



PROTECTED AREA ECOTOURISM PLANNING | ECOLOGE DESIGN | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ARCHITECTURE

## HITESH MEHTA

### Protected Area Planning and Facilities Design Resume

#### SUMMARY

Mr. Mehta is one of the world's leading authorities, practitioners and researchers on sustainable tourism and ecotourism physical planning and both the landscape architectural and architectural aspects of ecotourism facilities. He has vast experience in Protected Area Physical Planning and has worked on Sustainable Tourism Plans that protect the last remaining endangered species such as Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda; Tigers in India; Giant Pandas in China; Chimpanzees in Uganda; Galapagos Shark; Bali Starlings, Pygmy Hippopotamus in Ivory Coast; Southern Right Whales and Koala Bears in Australia; Elephants in Tanzania; Javan Leopards in Indonesia; Bonobos in DR Congo; Jaguars in Costa Rica; Western Lowland Gorillas in Gabon; and Black Rhinos, Lions, Hooded Vultures in Kenya.

Mr. Mehta has thirty-four 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. He is probably the only design 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 in protecting sensitive ecosystems and with alleviating poverty. In July 2006, National Geographic identified Mr. Mehta as one of five Sustainable Tourism Pioneers in the world.

Mr. Mehta regularly conducts research on Ecotourism Facilities and is the author and photographer of the award winning **Authentic Ecolodges** (launched by Harper Collins in November 2010). He is currently working on **Authentic Ecolodges- Volume 2**. 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 was the longest serving Board Member of The International Ecotourism Society (sixteen years) and is a Founding Member of the African Ecotourism Network (GEN), a regional organization of the Global Ecotourism Network (GEN) where he is also a Board Member since inception.

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. Mr. Mehta is a well-sought out speaker and has presented at over 196 Conferences/Seminars/Public lectures/webinars in thirty-seven countries across all six continents.

Mr. Mehta is also a Professional Photographer and a Hall of Fame Cricket Captain 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 198 international magazines, newspapers, books, newsletters and blogs.

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## PROTECTED AREA RELATED EXPERIENCE

### Africa:

- **Madagascar National Parks Consultancy**, Madagascar. Together with four other consultants (contracted by IUCN), Mr. Mehta undertook field visits to six protected areas and conducted a series of on-site studies to identify and elaborate tourism concession opportunities for seven selected sites. He provided site analysis and land use sketches and best practice example photos that are compatible with the principles of sustainable design and the park management plans in marine and terrestrial protected areas. Mr. Mehta also supported the Investment Specialist in exploring opportunities for modernization of developments and new developments that could be achieved through partnership with the private sector as part of the protected area concession process. The planned developments will include various types of functional infrastructure such as ecolodges and infrastructure for ecotourism activities in the buffer zone of protected areas (6/19 – 2/20).
- **Eagle View Camp**, Naboisho Conservancy, Kenya. Mr. Mehta was the lead Consultant, site planner, landscape architect and co-Architect for an existing lodge in Naboisho Conservancy located just north of the Maasai Mara Game Reserve. Mr. Mehta led a local team that provided Conceptual to Design Development services for the expansion and eco-reconversion of existing buildings. The new master plan includes high-end villas, renovated existing villas, entrance arrival experience, re-furbished and expanded main building, interpretation center, swimming pool etc. The Architecture borrows from vernacular Maasai homesteads and marries it with modern safari tent roofs. Mr. Mehta recently conducted a post-occupancy evaluation of the camp (2/11 to 10/19).
- **Integrated Biodiversity, Pastoralism and Tourism Development Master Plan for Naboisho Conservancy**, Greater Maasai Mara, Kenya: Mr. Mehta was the Planning and Design Team Leader for the development of an Integrated Master Plan for Mara Naboisho Conservancy, which took on a new bold and innovative master physical planning approach to community based tourism. Mara Naboisho Conservancy is located within the Great Rift Valley and borders the world famous Maasai Mara National Reserve. Naboisho, which in Maasai means "coming together", is a community driven initiative to create a wildlife conservation and tourism area that supports the livelihoods of the landowners and surrounding communities. The core conservation area for the conservancy comprises of over 50,000 acres (20,628 Ha), which is dedicated to wildlife conservation. The program also includes 6 Tourism camps (maximum of 24 beds each), Research Center, Guiding School, Visitor Center, Wardens Housing, game viewing roads, walking trails etc. Mr. Mehta recently conducted a post-occupancy evaluation of the park. (1/12 to 9/19).
- **Khumalo Stone Ecolodge**, Madopo World Heritage National Park, Zimbabwe. *HM Design* teamed up with LAND to design a site plan and architectural concepts for a design competition organized by ELEVEN Magazine based out of England. This entry won a Honorable Mention (2/18).
- **Parc National D'Azagny Product Development Plan**, D'Azagny National Park, Ivory Coast. *HM Design* prepared an Illustrated Booklet that provides an Overall Tourism Product Development Master Plan for the Park as well as a technical case for a high-end concession ecolodge (Ebrie Ecolodge) located in the Park, a RAMSAR site which is home to some rare and



