

## PROFILE

**Hitesh Mehta** FASLA FAAK RIBA Associate AIA

A Kenyan citizen, Hitesh has been 'flying' both the Kenyan and African Landscape Architecture flag around the world for the past 22 years. He has been on the IFLA Africa "oversight" committee since the inception of IFLA Africa, to help the region get off the ground.

### Kenyan Beginnings:

After completing a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, Hitesh joined (1990) the Dept. of Architecture, University of Nairobi and began conducting Landscape Architecture Studios. He later became the Head of the Landscape Architecture Section and taught the first ever English Course on "The Theory and History of Landscape Architecture" in Africa outside South Africa. Whilst still at the Department, Hitesh co-organized (with Robert Kariuki), the first ever IFLA Seminar on "Education in Landscape Architecture in Africa" in Nairobi, Kenya (1994). Twenty years later, this is still a hot topic and an IFLA Africa priority.

During this time, Hitesh was very active with the profession outside the school and was one of five founding Landscape Architects of the Landscape Architects Chapter in Kenya. He was the first Secretary of the Chapter and currently, one of three landscape architects inducted as a Fellow within the Architectural Association of Kenya.

### Committed IFLA member:

Hitesh's involvement with IFLA dates to 1993 and as a huge proponent for African recognition in World Landscape Architecture, he was one of the co-founders (2008) who pushed for IFLA Africa region. Since 2011, he has been sitting on the Advisory Committee (with Prof. James Taylor) of IFLA Africa Exco. Hitesh helped organize three Africa Landscape Architecture symposiums in Kenya 1994, 2011 and 2015 and currently is assisting with the IFLA world congress to be jointly held by Sweden and Kenya in 2021.



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In the 1993 photo, several of the Kenyan's ended up officially starting The Landscape Architects Chapter in Kenya. Robert Kariuki ( sitting second from left) was the first President and Hitesh (standing second from left) was the First Secretary. Sitting right at the center was IFLA President Zvi Miller and to his left is the then Minister of Education, Mr. Kamotho. Another IFLA Executive Committee member was to his left.



A meeting of the AAK FELLOWS

Hitesh has also been passionate about using the profession to help disadvantaged peoples and animals and he is one of the co-founders of *Landscape Architecture Without Borders* (LAWB) which is currently a working group within IFLA. He has also been a co-chair and currently represents Africa in the LAWB Task Force Committee.

As a Kenyan Delegate, Hitesh has attended many IFLA Annual Congresses and has been invited to be a Keynote Speaker at conferences in Costa Rica, Buenos Aires, Cape Town and Rabat. He still maintains one leg in academia and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University. With Graham Young, he has also been an External Examiner for five years at JKUAT (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology) in Kenya, the first fully fledged five-year undergraduate degree program in Africa.





One of the LAWB meetings that Hitesh conducted as Co-Chair of LAWB and also IFLA Africa Representative

**ASLA involvement:**

Hitesh has been based in Florida since 1997 and in 2010, he became the first African and Indian to be inducted as a Fellow of ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects). Over a period of seven years (2011, 2013 and 2018) Hitesh has helped organize, at Annual meetings of ASLA, Panel Presentations on both the African Landscape Architecture Profession and on Education. Most recently in October this year, he moderated a panel presentation on “African Renaissance: A continent on the rise!”. The ASLA Annual Meeting is by far, the largest gathering of Landscape Architects (average of 6,000 every year) in the world and one of the most difficult conferences to get an acceptance to present.

The current executive committee of IFLA Africa take this opportunity to thank Hitesh for his support and constructive engagement to help us meet our objectives.

**Recommended sites**

<https://www.lafoundation.org>



image from Landscape Architecture foundation home page:

<https://www.lafoundation.org>

**LANDSCAPE PERFORMANCE**

Extract from: <https://www.lafoundation.org/what-we-do/research/landscape-performance>

**AWARD-WINNING LANDSCAPE PERFORMANCE SERIES**

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Landscape performance can be defined as a measure of the effectiveness with which landscape solutions fulfill their intended purpose and contribute to sustainability.

Launched in 2010, the Landscape Performance Series is an online portal and set of initiatives to build capacity and transform the way landscape is considered in the design and development process. It brings together information and innovations from research, industry, academia, and professional practice.

**LANDSCAPEPERFORMANCE.ORG**

With 150 Case Study Briefs, 120 Fast Facts, and dozens of Benefits Toolkit calculators, LandscapePerformance.org is the go-to place to find precedents, show value, and make the case for sustainable landscape solutions. The resources can be used to:

- Find precedents, show value, and advocate for sustainable landscape solutions
- Explore metrics and methods to quantify environmental, social, and economic benefits
- Earn professional development hours (PDHs) by attending a presentation or webinar
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- Stay current on landscape performance news and trends

**Read More at:**

<https://www.lafoundation.org/what-we-do/research/landscape-performance>

**Case Study of Landscape Performance Benefits: The Goods Line (North)**

<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/goods-line>



Image from: <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/goods-line>