

ARCHITECTURE | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ECOLODGE DESIGN | ECOTOURISM PLANNING | PHOTOGRAPHY

# **HITESH MEHTA**

# **Academic Resume**

#### **SUMMARY**

For thirty one years, Hitesh has been creating knowledge and sharing it around the globe. An accomplished author, teacher, researcher and international recipient of numerous project awards, Hitesh exemplifies the holistic sustainable tourism planner, architect and 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 Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Sustainable Tourism and Ecotourism courses within various University Departments. Hitesh has worked/consulted in over sixty-five countries in six continents and has received awards in Landscape Architecture, Planning, Architecture, Urban Design, Creative Writing and Publishing, and Interior Design.

Hitesh has a distinguished history in academia and is currently an Adjunct Professor in the School of Hospitality, FIU. He also was the External Examiner in the School of Architecture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya in 2017 and from 2010-2013. Apart from having been an Adjunct Professor at several universities (FAU and FIU) in S. Florida between 2000-2005, he was also the Chairman of Landscape Architecture Section, Department of Architecture, University of Nairobi and conducted studios in sustainable planning and design for five years. Hitesh conducts one-of-a kind Ecoplanning and Design Workshops and Charettes around the world and which are attended by academicians, practitioners etc. Hitesh is a well-sought out professional speaker and has presented at over 198 Conferences/Seminars/Webinars in 36 countries in all six continents.

Hitesh is considered by his peers as one of the world's leading authorities, practitioners and researchers on architectural and landscape architectural aspects of ecolodges, and sustainable tourism / ecotourism physical planning. In 2015, Hitesh was the recipient of *United Nations* (UNEP/GFHS) "**Outstanding Achievement Award**" for his work with alleviating poverty and protecting sensitive ecosystems. In July 2006, *National Geographic* identified Hitesh as one of five Sustainable Tourism **Pioneers** in the world. He is probably the only design professional in the world to be inducted as a **FELLOW** in three different continents - Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), England; Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK), Kenya and American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and in two different professions -Landscape Architecture and Architecture.

Hitesh is also a *Professional Photographer* and a Hall of Fame / ex- Captain Cricket player from Kenya. 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. He has been featured / interviewed / mentioned in over 196 international magazines, newspapers, books, newsletters and blogs.

#### **EDUCATION**

Master of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Berkeley, 1989, GPA-3.94 Bachelor of Architecture, University of Nairobi, Kenya, 1985, First Class Honors (Summa Cum Laude) Hitesh Mehta | FASLA, FAAk, RIBA, Associate AIA,

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## TEACHING and MENTORING - - summary

Hitesh Mehta's academic career in the profession dates back to 1990 when he started teaching 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".

2021	Adjunct Professor – Teaching a course on "Sustainable Tourism" at Florida International
	University (FIU) Hospitality School
	Adjunct Faculty- Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional, Costa Rica
2020	Adjunct Professor- VATEL Hotel and Tourism School, Madagascar– Taught a module on
	Ecolodge Architectural Design.
2019	Adjunct Professor – Taught an intensive multi-disciplinary eco-design and eco-planning
	workshop at FIU Architecture and Hospitality Schools
2017	External Examiner for the Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Jomo Kenyatta University of
2010 - 2013	Agriculture and Technology, Kenya.
2002 - Present	Conducting short-term studios and participating as a juror in studio presentations at
	several Universities (FAU, LSU) in USA.
1996 - Present	Mentoring and assisting Thesis students (Landscape Architecture and Architecture) from all around the world including USA, Australia, Kenya, Trinidad, England, India, Tunisia, Reunion, Indonesia, Bermuda and France etc.
1997 - Present	Conducted lectures at universities in USA (8), Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Kenya, Indonesia, Colombia, South Africa, China, Brunei and Costa Rica.
1997 - Present	Conducted for George Washington University, The International School for Sustainable Tourism and The International Ecotourism Society, 1-5 day Eco- Planning and Eco- Design workshops in Philippines (4 times), Kenya (2 times), Canada (2 times), Australia, India, Brazil, USA, Argentina, Rwanda, 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 "Sustainable Tourism and Ecotourism" course at FIU Hospitality School
1992 - 1995	Chairman of Landscape Architecture, Dept. of Architecture, Uni. of Nairobi
1990 - 1995	Assistant Professor (US Equivalent) in Dept. of Architecture at Uni. of Nairobi

# ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

# 6/98 to Present External Examiner, Adjunct Professor, Juror, Guest Lecturer

- Teaching a course in "Sustainable Tourism" at FIU.
- External Examiner for 5 years at the Landscape Architecture Programme Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya.
- Taught course in "Site Planning and Engineering" at FAU.
- Taught course in "Sustainable Tourism and Ecotourism" at FIU.
- Juror at FIU School of Landscape Architecture for a school plaza competition.
- **Juror** at FAU School of Architecture for a final year design studio.



- Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation "Protected Area Physical Planning" to students at University of Vermont.
- Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation *"Ecotourism and Ecolodges"* to students at University of Vermont.
- Juror School of Architecture, CECAR University, Sincelejo, Colombia.
- Conducted On-line continuing education seminar for ASLA.
- Webinar Speaker: A presentation "Looking back to solve the future" at Design Impact, a virtual conference organized by Harvard's Graduate School of Design.
- Webinar Keynote Speaker: A presentation *"The Pandemic Office"* at the Architects Association of Kenya (AAK) National Conference.
- Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation "Trials and Tribulations of Protected Area Planning" to students at University of Vermont.
- Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation "Planning and Designing Ecoresorts" to students at Endicott College, Massachusetts.
- Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation *"Ecotourism: COVID Planning and Design"* to students at University of Vermont.
- Webinar Speaker: A presentation "Designing and Developing Ecolodges: The new Normal" at a International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) virtual workshop
- Webinar Guest Speaker: A presentation "Everything you should know about Ecotourism and Ecolodges" to students at Garland ISD, a specialty high-school program in Dallas, Texas.
- General Session Panel Speaker: ASLA's Annual Landscape Architecture Conference in San Diego, USA
- **Keynote Speaker:** Sixth IFLA Africa Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa", Tunis, Tunisia
- Keynote Speaker, FIU's Tourism and Leisure Studies Conference, Miami, USA
- Moderator and Panel Speaker: ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO in Philadelphia, USA
- **Public Lecture:** BUILDTalk, Architects Association of Kenya Monthly Lecture Series, Nairobi, Kenya. Delivered at University of Nairobi
- Keynote Speaker: Fifth IFLA Africa Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa", Rabat, Morroco
- Webinar: "Landscape Architecture as a tool for Biodiversity Conservation in Africa" Presentation made to Masters students in Landscape Architecture, University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- **Keynote Speaker** IFLA-URBIO conference "From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health and Biodiversity" in Panama City, Panama.
- Guest Speaker : Doug Crowell Lecture Series, Vermont.
- **Public Lecture:** Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA) seminar on : "Ecotourism, Ecoresorts and Climate Change – opportunities, challenges and the way forward", New Delhi, India
- **Guest Speaker:** "The Metaphysics in Ecotourism Planning and Design" Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism at the University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Keynote Speaker: Indonesia Landscape Architects Association Conference on "Volcanoscapes" in Lombok.
- Keynote Speaker: "Sacred Planning and Design", Texas A & M University, College Station, TX
- Keynote Speaker: Third IFLA Seminar on *"Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa"* in Abuja, Nigeria



- **Guest Speaker:** Taras Foundation "Meet the Scientist" lecture series "The science in Ecodesign" Jupiter, Florida.
- Guest Lecture: "The 'less' developing world?", 5th Graders, Carrolwood IB School, Tampa, FL
- Guest Lecture: "Metaphysics in Ecological Planning", Lousiana State University
- **Guest Lecture:** "Authentic Ecotourism" Bogor Agricultural University, Java , Indonesia.
- **Guest Lecture:** "Authentic Ecolodges Taking Green Architecture to the next level", San Juan Polytechnic, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Guest Speaker: Virtual Skye presentation to LA students at Mississippi State University
- **Co-Organizer:** Second IFLA Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa" in Juja, Kenya
- Keynote Speaker: Second IFLA Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa" in Juja, Kenya.
- **Conductor** of Master Class on Eco-Design: Second IFLA Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa" in Juja, Kenya.
- **Conductor** of Master Class on Graphics: Second IFLA Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa" in Juja, Kenya.
- **Speaker:** Florida Atlantic University and Queensland University of Technology "Sub -Tropical Cities Conference" Ft. Lauderdale, USA.
- Guest lecture Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China
- Guest lecture University of Florida, USA.
- Guest lecture North Carolina State University, USA.
- Guest lecture Utah State University, USA.
- Guest lecture Michigan State University, USA.
- Guest lecture University of Sydney, Australia.
- **Guest lecture** University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Guest lecture** Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Guest lecture University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Guest lecture Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
- **Guest lecture and juror** CECAR University, Sincelejo, Colombia.
- Guest lecture Dubai Academic City, Dubai
- Guest lecture– University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- Guest lecture University of Brunei, Brunei Darussalam.

# 6/99 to Present Ecodesign Workshop Instructor

- Conduct 1-5 day ecodesign training workshops. Participants include various stakeholders of tourism industry.
- Workshops have been conducted in Philippines (4 times), Kenya (2 times), Canada ( 2 times), Australia, India, Brazil, USA, Argentina, Rwanda, Australia, Caribbean and Malaysia.
- Participatory workshops include theory and practicals. Participants get actively involved in the site analysis, planning and design of a hypothetical ecolodge/visitor center.
- Consistently given 'outstanding' reviews by participants.

# 1/92 to 5/95 Chairman Landscape Architecture Section, University of Nairobi.

• Developed curricula for undergraduate and graduate degrees in landscape architecture.



- Supervised landscape technician in cataloguing indigenous plant materials.
- Coordinated the formation of a database on landscape architecture literature.
- Co-organized a four-day IFLA Seminar on "Landscape Architecture Education in Africa" (70 attendees).