endangered bird species as well as Chimpanzees, Pygmy Hippopotamus, Forest Elephants and Buffalo. *HM Design* proposed the development of five different types of Ecotourism Accommodations as well as a Visitor Center, Observation Towers, Guided Savannah and Forest Trails, Canoe Rides etc. The overall objective of the report is to jumpstart ecotourism in this National Park and in so doing help benefit local communities (3/16 to 7/16).

- **Hana River Ecolodge**, Tai National Park, Ivory Coast. *HM Design* prepared a feasibility report that provided a technical case for a better concession and suggested improvements and enhancements of an existing dilapidated lodge, located in Parc National de Tai, (TNP), a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is home to some rare and endangered species such as the Pygmy Hippopotamus. The overall objective of the report and New Conceptual Master Plan was to jumpstart ecotourism in this pristine yet fragile part of West Africa. In February 2016, the National Park Service began inviting bids for a Concession for the Hana River Ecolodge (4/15 to 5/15).
- **Bonobo Ecocamp**, Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo. Mr. Mehta was contracted by the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany to consult on the feasibility of an ecocamp adjacent to Salonga National Park and near to their research site of Luikotale. Mr. Mehta visited the site for ten-days and produced a report that included a Conceptual Site Plan for the Ecocamp ( 6/11 to 10/11).
- **Volcanoes Safaris Lodges**, Rwanda and Uganda. Mr. Mehta advised the largest Great Apes Lodge Operator – Volcanoes Safaris on greening their three existing properties, namely Virunga Lodge (Rwanda), Gahinga Lodge (Uganda) and Bwindi Lodge (Uganda). *HM Design's* task was to audit and write a report on the existing site planning and Architectural designs, technologies and operations and to propose new environmentally friendly technologies, eco-design techniques and most importantly on how to create community, conservation and interpretation programmes which would upgrade the existing lodges into Ecolodges. *HM Design* also designed the new 'Executive Villa' (7/07 to 9/07).
- **Kyambura Gorge Lodge**, Uganda. Mr. Mehta was part of a team that designed the first Ecolodge in Uganda. *HM Design* is also the Landscape Architect and Site Planner and recently prepared the overall Site Plan of this beautiful site that overlooks the famous Kyambura Gorge which has a troop of Chimpanzees. The ecolodge site is creating a buffer zone between Queen Elizabeth National Park and local community farms. *HM Design's* input was not a full service effort but on a fixed day consultancy (6/07 to 1/08).
- **Nyungwe Ecolodge**, Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rwanda. Mr. Mehta was the lead Consultant, concept architect and landscape architect for the team that planned, designed and supervised the construction of the first ecolodge in Rwanda until it was taken over by Dubai World. The ecolodge is located in a tea plantation and at the edge of a Protected Area - Nyungwe Forest National Park. *HM Design* provided full services (from Conceptual Design to Construction Documents) and their local team consisted of Architect of Record, Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Structural Engineer, Quantity Surveyor, a community Crafts liaison and an interior designer. The master plan includes four different types of villas, tree houses, conference center, wellness center, nature activity center, tree houses, library, trails. (3/06 to 1/08).
- **Kasese and Kabarole District Tourism Development Plans**, Uganda, East Africa. Mr. Mehta





was the project manager for the team that planned World Bank funded sustainable development tourism plans for two districts in Western Uganda. These districts contain the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ruwenzori Mountain National Park, Kibale National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park – protected areas that are important watersheds for Africa and which harbor the largest number of primate species in the world. EDSA produced in conjunction with local consultants and stakeholders an overall sustainable tourism master plan which includes community based products, royal tombs, museums, ecolodges, visitor centers, mountain and forest trails, crafts markets. EDSA also developed Zoning Plans and Tourism Circuits (6/05 to 6/06).

