya. 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.

#### PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Mr. Mehta has had various experiences in sustainable community planning projects, including:

- **Qianshan New Village**, Zhuhai, China. Mr. Mehta is the Planning and Design Team Leader for the development of a 15,000 resident Eco-Village which offers a high quality mixed-urban village product, integrated in a cultural and environmental atmosphere under the concept of high-end and middle-end residential multi-story apartments, 4-star hotel, retail, temple and museum. Mr. Mehta's firm in conjunction with other consultants is providing full services from Conceptual Planning to Construction Observation (1/10 to present).
- **Preserve at San Miquel**, Panama. Mr. Mehta's firm *HM Design* is currently performing a detailed environmental and social site analysis of a 7500 acre private park in one of the most bio diverse regions of Panama – Darien. The Terms of Reference is to develop a low density minimal impact Overall Sustainable Development Master Plan which is sustainably planned and designed, and to produce an illustrated development report booklet which is to be used to attract buyers. The

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programme for development and conservation includes 500 homes, a marina residential village, ecolodges, ecoresorts, scientific research facility, large-scale reforestation, trails and refurbishment of existing Native American, Mestizo and Black communities. (9/09 to present).

- **St. James Island**, North West Florida - Mr. Mehta is part of the team that prepared a 'vision statement' and conceptual master plan for a 39,000 acre island south of Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle. The program includes several waterfront communities, retail centers, recreation areas and conservation lands. Mr. Mehta was also responsible for the detailed environmental analysis using GIS (6/02 to 12/02).
- **Canouan Island Sustainable Master Plan**, St. Vincent and the Grenadines British West Indies. Mr. Mehta was the project manager of a sustainable development master plan for the 2000-acre island of Canouan. The intention is to design an all-island conceptual land use plan, which is sustainably designed and engineered. EDSA carried out a land suitability analysis using the layering process of GIS Arcview software, and organized several stakeholder meetings to actively engage the local community in the preparation of the master plan which included several housing types (3/02 to 01/03).
- **Northwest Point**, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos, British West Indies - Mr. Mehta is part of the EDSA team that is designing a sustainable master plan for a 10,000-acre area in North-West Providenciales. This very unique and pristine site has 4 national parks and reserves. The master plan includes a long range community plan for the local population, an ecolodge and Park Ranger station, a 40-room Amman resort, a 200-room ecoresort, and a 18-hole Championship Audubon Certified Sustainable Golf Course (1/02 to 2/03).
- **Rivercamps**, North West Florida - Mr. Mehta was the project manager for this innovative and unique environmentally friendly riverfront community development. EDSA prepared land use plans and conceptual master plans for two Rivercamp properties-Sandy Creek and Back Bay. Program elements include: 1-5 acre cabin sites, Riverhouse, Boathouse, Community docks, Covered Boat storage, softball field, stables and Reflective Chapels (11/01 to 12/02).
- **Awosting Reserve**, Upstate New York - Mr. Mehta was part of the team that prepared a conceptual plan for a Conservation Community at the base of the Shawangunk Ridge. The 500 acre mountain community included a central public square and plots that were sensitively sited amongst indigenous vegetation. A very detailed multi-layered environmental and visual site analysis ensured that the community sat lightly on the land. The clients for this project are the well-renowned sustainable community developers, Chaffin and Light (8/01 to 10/02).
- **Vagamon Hill Retreat**, Kerala, India - Mr. Mehta is the project manager for a unique environmentally and socially friendly ecotourism and resort community destination in the Conservation International 'hotspot' of Western Ghats. The Master Development Plan for Vagamon as planned by EDSA, comprises of a 30-year overall Perspective Plan and 1-5 year Site Development Plan. Vagamon will be a hill destination that draws its inspiration from philosophical and spiritual traditions that are uniquely Indian. These traditions focus on the close and inextricable linkage in Indian philosophy between nature, spirituality and the self. Part of the development will draw upon the vedic principles of country planning (6/01 to 6/03).
- **Family Island Sustainable Development**, Mayaguana, Bahamas. – Mr. Mehta was the project