# 7/90 to 5/95 Lecturer Department of Architecture, University of Nairobi.

- Developed curriculum of and lectured course in "History and Theory of Landscape Architecture" to second-year students.
- Advised and supervised final-year students in they're written thesis and project designs.
- Supervised invigilation of student examinations.
- Evaluated and graded student examinations and design projects.
- Developed program for environmental design studios for second-year students. Conducted studios.
- Assisted in developing and conducted architectural studio programs in basic design for first-year students.
- Developed a curriculum for and lectured a course in "Building Technology" for first and secondyear students.

# AUTHOR/ EDITOR of BOOKS

Hitesh Mehta is responsible for writing/editing the two seminal books on planning/design and guidelines for Ecolodge Development. His award-winning book- Authentic Ecolodges is the first coffee-table book in the field of sustainable tourism and will soon be published in Chinese. Hitesh Mehta's first book – International Ecolodge Guidelines is now used as a text-book in several universities and colleges around the world.

- 2021 *"Authentic Ecolodges Volume 2"-* to be published in 2023
- 2010 "Authentic Ecolodges"- 280-page book published by Harper Collins, USA.
- 2009 "Wild Beauty Accommodations- Montenegro" published by GTZ, Germany.
- 2002 "International Ecolodge Guidelines"- published by TIES, USA

# AUTHOR AND CO-AUTHOR OF CHAPTERS in BOOKS

- 2021 **"Applied Ecolodge Research: Creating Cultural Context Through a "Continuity of the Vernacular" Planning and Design Approach"** in the book "Destination Unknown: Sustainable Travel and Ethical Tourism". Edited by Carolin Lusby, Common Ground Research Network, Champaign, Illinois.
- 2020 **"Physical Master Plans: A Roadmap to Developing Sustainable Destinations"** in the book "Social Entrepreneurship in Hospitality Principles and Strategies for Change" by Willy Legrand, Miguel Angel Gardetti, Robert Schønrock Nielsen, Colin Johnson, Mehmet Ergul
- 2017 **"The authenticity debate of hunting and fishing as ecotourism**" in the Book Authenticity & Tourism: Materialities, Perceptions, Experiences, Editors: Jillian M. Rickly & Elizabeth S. Vidon Emerald Books, England.
- 2012 **"Small Island Sustainable Planning; A Case for West Caicos"** in the book "Sustainable Tourism and the Millennium Development Goals", Editors: K. Bricker, R. Black, S. Cottrell, Earthscan Publishing, London.



- 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 Ecolodge 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.
- 1994 Provided research for a chapter in "People Places" Clare Cooper Marcus.

## RESEARCH PAPERS WRITTEN AND PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

- 2017 "Why Recreational Hunting and Fishing is NOT Ecotourism"
- 2012 "Small Island Sustainable Planning; A Case for West Caicos"
- 2011 "Why Recreational Hunting and Fishing is NOT Ecotourism"
- 2010 "Greening China one day at a time"
- 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

- 2017 Review written on the book "Sustainable Tourism on a Finite Planet:" by Megan Epler Wood.
- 2012 **"Towards an Authentic EcoArchitecture in Kenya"**, AAK Magazine **"Eco marries Luxury"**, Bon Vivant Concierge
- 2010 "Authentic Ecolodges", Culture Magazine
- 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 and PAPERS



- 2020 Second Review of paper "Assessing the Tourists Satisfaction of Adventure Lodges: A Case Study of Tadom Hill Resorts, Malaysia."
- 2017 Review of paper "Assessing the Tourists Satisfaction of ecolodges: A Case Study of Tadom Hill Resorts, Malaysia."
- 2014 "Eco-Friendly Technologies" for Journal of Sustainable Tourism.
- 2013 "Tropical Plant Resource" by Tom Hicks.
- 2012 "Managing the balance between nature conservation and tourism" PAN Parks Authors: Stuart Cottrell and Jana Raadik-Cottrell in the book "Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism: Transitioning into the New Millennium" - Author(s): K. Bricker, R. Black, S. Cottrell
- 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
- 2004 "Nature Lodges and Justification for Biodiversity Conservation", TIES.
- 2003 "Marine Ecotourism Guidelines" Elizabeth Halpenny.
- 2003 *"The Business of Ecolodges"* Edward A. Sanders and 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.

#### PUBLIC SPEAKING

2021 **Moderator and Presenter** – Panel Presentation: *"Africa 3.0!"* at the ASLA Annual Conference, Nashville, USA.

**Keynote Speaker:** A presentation on *"Grow Your Own Lodge!: Eco-Rural Construction"* at the World Sustainable Tourism Conference (organized by UN Habitat, GFHS) Changsha, China.

**Panel Speaker:** A presentation on *"Long Term Benefits of Holystic Planning and Design"* at the Architecture and Urbanism Research Hub Webinar, University of Lagos.

**Panel Speaker:** A presentation on *"How to get work?"* at the ILASA/IFLA Africa virtual Conference, Johannesburg, SA.

**Webinar Guest Lecture:** A presentation *"Trials and Tribulations of Protected Area Planning"* to students at University of Vermont Dept. Parks and Recreation.