- **Virunga Massif Transboundary Tourism Plan**, DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Mr. Mehta is the lead consultant of the team that prepared a protected area transboundary tourism plan for the Virunga Massif which harbors half of the world's Mountain Gorilla population and eight volcanoes. One of the main purposes of this long term plan is to demonstrate how tourism can help alleviate livelihoods of local people. The overall plan includes hotels and camping sites, ecolodges, visitor centers, boardwalks, canopy walks, trails, entry gates, park administrative offices, visitor / interpretive center, local crafts markets and tourism information offices (5/04 to 3/05).
- **Nosy Be Island and Toalagnaro Sustainable Tourism Development Plans**, Madagascar. Mr. Mehta was the project manager for the team that worked on two World Bank projects. The team prepared two separate sustainable tourism development plans for the northern island archipelago of Nosy Be and the southern region of Toalagnaro. Nosy Be is an existing 'sun and sand' tourism destination and includes a few protected areas while Toalagnaro is still developing and includes the important protected area of Andohahela. This region has the highest biodiversity in Madagascar including several species of Lemurs. EDSA were the team leaders of an international group of consultants which produced in conjunction with local stakeholders including fisherman and handy craftswomen overall sustainable tourism master plans which includes beach hotels, business hotels, bed and breakfasts, community products, museums, ecolodges, interpretation centers, mountain and forest trails. The EDSA team is also developed a Zoning and Phasing Plan (1/05 to 10/05).
- **Nyungwe Forest National Park Ecotourism Plan**, Rwanda, Central Africa. Mr. Mehta was the project manager for this 870 km<sup>2</sup> Protected Area Ecotourism Plan. Nyungwe Forest is the largest Afro-Montane forest in Africa and is one of only two places in the world that harbor 12 species of primates. EDSA also conducted a three - day Ecolodge workshop and prepared a zoning plan for the whole forest as well as a conceptual master plan for an ecolodge (4/04 to 6/05).
- **Towards Ecotourism in Gabon – The Loango Region**, Gabon. Mr. Mehta was the EDSA representative in an international team contracted by Conservation International to prepare an ecotourism strategy and plan for the crown jewel of Gabon National Parks –Loango. EDSA analyzed existing tourism facilities and proposed ecoconversion techniques and new ecotourism products. Several conceptual master plans were developed for the various ecotourism products including ecolodges, canopy walks, existing facilities etc. (2/04 to 4/04).
- **Kisoro and Kanungu District Tourism Development Plans**, Uganda, East Africa. Mr. Mehta was the project manager for the team that planned two separate World Bank funded sustainable development tourism plans for the South-western Ugandan districts of Kanungu and Kisoro. These districts contain Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park – protected areas that harbor the last remaining populations of the Mountain Gorilla. EDSA



produced in conjunction with local stakeholders including the Batwa (Pygmies), an overall tourism master plan which includes community products, museums, ecolodges, visitor centers, mountain and forest trails, canopy walk, crafts markets. EDSA also developed a Zoning Plan and Tourism Circuits (1/04 to 6/04).

- **Ecotourism Product Implementation Programme**, Kenya, East Africa. - Mr. Mehta was the lead consultant for TTC International which is based out of Dublin and contracted by the European Union (EU) to identify, design and develop tourism products which would contribute to the diversification of tourism in Kenya. Hitesh Mehta has helped prepare sustainable tourism development plans for Western and Nyanza Provinces which include several Protected Areas; an ecotourism Plan for Mbeere District; a conceptual master plan for an Ecolodge and construction documents for a Mud-crab restaurant. Mr. Mehta has also been working with TTF (Tourism Trust Fund) on all of the above projects (8/03 to 8/07).
- **Ecolodge Design, Construction and Operation Guidelines**, Red Sea, Egypt – Mr. Mehta was a member of the EDSA team that was involved in the production of a Guidelines Document that is handed out by the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) to potential developers and investors of ecolodge projects in the designated Ecotourism Zones. The prescriptive guidelines cover all aspects of development and operations and include site planning, architectural design, infrastructure, construction, marketing, operations, financial aspects, interpretation and conservation. (9/00 to 12/00)
- **A New Ecotourism Zone**, Red Sea, Egypt – Mr. Mehta was a member of a team that was contracted by U.S.A.I.D. to create a new ecotourism zone in the southern Red Sea area, where the preservation and conservation of natural resources and environmental features were key determining factors in the design process. The team also audited samples of existing hotels and produced a document to suggest ways to improve the sustainability of tourism along the Red Sea Coast. (4/00 to 6/00)
- **Tourism Diversification and Development Program**, Kenya, East Africa. - Mr. Mehta was a member of a team that was contracted by the European Union (EU) to outline a program which is to contribute to the diversification of Kenya’s tourism base through a sustainable model of tourism reconversion. The main objective of this mission was to carry out comprehensive project identification, entailing the gathering of relevant background information, and analyzing and processing it. EDSA’s input was to provide a chapter on “Ecodesign and Ecotechnologies” for the Technical report. Three forms of methodology were used to fairly reflect the status of tourism facilities in Kenya: 1) *Interviews*, 2) *On-site visits* and 3) *Participatory Workshops*. The recommendations made in this chapter were compiled from the feedback given by the various stakeholders in the tourism building industry (3/99 to 5/99).
- **"Paraa Lodge"**, Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda – Mr. Mehta was part of a three person team that prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment (E.I.A.) for alterations and additions to a 100 room existing lodge (11/94 to 5/95).
- **"Voi Wildlife Eco-Camp"**, Tsavo East National Park, Kenya – Mr. Mehta surveyed and analyzed a 50-acre site along Voi River just before the Voi Gate. Provided consultancy on location, orientation and site planning of eco-camp (6/91 to 8/91).