manager of a sustainable master-planning project for Mayaguana, Bahamas. The intention is to design an all-island conceptual land use plan, which is sustainably designed and engineered. E D S A's concept is to creatively merge the opportunities that the island offers with economics and planning that will lead to a successful low impact resort destination and engage the family islands in the Bahamas prosperity for years to come. The intention is for Mayaguana to develop into a flagship sustainable development project that would benefit both the local villages and the developer without compromising the environment (6/99 to 4/00).

- **Monte Carlo Resort**, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico – Mr.Mehta was the project manager for an environmental audit that E D S A prepared on an existing master plan of a 500-acre resort and residential community in the southwestern tip of Puerto Rico. The firm then completed a functional relationship plan that would respect the land and which suggested ecodesign techniques for all aspects of the landscape design. E D S A also researched the western region of Puerto Rico and prepared an ecotourism, adventure and heritage tourism activity plan for the resort, which is planned to become the largest solar-powered community in the world (5/99 to 7/99).
- **Tabuan Jaya New Township** - a 3,500-acre new- urbanist town in Sarawak State, Malaysia. Mr. Mehta was the Project Manager and designed several conceptual plans, and prepared a booklet of design ideas and philosophy for the client. (3/98 to 7/98).
- **South Pointe** - a condominium/hotel project located on 18 acres in Miami Beach, consisting of three 43-story buildings. Mr. Mehta was the Senior Designer and participated in the final site plan and schematic design concept for all landscaping, including the entry and recreation areas, pedestrian walkways, hospitality and swimming pool areas and beach accesses (9/97 to 5/98).
- **Greater Bahcesehir** - a 750- acre satellite city located near Istanbul, Turkey. Mr. Mehta was part of a team at *CHK Architects and Planners* in Silver Spring, Maryland that consulted on the design development and prepared construction documents and helped in organizing a relatively short time schedule. This project won the International Human Habitat award and also an AIA award (12/96 to 7/97).
- **Villages of Piscataway** - a 1,200-acre new-traditional town in PG County, Maryland. Mr. Mehta was part of a team at *CHK Architects and Planners* that conducted site environmental analysis and prepared land summary and density tables (6/97 to 7/97).
- **Whittier Park**, Falls Church, Virginia. – Mr. Mehta prepared schematic designs for a 5 acre new urbanism development (Single family units, town houses and a Marriot Hotel) (4/97 to 6/97).
- **South Riding New Town** - Mr. Mehta prepared wetlands and floodplain analysis for a 800 acre new town in Virginia (4/97 to 5/97).
- **Harbour Place**, Wheaton, Maryland - Mr. Mehta prepared schematic designs for a 6 acre town house residential development (2/97 to 4/97).
- **Beale Air Force Base**, Northern California - . Mr. Mehta was an Assistant Planner at *EDAW* and worked on the development of a 20-year community master plan in response to the Air Force Base needs (6/88 to 8/88).



## 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 community 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 **"WTTC Tourism for Tomorrow Destination Stewardship Finalist Award"** – Ministry of Tourism, Montenegro (2010).
- 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 **"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
- 1989 **"AAK Residential Category Award"** for Chestnut Groves, Nairobi, Kenya

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Cricket:** Captain of the Kenya National Team in 1987 and 1993. Cricketer of the year (MVP): Kenya (1986 & 1992) and California (1989). Represented Kenya in all international tournaments from 1978 to 1987, including World Cups of 1979, 1982 and 1986.

**Tennis:** Runner-up in the Kenya Open Junior Championship, 1978.

**Table Tennis:** Member, University of Nairobi squad, 1983-1984.

**Snooker, Squash, Badminton, Indian Dancing:** Have won awards in various competitions

## TRAVEL

Traveled to over 80 countries in six continents and over 36 states in United States of America.