**Panel Speaker:** A presentation *"Authentic Ecotourism and Ecolodges"* to students at University of Vermont Dept. of Environment.

Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation on "Naboisho Conservancy: Integrated Master Planning" IUCN TAPAS Task Group

**Guest Lecture:** A presentation on *"Ecotourism Planning in Protected Areas"* to staff at Headquarters Office of EDSA, Ft. Lauderdale, USA

Guest Lecture: A presentation "Ecotourism Planning in Protected Areas" to Staff at Baltimore Office of EDSA

**Moderator and Presenter** – Panel Presentation on *"Research Based Sketching and Note-taking as a tool for Vernacular Biomimicry and Biophilic Design"* at FASLA 2021 in Tampa, Florida.

FELLOWS Round Table Panel presentation and discussions at the FASLA 2021 in Tampa.

**Co-Organizer:** Two-Day IFC/World Bank Virtual Investment Forum: "Utilizing Nepal's Heritage Resources for Tourism Recovery and Sustained Growth".

**Moderator:** A panel presentation on *"Heritage Based Accommodation Investment Case Studies"* - Two-Day IFC/World Bank Virtual Investment Forum: "Utilizing Nepal's Heritage Resources for Tourism Recovery and Sustained Growth".



**Speaker:** A presentation on *"Design Inspiration and Approaches for the Region"* - Two Day IFC/World Bank Virtual Investment Forum: "Utilizing Nepal's Heritage Resources for Tourism Recovery and Sustained Growth".

**Guest Speaker:** A presentation *"Sustainable Building and Refurbishment of Ecoresorts"* to the Community of St. John, US Virgin Islands.

**Webinar Guest Lecture:** A presentation "How can Sustainable Destination Physical Planning reshape World Tourism?" at The University of Baguio- School of International Hospitality and Tourism Management, Philippines.

**Webinar Guest Speaker:** A presentation *"Earth, is it possible to treat you like a mother?"* to the staff of SWBR Land Design, a multi-disciplinary company based in Rochester, NY.

Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation "Ecotourism Planning in Protected Areas" to graduate students at Blue Sky Institute, Boise State University

Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation *"Regenerative Planning and Design"* at Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional, Costa Rica

**Webinar Speaker:** A presentation "A History of Landscape Architects Chapter" at the Sweden-Kenya Seminar "Landscape Architecture in Kenya: Growing the profession".

Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation "Protected Area Physical Planning" to students at University of Vermont.

2020 Webinar Keynote Speaker: A presentation *"The Pandemic Office"* at the Architects Association of Kenya (AAK) National Conference.

**Webinar Guest Lecture:** A presentation "*Trials and Tribulations of Protected Area Planning*" to students at University of Vermont.

Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation "Planning and Designing Ecoresorts" to students at Endicott College, Massachusetts.

**Webinar Speaker:** A presentation *"Looking back to solve the future"* at Design Impact, a virtual conference organized by Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Webinar Guest Lecture: A presentation *"Ecotourism: COVID Planning and Design"* to students at University of Vermont.

**Webinar Guest Speaker:** A presentation *"The Art of Ecoresort Planning and Design"* to staff at DTJ Design's Studio Training Series.

**Webinar Speaker:** A presentation *"Designing and Developing Ecolodges: The new Normal"* at a International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) virtual workshop

**Webinar Guest Speaker:** A presentation "Comfortably Dumb: Environmental Actions in the Age of Climate Emergency" at a virtual panel organized by the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SANATANA DHARMA.

**Webinar Speaker:** A presentation *"The art of working from home"* at a panel organized by Architects Association of Kenya (AAK)

**Webinar Guest Speaker:** A presentation *"Everything you should know about Ecotourism and Ecolodges"* to students at Garland ISD, a specialty high-school program in Dallas, Texas.

Moderator: ASLA 2020 African Panel Presentation (postponed)

ASLA Field Trip Leader for "Swamp walk in the everglades". (postponed)

2019 General Session Panel Speaker: ASLA's Annual Landscape Architecture Conference in San Diego, USA

**Keynote Speaker:** Sixth IFLA Africa Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa", Tunis, Tunisia

Keynote Speaker: P3 Ecotourism Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica.



**Keynote Speaker,** FIU's Tourism and Leisure Studies Conference, Miami, USA **Webinar Keynote Speaker:** University of Lagos's conference on "Architecture and Urbanism".

2018 Speaker: 'Ecoturismo en Areas Protegidas' Conference in Panama City, Panama Panel Speaker and Moderator: ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO in Philadelphia Panel Speaker : The Long Run annual meeting, Wanas, Sweden Keynote Speaker: "WE ARE AFRICA" Annual Conference - Cape Town, South Africa Guest Speaker – "Conservation Lab" – Stellenbosch, South Africa Public Lecture: "Continuity of the Vernacular in Architectural and Landscape Design" Public Lecture: BUILDTalk, Architects Association of Kenya Monthly Lecture Series, Nairobi, Kenya.