Rest of the world:



- **Atauro Beach Ecolodge**, Atauro Island, Timor Leste. *HM Design* is the landscape architect for the creation of a revised Overall Master Plan for an existing Tented Camp (Atauro House) located adjacent to the most biodiverse Coral Reef Ecosystem in the world. The approach is to have an extreme makeover as the existing property is 1-star and the new one will be high-end. The new Master Plan will include an arrival experience, permanent eco-Villas, Dive Center, Marine Research and Education Center, native species gardens, restaurant, seawater swimming/diving pool, back of house, staff/scientists/researcher housing etc (12/19 to present).
- **Tilicho Home upscaling and COVID Design**, Annapurna Circuit, Nepal: Mr. Mehta provided Covid Design consultancy to IFC to help improve the safety and health of guests of seven mountain-based lodges operated by a local Company – Tilicho Homes. Mr. Mehta prepared plans and sections that also demonstrated the eco-upgrading of the lodges so as to cater for a more eco-friendly minded clientele. (4/20 – 6/20).
- **Annapurna Conservation Area Consultancy**, Nepal. For this IFC project, Mr. Mehta, together with Solimar International, undertook a field visit to the ACA (Annapurna Conservation Area) and conducted a series of on-site ecotourism infrastructure studies to identify and elaborate tourism concession opportunities. Mr. Mehta identified several investment-ready properties as well as opportunities to conserve the rich cultural and architectural heritage of several mountain villages. Mr. Mehta will be disseminating information to Government, private sector and local/foreign investors to show the potential for this particular region. Mr. Mehta is currently co-organizing (with SOLIMAR) and will be participating in four-day intensive deep-dive planning and design workshops on integrating traditional design, green technology and cultural values (10/19 – present).
- **Ataúro Island Sustainable Tourism**, Timor Leste. Mr. Mehta conduct site assessments of several sites adjoining the Marine Protected Areas and gathered the information needed in order to prepare master plans and architectural conceptual designs with the ultimate goal of improving the variety and quality of facilities and attracting new investment to the island. The final deliverables included Conceptual Site Plans and Architectural Floor Plans for a Visitor and Conservation Center AND an upscale Ecolodge (5/19 – 8/19).
- **Six Senses Galapagos**, St. Cristobal, Galapagos. *HM Design* is the lead Consultant, site planner, landscape architect and Design Architect for a new ecoresort located in the eastern part of the island of St. Cristobal, Galapagos. Mr. Mehta is leading a consultant team that is providing FULL Planning and Design services. The master plan includes High-End Villas, Main Reception, Dining and Lounge Building, Six Senses Spa and Fitness Center, Experience Center, Research Center, Meditation and Massage Gazebos, Solar Farm and Battery Storage, Organic Vegetable Garden etc. *HM Design* prepared a detailed “Landscape as a Visual Resource Analysis” for this project which was one of four projects that won the “Award of Excellence” for the FLASLA 2014 awards. *HM Design* is currently working on the Design Development package (10/16 to present).
- **Guifeng Nature Reserve Integrated Sustainable Tourism Master Plan**, Guangdong, S China. *HM Design* was the Team Planning and Design leader for the development of a one-of-kind-mountain experience in Guifeng Nature Reserve, located two-hours drive from Guangzhou. *HM Design* was one of five international and local teams, that have just submitted to the clients, a 40-page Conceptual Vision Plan for the Tourist Destination which includes an Arrival Gate, Welcome and Visitor Center, High-end Accommodations, Mineral Water Spa Experience,





Temple, Zip Line, Elevated Tree boardwalk/ Riverside Trails/Mountain Trails and Chinese-inspired garden. (11/18 to 2/19).

