

WHAT'S NEXT FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN AFRICA!

ASLA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING, BOSTON, MA

FRI-BO4: 10:30 am -12:00 pm, November 15, 2013



Pedestrian Mall, Downtown Cape Town, South Africa

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Update your practice focus regarding emerging markets in Africa.*
- 2. Review evolving trends for climatically responsive landscape architecture in Africa.*
- 3. Learn new approaches from illustrated case studies.*
- 4. Understand the changing roles of technology and identify networking opportunities.*

Marketing Statement/Session Summary:

As global economies shift, international work for landscape architects is evolving. Previously, "Landscape Architecture Rising in Africa" described emerging trends. This presentation explores what's next in rapidly changing market areas and landmark projects in Africa. These projects are located in diverse environments and include novel approaches to socially responsible and sustainable design.

Course Outline:

- I. Bring American Landscape Architects up to date with changes as opportunities for the profession have risen in Africa in recent years.**
 - Brief summary of economic growth, stability, business environment and tourism.
 - Identify factors that provide for the growth of the in countries including Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria.
 - IFLA Conference – Landscapes in Transition in Cape Town, September, 2012.
 - 3rd IFLA Africa Symposium in Abuja, Nigeria, October 2013.
 - Connectivity with the profession in the United States.
- II. Identify opportunities for landscape architects to influence built, natural and social environments in Africa.**
 - Review evolving trends.
 - Identify markets including tourism, natural resource planning, international events, renewable energy, cultural/historic sites, upgrading informal settlements and creating new communities.
 - Review a range of natural and built environments demanding site specific design responses including new towns, informal settlements and fragile ecosystems that attract tourism.

Case Study: Kisoro and Kanungu District Tourism Development Plans, Uganda, East Africa. Two separate World Bank funded sustainable development tourism plans were developed 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. With local stakeholders, including the Batwa (formerly known as Pygmies), an overall tourism master plan which includes community products, museums, ecolodges, visitor centers, mountain and forest trails, a canopy walk and craft markets was created along with a Zoning Plan and Tourism Circuits.



III. Illustrate lessons learned from case studies and pioneers of the profession.

- a. Examples of sustainable techniques are: management of tourism to protect resources, sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy systems, green (living) architecture, environmental restoration techniques, and spirituality and socially responsible planning.

Case Study: Naboisho Conservancy Master Plan, Greater Maasai Mara, Kenya: An integrated Master Plan for Mara Naboisho Conservancy, took on a bold and innovative master 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 over 50,000 acres (20,628 Ha), dedicated to wildlife conservation. The program also includes six tourism camps, research center, guiding school, visitor center, wardens housing, game viewing roads and walking trails.



- b. Identify new natural resource planning paradigms that empower indigenous communities, while at the same time protecting the sanctity of fragile ecosystems. Explore the relationships between landscape architecture, environmentalism, local community benefits and tourism. Follow the maxim, "THINK LOCAL, ACT LOCAL"

This methodology of involving indigenous communities is becoming increasingly essential in Landscape Architecture in Africa and includes:

- An integrated planning process that involves the local community from day one.
- A methodology that helps create a holistic location, yet contributes to sustainable development.

Case Study: Minorities Community Center and Eco-Camp, Kakaoland, Namibia. A Cultural and Community Center for several remote minority communities including the Himba Tribe in Northern Namibia was developed by Mr. Mehta who helped select the most optimal site for the development and also co-created the program and plans for development.



- c. Case studies range from small scale grassroots projects to large scale planning by international firms and explore projects including: Southern African township social infrastructure, exploration of the role of tribal rituals and customs in landscape planning, management of environmentally sensitive ecosystems and responsible tourism in Kenya, Uganda and Namibia.



Integration of Mosaic Craftwork in the Landscape, FIFA, Green Point Stadium, South Africa



Sustainable Building - Living Walls, Kirstenbosch World Heritage Site, South Africa

Resulting novel approaches to integrated sustainable planning are:

- Management of tourism to protect cultural resources.
 - Integrating tribal rituals and customs in landscape planning.
 - Inclusive management of environmentally sensitive ecosystems.
 - Local community ownership of planning processes.
 - Integration of local community skills in arts and crafts.
- d. Notable pioneers in landscape architecture in Africa and their specific contributions to the profession will be recognized. These pioneers include Johan van Papendorp, Bernard Oberholzer, and Anthony Wain.



Vergelegen, Stellenbosch, South Africa.



Constructed Wetlands, Green Point Stadium Park, South Africa. OVP Associates.

IV. Conclusion –Questions posed by the Moderator to the Panelists explore trends for the next ten years:

- a. Opportunities resulting from addressing climate change.
- b. Potential of new technologies.in emergent areas of practice.
- c. Work approach in times of uncertainty.
- d. Education and business development.
- e. Further collaboration among African countries and the United States.

Reference/Source Materials:

- *Authentic Ecolodges* by Hitesh Mehta, Harper Collins, November 2010
- http://www.watg.com/?view=projects_by_region®ion=Africa
- <http://architecturekenya.com/2011/01/14/1417/>
- *Ecological Planning* by Forster Ndubisi; Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002
- *South African Landscape Architecture: A Compendium / A Reader*, Hennie Stoffberg; Clinton Hinde and Liana Muller (Editors), Unisa Press, February 2012
- *Landscape Architecture Cape Town*, Jess Hensen and Neil Basson (Editors), The Landscape Cape Town Association, 2012.

PRESENTERS' AND MODERATOR'S BIOS

Suzanne Jackson, ASLA, an Associate at Design Workshop, is a registered planner and landscape architect who received her B.Arch. from University of Cape Town and MLA from Harvard University. During her 25 years of experience, she has led a range of projects from conservation and recreation planning to environmentally based tourism projects. Suzanne practiced in South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia and has presented on African topics nationally and internationally, most recently at the 49th IFLA World Congress.

Arthur Adeya lectures at the Jomo Kenyatta University, in Nairobi. He is developing an urban design section in an architectural practice in Kenya. He received his B.Arch from the University of Nairobi and his MLA from Harvard University. Arthur's work experience includes ecotourism and community service projects in Rwanda, Tunisia and Kenya.

Hitesh Mehta, FASLA, a Florida based Kenyan has over 20 years of work experience spanning 57 countries in six continents. He was Director of the Landscape Architecture Department at University of Nairobi and is assisting IFLA in promoting education and professional practice in Africa. In July 2006, National Geographic identified Mr. Mehta as one of five Sustainable Tourism Pioneers in the world for his Ecotourism/ Protected Area planning work. Following his authoritative book, "Authentic Ecolodges", Hitesh is travelling and researching ecolodges for his next publication. His firm, HM Design, is currently working on several projects in Africa.

Forster Ndubisi, head of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A & M University, has served as a consultant in community design, land and ecological planning. His awards include ASLA recognition for research and *Choice Publications* Best Academic Title for his book, *Ecological Planning*. He was recognized as one of 25 most admired design educators in the United States by the Design Intelligence. He is Vice President for Research and Information for the national LAF Board.