2017 Panel Speaker: "Transformative Design: Without Borders" World Design Summit and IFLA World Congress, Montreal, Canada
 Speaker: The Long Run Annual Conference, Grootbos Reserve, South Africa.
 Keynote Speaker: Fifth IFLA Africa Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa", Rabat, Morroco
 Keynote Speaker: ISST-GEN Authentic Ecotourism conference in Subic Bay, Phillipines
 Keynote Speaker: Sustainable Tourism Summit 2017, Cancun, Mexico
 Panel Speaker: 'Luxury Tourism Of Tomorrow - Gazing at the stars on the doorplate or under the open sky', ITB Berlin

2016 **Keynote Speaker:** Global Eco 2016, "Fostering Innovation – Sustaining Excellence". Tasmania, Australia.

**Panel Speaker:** Ecological Design in Walking Destinations, Global Eco 2016, Tasmania **Keynote Speaker** IFLA-URBIO conference "From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health and Biodiversity" in Panama City, Panama.

Guest Speaker : Doug Crowell Lecture Series, Vermont.

Guest Speaker : The Long Run Annual Meeting, Maldives

**Public Lecture:** Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA) seminar on : "Ecotourism, Ecoresorts and Climate Change – opportunities, challenges and the way forward", New Delhi, India

**Keynote Speaker:** Encuentro Internacional Ecotourismo - E16, Posadas, Argentina **Public Lecture:** "Ecolodge as Platform for Ecotourism", Aristobulo del Valle, Argentina **Public Lecture:** "Planificación Ejemplar y Prácticas de Diseño en Ecolodges de Montana", Villa La Angostura, Argentina

**Guest Speaker:** "The Metaphysics in Ecotourism Planning and Design" - Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism at the University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Public Lecture:** "The Siamese in Ecolodges: where the twain shall meet!" - Central Society of Architects, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Speaker:** IFLA's 53<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on *"Tasting the Landscape"* in Turin, Italy. **Panel Member:** "African Landscape Convention: - IFLA's 53rd World Congress, Turin, Italy. **Keynote Speaker:** Panama Tourism Authority Seminar on Ecotourism in Protected Areas. **Speaker:** Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Sao Paolo, Brazil

2015 **Keynote Speaker:** Indonesia Landscape Architects Association Conference on "Volcanoscapes" in Lombok.

Guest Speaker: Miniloc Island Resort, Palawan, Philippines



2014 **Guest Speaker:** UN Symposium on "Enhancing Sustainable Tourism, Biodiversity and Environmental Protection" - Tehran, Iran **Keynote Lecture:** National Seminar on "National Parks and Opportunities for Sustainable Ecotourism Development" - Tehran, Iran **Keynote Speaker:** "Sacred Planning and Design", Texas A & M University, College Station, TX

Guest Lecture: "The Gestalt in Ecolodges" – Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge, Alaska Panel Speaker: ULI "Developing in the Caribbean Basin" Workshop – Miami, FL Keynote Speaker: IFLA's World Congress on "Thinking and Action" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Guest Speaker:** Taras Foundation "Meet the Scientist" lecture series – "*The science in Ecodesign*" Jupiter, Florida.

**Public Lecture:** "What is Ecotourism and Ecolodges?" in Mannar Island, Sri Lanka **Speaker:** Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Sao Paolo, Brazil

Panel Moderator and Speaker: "The Sense of Place in Authentic Ecolodges", ESTC 2014, Bonito, Brazil

**Plenary Session Facilitator:** Succession Planning, ESTC 2014, Bonito, Brazil **Keynote Speaker:** "Landscape, Architecture and Tourism Investment - If it's not sustainable, it is not development" lecture at national Tourism Conference in Tirana, Albania.

2013 **Panel Moderator and Speaker:** "The Cutting Edge of Ecolodges" TIES annual conference Kenya

**Panel Speaker:** "Best Practice Ecolodge Case studies and poverty alleviation" Zeitz Foundation seminar – Kenya

**Keynote Speaker:** Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Tourism: Ecotourism, Poverty Reduction and Environmental Protection, United Nations Secretariat, New York, October 2013 **Speaker in three different panels:** ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO on "*Gaining Ground*" in Boston, MA.

2012 **Convenor and Speaker:** Ecolodge Planning, Design and Operations Workshop II. TIES annual conference – Monterey, CA

Speaker: IFLA's World Congress on *"Landscapes in Transition"* in Cape Town, South Africa. Public Lecture: *"Towards an Authentic ecoArchitecture in Kenya"* Nairobi, Kenya Guest Lecture: - *"Authentic Ecotourism"* Bogor Agricultural University, Java , Indonesia. Public Lecture: – *"The Magic of Bamboo"*, Uberlingen, Germany

**Speaker:** *"Authentic Ecotourism and Ecolodges" -* Eastern Black Sea Ecotourism Conference, Trabzon, Turkey

**Key note Speaker:** *"Metaphysics in Ecological Planning",* El Yunque Forest Service Seminar, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour –San Juan, Puerto Rico

2011 **Speaker:** ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO on "*Winds of Change*" in San Diego **Speaker** and **Panel Facilitator:** The International Ecotourism Society's (TIES) annual conference - Hilton Head. SC