- **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World:** Mr Mehta is an on-site auditor for the National Geographic '*Unique Lodges of the World*' program and has travelled to Kenya, Brazil, Zambia, Alaska and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to inspect twelve properties and certify whether they are credible to join the program or to continue to be part of the program (04/15 to present).
- **Kwanari Ecolodge**, Dominica, West Indies. *HM Design* is the lead Consultant, concept architect and landscape architect for an ecolodge in the eastern part of the Commonwealth of Dominica. The lodge was to open in the summer of 2018 but was partly destroyed by Hurricane Maria. It will be the first planned and designed ecolodge in Dominica and there are many benefits to the neighboring native Kalinago people. Mr. Mehta is introducing a whole new type of Architecture in the Caribbean called "Forest Caribbean". *HM Design* and their local team of consultants (including Architect of Record) are providing full services including construction supervision. The master plan includes an ecolodge and wellness center, forest and ocean cabins, tree house, swimming pool, library and trails. This lodge won a 2014 FLASLA '*Planning and Analysis*' award (9/15 to present).
- **Antipolo Botanical Gardens**, Organic Farm and Lodge, Antipolo, Philippines. *HM Design* was the site planner and landscape architect for a one-of-a-kind project which combines three (Flor's Garden, Ed's Farm and Carolina Bamboo Garden) existing gardens and farm into one single 'legacy' destination of fifteen hectares. The integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism master plan, is climate-change friendly and includes the first Botanical Garden (including several themed gardens) in the Philippines, an Organic Farm and Education Center, Café and Restaurant for day visitors, a boutique Green-Lodge and Spa, Bamboo Research Center, Wedding Pavilions, Bamboo Museum and Bridge, Welcome and Visitor Center, Picnic Areas and Restored Forest Trails. One of the main concepts is to re-plant native trees and bring back the original montane forest which will help with carbon sequestration. (8/17 to 2/18).
- **Planning and Design Guidelines for Panama National Parks**, Panama. Mr. Mehta produced for the Ministry of Environment (miAmbiente) a comprehensive Planning and Design Guidelines Document for the Panamanian National Park system and which is designed to be handed out to consultants who will be bidding to plan and design various projects in the country's national parks. The prescriptive guidelines cover all aspects of development including site analysis, site planning, architectural design, construction and resilient infrastructure that addresses population growth and rapid urbanization (5/17 to 12/17).
- **Panama National Park Facilities Consultancy**, Panama. *HM Design* provided Conceptual Master Plans for several Visitor Centers in San Lorenzo National Park. *HM Design* also supervised the preparation of Conceptual Master Plans and Architectural Designs for several Ecotourism facilities (Interpretation Centers, Ranger Station and housing, affordable tourist accommodations) in Coiba National Park (02/17 to 08/17).
- **Plataran West Bali Nature Reserve**, Bali, Indonesia. *HM Design* was the Master Planner for the Development of a Sustainable Tourism Plan for the 382-acre *Plataran West Bali Nature Reserve*, a destination which is located within the utilization zone of West Bali National Park. The whole concept was to develop financially successful tourism through immersive low-impact

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climate-adaptive accommodations / activities and tropical forest/marine management. The Overall Master Plan includes accommodation, wellness, small conference, recreation, interpretation, education, and administration. The detailed program includes boutique forest and beach resorts/lodges, single family villas, camping, trails, diving, snorkeling, horse riding, bird watching, bike trails, zip-lining, ranger posts and housing etc. (7/16 to 04/17).

