



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING | URBAN DESIGN | ARCHITECTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY

## HITESH MEHTA

### Residential/Community Planning Resume

#### SUMMARY

Mr. Mehta is one of the world's leading authorities, practitioners and researchers on environmental physical planning and both the landscape architectural and architectural aspects of nature-based accommodations. He is probably the only professional in the world to be inducted as a **FELLOW** in three different continents - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), England and Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK), Kenya - and in two different professions - Landscape Architecture and Architecture. In 2015, Mr. Mehta was the recipient of *United Nations* (UNEP/GFHS) "**Outstanding Achievement Award**" for his work with alleviating poverty and protecting sensitive ecosystems. In 2015, Mr. Mehta 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 Mr. Mehta as one of five Sustainable Tourism Pioneers in the world.

Mr. Mehta has thirty-three years of work experience, consulted in sixty-five countries (spanning six continents) in the world and is a multi-International award-winning designer with Awards in Landscape Architecture, Planning, Architecture, Urban Design, Creative Writing and Publishing, and Interior Design. Hitesh has vast experience in Residential and Community Planning and has worked on master plans and projects in Kenya, USA, Costa Rica, Philippines, Nicaragua, Colombia, Turkey, Panama, China, Malaysia, Turks and Caicos, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bahamas etc. He has also specialized in the field of "Conservation Communities".

Mr. Mehta regularly conducts research and is the author and photographer of the award winning *Authentic Ecolodges* (launched by Harper Collins in November 2010). Mr. Mehta is also the editor of the *International Ecolodge Guidelines* and the co-author of the chapters on "Site Planning" and "Architectural Design". He has also served as an on-site inspector for the **National Geographic** Unique Lodges of the World program.

Mr. Mehta has a distinguished history in academia and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University (FIU). He has been the External Examiner for the Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya for five years. 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. Mr. Mehta conducts one-of-a-kind Ecoplanning and Design Workshops and Charettes around the world and which are attended by academicians, practitioners etc. Mr. Mehta is a well-sought out speaker and has presented at over 198 Conferences/Seminars/Public lectures/webinars in thirty-six countries across all six continents.

Mr. Mehta 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.

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## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

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

### Conservation Communities:

- **El Equimite Coffee Farm, Ecolodge and Spa**, Coatepec, Mexico. *HM Design* is the site planner and landscape architect for a project where an existing coffee farm (located in the Veracruz area of Mexico) is being converted to a climate-smart Biodynamic Farm, Conservation Community and Ecotourism experience. The Long-Term Physical Plan involved other professionals including scientists and environmentalists. The master plan includes a farm for coffee and edible food, a Café for day visitors, a boutique Ecolodge, a wellness center, a Student Education Center containing dormitory and classrooms, single family lots, Green School and trails. HM Design is currently working on the next stage of the planning process – Schematic Design (8/18 to present).
- **Peninsula Estates**, Emerald Coast, Nicaragua. HM Design was the master site planner and landscape architect for the development of an eco-luxury second-home conservation community on the Pacific SW Coast of Nicaragua. HM Design provided services from Conceptual Design to Construction Documents. The master plan includes high-end eco-luxury ‘cabin in the woods’ homes, nature center, environmental center, fine -dining health restaurant, entrance arrival experience, clubhouse, observation towers and trails (2/16 to 11/16).
- **Pearl Sanctuary**, Boracay Island, Philippines. HM Design is the Master Planner for the Development of an Integrated Tourism and Biodiversity Plan for a ocean facing property that includes the 12,000m<sup>2</sup> *Pearl of The Pacific* Hotel and two Condo Buildings. The whole concept is to protect the existing forest and wetland ecosystems whilst creating a state of the art boutique resort experience which is sustainably planned, designed and constructed and which will act as a gg for quality sustainable tourism development in Boracay. The Master Plan includes accommodation, conference, wellness, recreation, interpretation, education, and administration (01/16 to 9/16).
- **Punta Sabana**, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Mr. Mehta conducted ‘Mehtaphysical’ analysis workshops for a property on the Guanacaste Peninsula of Costa Rica. It was the wi9/16sh of the client to create a sense of place, authenticity, and fit the proposed 5-star resort product (160 hotel rooms, 200 residences, 4 restaurants, 4 pools, a conference center, spa, and other amenities) within the local environment and community. Mr. Mehta employed his very own "mehtaphysical" approach to analysis and conducted three ‘six-senses’ site connection workshops - one on the beach, one on the interface of beach and forest and and one in the forest. In these workshops, all consultants (Architects, Landscape Architect and Project Manager) and clients immersed into the site and experienced it through their six senses. The results from these workshops were presented in an illustrated 30-page booklet (09/15 to 10/15).
- **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, retails centers, recreations areas and conservation lands. Mr. Mehta was also responsible for the detailed environmental analysis using GIS (6/02 to12/02).
- **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

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December, 2021



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 was 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 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).

#### Traditional Communities:

- **Naivasha House Eco-Residences**, Nairobi, Kenya. *HM Design* is the eco-Master Planner and Landscape Architect for a 5-house, 2.25 acre residential community in Muthaiga Nairobi. The site slopes towards a small river and is adjacent to an Urban Forest (4/17 to 5/18).
- **Qianshan New Village**, Zhuhai, China. Mr. Mehta was the Planning and Design Team Leader for the development of a 15,000 resident Eco- Urban 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. This project has involved in the re-location of over 8000 local villagers who will all be invited back to the new buildings and provided apartments for free. (1/10 to 3/14).
- **Preserve at San Miquel**, Panama. Mr. Mehta's firm *HM Design* performed 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 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 11/09).
- **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).
- **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. EDSA'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** - Mr. Mehta was part of a team at *CHK Architects and Planners* that conducted site environmental analysis and prepared land summary and density tables for a 1,200-acre new-traditional town in PG County, Maryland (6/97 to 7/97).
- **Whittier Park**, Falls Church, Virginia. – At *CHK Architects and Planners* 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** - At *CHK Architects and Planners* Mr. Mehta prepared wetlands and



floodplain analysis for a 800 acre new town in Virginia (4/97 to 5/97).

- **Harbour Place**, Wheaton, Maryland - At *CHK Architects and Planners* 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).
- **"Kanamai Sea Shells Project"**, Kanamai, Kenya: Conducted a site analysis of a two acre plot. Prepared final design of 15 summer cottages / recreation area, and in the process of municipal approval application (1/96 to 5/96).
- **"Mtwapa Creek Development"**, Mtwapa, Kenya: Conducted site analysis of a five acre plot. Preparing schematic design for 20 luxury custom built houses (1/96 to 5/96).

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- FELLOW, Architects Association of Kenya.
- FELLOW, Royal Institute of British Architects
- FELLOW, American Society of Landscape Architects.
- Associate, The American Institute of Architects.
- International 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.
- Associate, Royal Institute of Canadian Architects (past).

### PROJECT AWARDS

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

- 2016 United Nations *Global Forum for Human Settlements* "Planning and Design" award for Cerro Verde Ecolodge.
- 2015 United Nations *Global Forum for Human Settlements* "**Outstanding Achievement Award**" for work with alleviating poverty and protecting sensitive environments.
- 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.
- 2011 "**Florida American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) Environmental Sustainability Honor Award** to Crosswaters Ecolodge and Spa, China
- 2011 "**Langfang Eco-City**" – \$100,000 second prize in joint Local- International Team Competition, 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 107 countries in six continents and over 37 states in United States of America.