**Convenor, Facilitator and Speaker:** Ecolodge Planning, Design and Operations Workshop. TIES annual conference - Hilton Head. SC

Keynote Speaker: Philippines MICE Annual Conference *"iShare..youConnect..weChange"* in Cebu Island



Panel Moderator and Speaker: Florida ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO on "Growing Diversity" in Boca Raton

**Panel Member:** Landscape Architects without Borders. IFLA's World Congress in Zurich, Switzerland.

**Speaker:** The Liveable Cities Summit *"Livable City of the Future: a chinese case study". –* Kuala Lampur, Malaysia.

**Plenary Roundtable Participant:** The Liveable Cities Summit *"Building the Green City: Utilizing Technology to Protect the Environment"* – Kuala Lampur, Malaysia.

Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - Florence, Italy

Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Jupiter, Florida, USA

Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Chicago, Illinois, USA

Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – House + Earth, Austin, Texas, USA

- Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour Bookpeople, Austin, Texas, USA
- Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour Hong Kong , China

Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Shanghai ,China

- Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour Gainesville, Florida
- 2010 Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour Johannesburg, South Africa Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa **Speaker:** Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – London, United Kingdom Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Los Angeles, California, USA Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - Tourism Victoria, Victoria Island, Canada Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - Hospitality & Tourism, Victoria Island, Canada Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - TVIC, Victoria Island, Canada Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - Seattle, Washington, USA **Speaker:** Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Bainbridge Island, Washington USA Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Menlo Park, USA Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour - Miami, Florida, USA Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Artserve, Ft. Lauderdale, USA Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Urban Brew Café, Ft. Lauderdale, USA Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – Costa Rica, Central America Speaker: Authentic Ecolodges Book Tour – World Premier, Portland, Oregon, USA Keynote Speaker: Ecotourism Kenya Annual General Meeting – Nairobi, Kenya Guest Speaker: Naboisho Conservancy Symposium – Nairobi, Kenya Keynote Speaker and Panel Moderator: ASEAN Annual Conference – Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
- 2009 Keynote Speaker and Eco-design Workshop Facilitator: Ecotourism Australia Global Conference – Alice Springs, Australia. Keynote Speaker: Adventure Travel World Summit – Quebec, Canada. Guest Speaker: Oshwal Women's League Guest Lecture Series – Nairobi, Kenya. Keynote Speaker: Mali Ministry of Tourism Seminar – Bamako, Mali.
- 2008 Keynote Speaker and Eco-design Workshop Facilitator: Ecotourism Australia Global Conference – Alice Springs, Australia. Speaker and Facilitator: The International Ecotourism Society's annual conference -Vancouver BC. Keynote Speaker: Cornell University Central America Hotel Society Conference - San Jose,



Costa Rica.

**Speaker:** Guest Lecture Series – University of Buenos Aires – Buenos Aires, Argentina. **Speaker:** Argentinean Institute of Architects Guest Lecture Presentation - Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Speaker: Annual Shanghai Design Week Conference- Shanghai, China.

Speaker: Guest Lecture Series – University of Sydney – Sydney, Australia. Speaker: Autumn Semester Lectures – Lincoln University– Christchurch, New Zealand. Speaker and Conference facilitator (MC): First Gulf Landscape Architecture Conference – Dubai.

2007 **Keynote Speaker:** Hospitality Design Asia Annual Conference and Expo – Hong Kong, China. **Speaker:** The International Ecotourism Society's annual conference - Madison, Wisconsin. **Keynote Speaker:** Florida ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO on *Transformations..How shall we grow*' in Miami.

**Keynote Speaker:** US Landscape Architecture Students Annual Conference (LABASH) on "Survive". Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Book Study Tour Presenter:** *"Authentic Ecolodges"* book progress presentations in San Francisco, California; Sumba Island, Indonesia; Sydney and Pt. Douglas, Australia; Avignon France; London, England; Toronto & Moose Factory, Canada; Lapa Rios, Costa Rica; Nairobi, Kenya; Singapore; Moscow, Russia and Jupiter & Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

2006 **Keynote Speaker:** Costa Rica National Chamber of Ecotourism's (CANAECO) International Forum on Ecotourism *"The Challenges of Ecotourism"* – Turrialba, Costa Rica. **Speaker:** AIA's Hong Kong and Pacific Northwest Chapter Annual Conference *"Pacific Crossings"* – Hong Kong, China.

**Keynote Speaker:** The American Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Panama's VI International Tourism Forum *"Defining Success"* – Panama City, Panama.

**Panel Member:** The Adventure Council's annual Adventure Travel Professional Symposium, - Orlando, Florida.

**Guest Speaker:** Coastal Zone Management Aruba's 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder's Conference - Aruba, Dutch West Indies.

Guest Speaker: Center of Ecotourism seminar presentation *"What's Hot"*. Rishikesh, India. Guest Speaker: Center of Ecotourism presentation *"Ecotourism and Ecolodges"*. Uttaranchal State, India.