- **Cooinda Resort Master Plan**, Kakadu National Park, Australia. *HM Design* performed an environmental planning and market demands audit on the existing facilities and was the landscape architect for the preparation of a Preliminary Master Plan for the indigenous-owned Gagudju Cooinda Lodge which is the gateway to Yellow Water Billabong in the heart of Kakadu National Park. The Master Plan includes an existing mid-end lodge (48 rooms), a new high-end lodge (15 eco-shacks), caravan and camping grounds (100 powered sites, 200+ unpowered sites, Grassed sites, swimming pools, restaurants/bar, tour desk, staff housing, maintenance areas etc. (11/16 to 2/17).
- **Crosswaters Mountain Experience**, Guangdong Province, S. China. Mr. Mehta was the Team Planning and Design leader for the development of a Tree-Canopy, Zip Line, mineral water spa experience in Nankun Mountain Reserve. *HM Design* provided full services (from Conceptual Design to Construction Documents) and the team consisted of well known Australian Designer, Paul Pholeros and Zip Line expert, Bradd Morse from New York. The Mountain experience includes Elevated Tree boardwalk/ Riverside Trails/Mountain Trails, Zip Line Tour, Botanical garden, Eco-museum, Forest Hot-springs Spa and Public restrooms (11/15 to 5/16).
- **Authentic Ecotourism and Ecolodge Development**, Panama. *HM Design* provided a 1-week consultancy to the Panamanian Ministries of Environment and Tourism on the creation of an authentic ecotourism in Protected Areas. *HM Design* helped identify the best location for an Authentic Ecolodge in Panama's premier Protected Area – Coiba National Park and helped the selected local Architect with the siting/concepts for an Interpretation Center in Vulcan Baru National Park. *HM Design* also conducted a 2-day Workshop to show to both private and protected area personnel new and innovative approaches on planning and design of ecotourism facilities and infrastructure (02/16).
- **Minjerribah Eco-Camping**, Stratford Island, Australia. *HM Design* was the landscape architect for a series of eco-camps located in four different camping sites in Stratford Island, Queensland. All the four camping sites are in fragile locations but with high visitor usage. *HM Design* prepared Conceptual Master Plans for all the camping sites. The master plans included eco-camp accommodations, cooking stations, restrooms, play areas, beach boardwalks etc. For the first phase project - Amity Eco-Shacks, *HM Design* was also responsible for all services from Conceptual Planning to Construction Supervision. These award-winning ecocamps opened to the public in August 2015 (1/14 to 9/15).
- **Para la Naturaleza Ecolodge Site Selection**, Puerto Rico. Mr. Mehta was the prime consultant helping Para la Naturelaza (part of Conservation Trust) to determine the most optimal locations for low-infrastructure Ecolodge development in the various Protected Areas that are being managed and owned by Para la Naturaleza. Mr. Mehta used a 23-point criteria system to help with selecting six of the very best sites that would result in financially, socially and environmentally friendly ecolodges (11/13 to 4/14).

- **Mannar Island Sustainable Tourism Master Plan**, Mannar Island, Sri Lanka. Mr. Mehta was

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part of the Consultant team that completed the Destination Master Plan for Mannar Island, Northern Sri Lanka. The program for development includes Visitor Centers, Waterfront experiences, accommodations, retail enterprises etc. Mr. Mehta also prepared preliminary master Site Plans for the main Visitor Center and 4 privately-owned lodges by Palmyra House Property Group (1/14 to 4/14).

- **Las Lunas Lodge and Interpretation Center**, Caguas, Puerto Rico. Mr. Mehta was the Master Site Planner for the development of a 14-acre site that consists of several heritage buildings. The program included Main Lodge and Guest Accommodations, Students Summer Camp/Research Center, Conference Rooms, Wellness Center, Visitor / Interpretation / Environmental Center with auditorium, Gardens, Caretakers House Mr. Mehta conducted participatory workshops with the local community and is also advised on the eco-conversion of existing accommodations (6/12 to 3/13).
- **Antam Cluster Conceptual Master Plan**, Java, Indonesia. Mr. Mehta helped prepare a Master Plan of a 15,000-acre (6000Ha) parcel of the 113,000Ha Halimun Salang National Park in Western Java. The Master Plan offers a high-quality tourist product, harmoniously integrated in a cultural and environmental atmosphere under the concept of Visitor and Welcome Center, Quarry Garden, Nature Park, Ecolodge, Ecohotel, Amphitheatre; Mining Museum, Mine Cave tourism, Trails, Research Center, Biodiversity Conservation Center etc. (7/12 to 10/12).
- **Gandhara Flower Valley**, Yunnan, China. Mr. Mehta was the team Planning and Design leader for the Gandhara Flower Valley Conceptual Master Plan which offers a high quality tourist product, harmoniously integrated in a cultural and environmental atmosphere under the concept of an entertaining yet awareness building Flower Valley experience with luxury Spa Lodge, Visitor Centre, Ecology Exhibition Hall, Wanfu Temple Complex and Buddhism Lodge, Retail and with very distinctive landscape architectural characteristics and innovative environmentally friendly technology for the preservation of the valley bed and lake. Gandhara Flower Valley Conceptual Master Plan creatively merges the opportunities that the project offers with economics and physical planning (4/11 to 11/11).
- **Lapa Rios Master Plan**, Costa Rica, West Indies. Mr. Mehta led the team that prepared an overall sustainable master plan for a 1100-acre Forest Reserve and Ecolodge. The existing ecolodge has been operating for over 15 years and is one of the most authentic ecolodges in the world. *HM Design* produced in conjunction with sub-consultant, Vida Design Studio and stakeholders, an Overall Master Plan which considered the total build-out on the whole property and included additions to the existing ecolodge as well as new products such as destination forest wellness center, luxury rental villas, nature interpretation center, conference center, beach club-house, wedding chapel, organic garden, walking trails etc. The Sustainable Master Plan Booklet is currently being used by the client to solicit investors. (2/10 to 11/10).
- **Nihiwatu Ecolodge**, Sumba Island, Indonesia. Mr. Mehta was the lead Consultant, site planner and landscape architect for an existing award winning ecolodge in Sumba Island. Mr. Mehta led an ecolodge 'dream' team (Simon Velez- Bamboo Architect, Paul Pholeros – Environmental Architect, Marcelo Villegas – Bamboo furniture, Matt Flynn – Landscape Architect) to provide Conceptual and Schematic services for the expansion of existing accommodations and amenities. The master plan includes high-end rental pool luxury homes, entrance arrival experience, spa and wellness center, new ocean villas, stables (2/08 to 6/09). The First Phase of the project (Arrival Experience, Reception Terrace and High-end Villas was opened in

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January 2012.

- **Wild Beauty Tourism Accommodations**, Montenegro. Mr. Mehta has been assisting the German Aid Agency GTZ and the Ministry of Tourism in Montenegro to help create a new concept of accommodations in the wilderness areas of Montenegro. He has written a 36-page book that defines concepts such as 'wilderness' and 'wild beauty' in the context of Montenegro and which details all the various environmentally and socially friendly accommodations ( including ecolodges) that should be permitted to build in the 'wild beauty' areas (8/08 to 7/09).
- **The Lodge at Chaa Creek**, Chaa Creek Nature Reserve, Belize. Mr. Mehta led a team that prepared a master plan for a 375 acre Nature Reserve and Ecolodge that contains over 70 Mayan ruins. The existing ecolodge has been running for over 25 years and is one of the most awarded ecolodges in the world. Mr. Mehta helped the client build a multi-disciplinary consultant team which included an Architect, Environmental Planner, landscape architects and eco-psychologist. HM Design produced in conjunction with consultants and staff members a ten year overall Master Plan which includes additions to the existing ecolodge as well as conservation areas. HM Design also designed high end 'rental pool' forest villas which are a first in Central America. The Overall master Plan now includes a forest ecolodge, destination wellness center, summer tented camp, nature interpretation center, conference center, wedding chapel, swimming pool, 'rental pool' villas, organic garden, horse and walking trails, canoeing etc. (4/07 to 9/07).
- **Dhikala Ecolodge**, Corbett Tiger Reserve, India. Mr. Mehta was the facilitator and team leader for the preparation of conceptual master plan for the rehabilitation of the existing Dhikala Lodge in Corbett Tiger Reserve, six hours north by car from New Delhi. Mr. Mehta facilitated a participatory ecolodge design charette comprising of local community, professionals, developers and members of the Forest Department and led the teams that is preparing the plans for the Dhikala Ecolodge. The program includes private accommodation (villas, dormitories) areas, old Forest Rest House, an interpretation center, day-use visitor center, amphitheater and public spaces such as reception, lounge and dining (5/06 to 7/06).
- **Parque Nacional de Los Nevados Ecotourism Plan**, Colombia, S. America. Mr. Mehta was the lead consultant contracted by the Governor of Departamento de Caldas to prepare an ecotourism plan for Los Nevados National Park which is home to the Volcano of Nevado Ruiz. The park includes high altitude volcano vegetation, the lakes and active volcanoes (8/05 to 3/06).
- **Shalta Desert Ecolodge**, Al Ghat, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mehta was the facilitator and team leader for the preparation of a Desert Ecolodge in the Al Ghat National Park, three hours north of Riyadh. Mr. Mehta facilitated a participatory ecolodge workshop comprising of local community, professionals and members of the Supreme Commission of Tourism and led the team that prepared the final plans for the Shalta Ecolodge. The program includes private accommodation areas, presidential suite, an environmental utility learning area, nature center and public spaces such as reception, lounge and dining (3/05 to 10/05)
- **Desert Ecolodge Guidelines**, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mehta helped the Supreme Commission of Tourism to select the best desert sites for ecolodge development in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mehta also produced a comprehensive Desert Ecolodge Guidelines Document that will be handed out to potential developers and investors of ecolodge projects in the designated Ecotourism areas around the country. The prescriptive guidelines cover all aspects of development including site

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planning, architectural design, infrastructure, construction (3/05 to 10/05).