**Panel Moderator and Speaker:** American Planning Association's Annual conference. Presentation on *"Ecotourism as a tool for indigenous cultural preservation"* in San Antonio, TX. **Speaker:** US Landscape Architecture Students Annual Conference (LABASH) on *"Be the Change"*. Maryland.

**Speaker:** Texas A & M University Annual Environmental Conference. Presentation on *"Extreme Planning"*.

**Speaker:** Oman International Conference on *"Ecotourism"*. Muscat.

**Speaker:** Dominica Dept. Of. Tourism Seminar Presentation – "A case for Ecotourism in Dominica", Rousseau.

2005 Keynote Speaker for 2 Presentations: Ecotourism Australia's Annual Ecotourism Conference
 *"Ecotourism: Creating Unforgettable Natural Experiences."* Tasmania, Australia.
 Speaker: Tourism Tasmania workshop presentation *"Trends in Eco-Architecture"*.

Speaker: Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service workshop presentation "Protected Area



Planning Exemplary Practices".

**Guest Speaker:** Taras Foundation "Meet the Scientist" lecture series – "*Ecotourism, Gorillas* and *Giant Pandas*" in Jupiter, Florida.

**Speaker:** ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO on "*Winds of Change, Keys to the Future*" in Ft. Lauderdale.

**Keynote Speaker** and **Speaker**: The International Ecotourism Society's conference - *"Ecotourism in the US"* in Maine, VT.

**Speaker:** American Planning Association's Annual conference *"Making Great Communities Happen"* in San Francisco, CA.

Facilitator: Sustainable Tourism Workshop, Muscat, Oman.

**Speaker:** World Tourism Organization's Conference on *"Built Environments for Sustainable Tourism"*, Muscat, Oman.

2004 **Speaker:** Sri Lanka Ecotourism Society's seminar on *"Ecotourism and Ecolodges"*, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Keynote Speaker** and **Workshop Facilitator:** Ecotourism Australia's Annual Ecotourism Conference on *"Ecotourism – Leading the Business of Sustainability"*, Blue Mountains, Australia.

**Keynote Speaker**: Conservation International's conference on *"Tourism and Biodiversity"*, Sichuan, China.

**Presenter and Facilitator:** Ecotourism and Ecolodge Planning and Design Seminar, Awaji and Hokkaido, Japan.

**Panelist:** Broward Women Council of Realtors seminar on *"Urban Redevelopment"*. Pompano Beach, Florida.

Panelist and Guest Speaker: US Landscape Architecture Students Annual Conference (LABASH) on *"Worlds Colliding"*. Gainesville.

2003 **Guest Speaker:** American Institute of Architects, Orlando Chapter Annual Meeting. IUCN's World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa.

**Workshop Facilitator**: Conservation International's seminar on *"Making Biodiversity Work for your Travel Business – Increasing profitability while protecting the environment"*. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

**Keynote Speaker:**Utah State University's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainable Landscapes Conference on *"Uncommon Ground: Collaboration and the Nature of Design".* Logan.

**Speaker:** US Landscape Architecture Students Annual Conference (LABASH) on *"Fields Of Vision"*. Raleigh.

2002 Keynote Speaker: Fiji Hotel Association's Annual Hospitality Forum in Fiji.
 Speaker: Ecotourism Australia's International Ecotourism Conference on *"Ecotourism – A World of Difference"*. Cairns.
 Speaker: UNESCO's conference on *"Sustainable Planning and Design in World Heritage*"

**Speaker:** UNESCO's conference on *"Sustainable Planning and Design in World Heritage Sites"*, Beijing.

**Speaker:** Statement presentation at the World Ecotourism Summit, Quebec. **Speaker**. Saudi Arabia's *"Ecotourism Symposium"* in Riyadh.

2001 **Speaker:** ASLA's Annual Conference and EXPO on *"Culture and Nature"* in Montreal. **Speaker and Faciitator:** American Planning Association's Annual conference *"New Orleans 2001: A Planning Odyssey"* in New Orleans.



2000 Speaker: ULI's Fall Conference on *"Real Estate in the New Economy"*, Chicago.
Moderator: EDSA's Symposium on *"Environment and Development: Where the Twain shall meet"* in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
Keynote Speaker: IFLA's World Congress on *"Conservation and Ecotourism"* in San Jose, Costa Rica.
Speaker: Florida Center for Environmental Studies Third Annual conference on "Ecotourism on Public and Private Lands in Florida" in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.
Speaker: BIOSFERA *"World Ecotour 2000"* conference in Salvador, Brazil.
Speaker and Facilitator: Egyptian Tourism Development Authority's (TDA) *"Ecolodge Guidelines Forum"* in Cairo, Egypt. for the panel on Design and Construction.

- 1999 **Keynote Address and Facilitator**. Malaysia Ministry of Arts and Culture's *"World Ecotourism Conference"* in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Also facilitated the Ecolodge Field Trip. **Keynote Address and Facilitator**. PATA Chapter's workshop on *"Ecotourism/Ecolodges"* in New Delhi, India.
- 1998 **Guest Speaker:** George Washington University workshop on "*Ecotourism Planning and Management*" in Washington, D.C.
- 1997 **Speaker:** BIOSFERA "World Ecotour 1997" conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **Speaker:** The Ecotourism Society's "Ecotourism at a Crossroads: Charting the way forward" conference and field seminar, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 1996 **Speaker:** 2nd All Africa Seminar on "Green Architecture and Environmentally Sensitive Sustainable Development", Nairobi, Kenya.
- 1995 **Speaker:** The Ecotourism Society's *"Ecolodge Forum and Field Seminar",* Costa Rica. **Speaker:** Adventure Travel Society's *"Fifth Annual World Congress on Adventure Travel and Ecotourism",* Paradise Island, Bahamas.
- 1994 **Co-Organizer and Speaker:** IFLA's Seminar on *"Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa"* in Nairobi, Kenya.

# PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Hitesh's 33-year professional career spans over 65 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. In January 2007, Mr. Mehta re-started his firm **HM Design** which began in Kenya in 1991 and is currently working on projects in Galapagos, Tanzania, Australia, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Dominica. For the past fifteen 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, I	ИD
1990 – 1996	HM Design, Founder and Principal, Nairobi, Kenya	



1989 – 1990
1988
1988
1986-1988
1986-1988
1979-1985
Amphion Environmental, Environmental Planner, Oakland, California
EDAW Intern, San Francisco, California
Mehraz Ehsani and Associates Design Associate, Nairobi, Kenya
Various Design/ Build firms, Internships while I was a student, Nairobi, Kenya

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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

## PROJECT AWARDS

- 2021 World Agri Tourism Award in the category of Farm and Sustainable Tourism Education to International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST)
- 2021 *Newsweek* magazine's "**The Future of Travel Award Winners**" to Volcanoes Safaris Rwanda and Uganda.
- 2020 Landscape Architecture Foundation (USA) recognition to *Eagle View Camp* as the first Case Study in Africa to be certified in their **Case Studies Investigation** (CSI) program.
- 2019 United Nations (GFHS/UNEP) "Planning and Design" award for Plataran L'Harmonie West Bali National Park
- 2019 United Nations (GFHS/UNEP) "Planning and Design" award for Mara Naboisho Conservancy.
- 2018 Winner (with KZ Architecture) for Scenario 1 UN Habitat's and The World Bank's "Resilient Homes Design Challenge".
- 2018 Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) "Award of **Excellence**" to Eagle View Camp, Naboisho Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya
- 2018 Honourable Mention of Eleven Magazine's SAFARI Lodge Design Competition
- 2018 The World's Top 10 Sustainable 'GREEN Destinations' award to Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda
- 2017 **The Sustainable Destinations Top 100** award to Plataran L'Harmonie and Mara Naboisho Conservancy.
- 2017 Travel + Leisure Magazine's World's Best Awards: **#1 Hotel in the World** to Nihiwatu Luxury Retreat.
- 2017 ISST Award for Lifetime Achievement for Ecotourism, Subic Bay, Philippines.
- 2016 United Nations (GFHS/UNEP) "Planning and Design" award for Cerro Verde Ecolodge.
- 2015 United Nations (GFHS/UNEP) "**Outstanding Achievement Award**" for work with alleviating poverty and protecting sensitive environments.
- 2015 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Planning and Analysis Award to "Jambo Kilimanjaro Ecolodge"
- 2014 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) **Award of Excellence** to Cerro Verde Ecolodge, St. Cristobal Island, Galapagos.
- 2014 "Architects Association of Kenya's (AAK) "50<sup>th</sup> Year Awards of Excellence" in Landscape Design Category to Aga Khan University Hospital Diagnostic Center.



- 2014 "Architects Association of Kenya's (AAK) "**50**<sup>th</sup> Year Awards of Excellence" Merit Award in Health Center Category to Aga Khan University Hospital Diagnostic Center.
- 2014 "Architects Association of Kenya's (AAK) "50<sup>th</sup> Year Awards of Excellence" Merit Award in Residential Category to Radhadesh House.
- 2014 Lonely Planet "World's top ten eco-retreats" to Lapa Rios Ecolodge.
- 2013 Conde Nast "World Savers Award" to Nihiwatu Luxury Retreat
- 2013 Travel and Leisure "Global Vision Award for Sustainability" to Volcano Safari Lodges
- 2013 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Planning and Analysis Award to " Kwanari Ecolodge"
- 2013 Conde Nast "World Savers Award" to "Volcano Great Apes Safari Lodges".
- 2012 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Research and Communications Award to the book "Authentic Ecolodges"
- 2011 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Environmental Sustainability Honor Award to Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, China
- 2011 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Award of Excellence in the Resort and Entertainment Category to Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, China
- 2011 "Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Award of Excellence in the Planning and Analysis Category to Crosswaters Ecolodge, China
- 2011 "Langfang Eco-City" \$100,000 second prize in joint Local- International Team Competition, China
- 2010 **"WTTC Tourism for Tomorrow Destination Stewardship Finalist Award"** Ministry of Tourism, Montenegro
- 2010 "American Society Of Landscape Architect's (ASLA) General Design Honor Award" for Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, China
- 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