- **Program for Belonger Business Opportunities in Protected Areas**, Turks and Caicos (TCI), British West Indies. Mr. Mehta was the leader for an international and local consultant EDSA team that visited and analyzed the protected areas in the seven inhabited islands of TCI in order to proactively identify potential businesses which will be supportive of and supported by specific protected areas. The EDSA team comprised of Protected Area Planners, Landscape Architects, Architect, Market and Financial Analyst, Environmental Engineer, Civil Engineer, Terrestrial Ecologist, Marine Ecologist, Solid Waste Expert, local Tourism specialist and a PR professional. The team prepared in association with local stakeholders, Belonger opportunity plans for each island and also conceptual plans and business portfolios for one project in each island. The concept is to provide concessions for Belongers (local people) to allow tourist and visitor service operations within the parks system. These include the development of visitor and interpretation centers, ecotour operations, restaurants, ecolodges and small hotels primarily run by local entrepreneurs. This plan is funded by the British AID agency, DIFID. (10/04 to 4/05).
- **Tourism Diversification Vision Plan**, Vieques and Culebra, Puerto Rico. - Mr. Mehta represented EDSA in the team that prepared an alternative tourism strategy for the islands of Vieques and Culebra. EDSA also surveyed and analysed properties handed over by the navy and which are now protected areas. The main objective of this mission was to carry out a comprehensive site reconnaissance and identify environmentally friendly projects that would help the local communities (2/04 to 5/04).
- **Crosswaters Ecolodge**, Guangdong Province, S. China. Mr. Mehta was the project manager for the team that planned, designed and supervised the construction of the first ecolodge and wellness center in China within a Protected Area - Nankun Mountain Reserve. EDSA provided full services (from Conceptual Design to Construction Documents) and the team consisted of well known Australian Ecolodge Architect, Paul Pholeros, the world's leading bamboo Architect, Simon Velez from Colombia and Linda Garland, the well-known bamboo interior designer. The master plan includes an ecolodge and conference center, wellness center, nature activity center, boutique resort, trails. The project is scheduled to open in spring 2007 (3/03 to 1/07).
- **Sustainable Development Master Plan for Wolong Panda Reserve**, Sichuan Province, China. Mr. Mehta is the project manager for the team that is planning a sustainable development master plan for the 220,000-hectare Wolong Giant Panda Reserve which has the largest concentration of Giant Pandas in the world. The master plan includes hotels, ecolodge, wellness spa, visitor / interpretive center, trails and cabins, entry gates, park administrative offices, visitor / interpretive center, local crafts markets and tourism information offices (2/03 to 6/03).
- **West Caicos Island Sustainable Master Land Use Plan**, Isle of West Caicos, Turks and Caicos. Mr. Mehta is the project manager that is preparing a sustainable master land use plan for a 6,000-acre island that has two National Parks. West Caicos has several archaeological and cultural sites of high value which will be preserved. The integrated master plan includes opportunities for heritage tourism, nature tourism, ecotourism and a residential plan for the local population (8/02 to 5/03).
- **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

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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 (3/02 to 01/03).

- **Northwest Point**, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos. Mr. Mehta was part of the EDSA team that is planned and designed a sustainable master plan for a 19,000-acre area in North-West Providenciales. This very unique and pristine site has 4 national parks and reserves. The master plan includes an ecolodge and Park Ranger station, a 40-room Amman resort, a 200-room ecoresort and a long range community plan for the local population. EDSA is currently preparing a conceptual master plan for the ecoresort (1/02 to 3/03).
- **Vagamon Hill Retreat**, Kerala, India- Mr. Mehta was the project manager for a unique environmentally and socially friendly ecotourism destination in the Conservation International 'hotspot' of Western Ghats. The Tourism 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. (6/01 to 2/03).

## PROJECT AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- 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 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 2017** to Nihiwatu Luxury Retreat.
- 2017 ISST Award for **Lifetime Achievement** in Ecotourism, Subic Bay, Philippines.
- 2016 United Nations (GFHS/UNEP) "**Planning and Design**" award for Cerro Verde Ecolodge.
- 2016 Travel + Leisure Magazine's World's Best Awards: **#1 Hotel in the World 2016** to Nihiwatu Luxury Retreat.
- 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 Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architect's (FLASLA) "**Award of Excellence**" to Cerro Verde Ecolodge, St. Cristobal Island, Galapagos.
- 2014 - Lonely Planet "**World's top ten eco-retreats**" to Lapa Rios Ecolodge.

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- 2013 - Conde Nast Magazine's **"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 Magazine's **"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
- 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.
- 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 (2006)

#### 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.

#### CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

- African Wildlife Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- World Wildlife Fund
- Sierra Club
- Greenpeace
- Smithsonian
- National Geographic

#### 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.

#### TRAVEL

Traveled to over 107 countries in six continents and over 37 states in United States of America.