**Creativity First.
Technology in Service.**

Hello, I'm Yash Mehta.

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Innovation with Purpose

Content.

The fundamental idea of design is to make the world a better place.

– Bruce Mau

Applied Skillset.

Architectural designer and design technologist working where creativity, computation, and imagination collide.

Architecture x Design Technology x Social Impact

Design has always been about more than what meets the eye. It's the way we, as humans, dream out loud and shape the world around us. Over time, I've come to see that the real magic isn't just in the finished design, it's in constantly reimagining what's possible and who we can uplift through that process.

That's why both at Clayco and through Defining Humanity, I'm not just merging design and technology for innovation's sake. At Clayco, I focus on pushing the boundaries of what design tech can do in a leading firm. Meanwhile, Defining Humanity is my way of bringing that same visionary approach to the communities that need it most, using design to create real, human-centered impact on the ground.

In the end, design is my way of leaving the world a little more thoughtful and a lot more alive. That's the story I'm here to share.

Three Pillars of Practice

Creativity + Design
- Build parametric frameworks linking cost, carbon, schedule
- Design computation with constructability at the core
- Use XR tools to align client vision with field execution

Technology + Systems
- Deploy AI copilots for codes, specs, sustainability checks
- Connect BIM-estimating-scheduling for data clarity
- Automate repeat tasks to unlock creative bandwidth

Impact + Leadership
- Lead change through pilots that scale firmwide
- Mentor, train, and systematize knowledge-sharing
- Deliver social infrastructure projects (Defining Humanity)

Practice Metrics.

12+	6.	20+
Years in Industry	Regions Practiced	Public Talks

Experience + Collaborations

Clayco.

Design Technology Manager,

Chicago, IL & St. Louis, MO

AI + Automation Delivery

- Launched custom GPT-based assistants for code compliance, LEED documentation and specification drafting, cutting delivery time and enabling teams to focus on high-value design decisions.

- Scripted parametric workflows linking design models to live cost and embodied carbon dashboards, compressing a typical 2-month design-and-execution cycle into a one-week sprint and enabling real-time optioneering with clients and preconstruction teams.

- Created sustainability workflows integrated into BIM processes and applied embodied-carbon analysis (EC3), Forma, Cove, and others to inform early design decisions.

Data Standards + Interoperability

- Explored digital design technology roadmap, aligning with enterprise strategy, and developed firm-wide BIM/CAD standards, templates and naming conventions.

- Explored connections of BIM data to estimating, scheduling and field platforms via APIs, enabling seamless data flow and reducing errors during procurement and construction phases.

Model Coordination + XR Delivery

- Managed BIM kickoff meetings, defined model coordination protocols, and performed clash detection and issue coordination, ensuring cross-disciplinary compliance and rapid issue resolution during project delivery on ACC.

- Evaluated and piloted emerging AR/VR platforms, including Gamma AR for on-site model overlays and Resolve XR for multi-user coordination, reducing field rework and improving communication between office and site teams.

Enablement + Growth

- Collaborated across multiple offices, standardizing workflows and co-developing training modules to foster a unified culture of innovation.
- Led change-management initiatives to drive adoption of new tools and standards, designed training programs and a self-serve knowledge library, and tracked return on investment to scale successful prototypes into firm-wide systems.
- Integrated AI and data-driven design tools into business development pitches, security compliance, demonstrating digital design competencies to clients and contributing to key project wins.
- Partnered with Legal & Risk Management and leadership to develop policies addressing digital design delivery and AI-based workflows.
- Directed regional R&D efforts, staying abreast of industry trends through conferences and research, and translating insights into scalable solutions.

Experience + Collaborations

Lamar Johnson Collaborative.

Associate & Architectural Designer

Chicago, IL & St. Louis, MO

Oversee integrated design and the development of construction documents from schematic through CDs; serve as the primary coordinator with contractors and consulting engineers to translate design intent into buildable solutions; lead teams in preparing proposals and deliverables while managing and mentoring one or more team members.

Project Experience

CRG 1st & Pierce Residential Tower
PHOENIX, AZ | 300,000 SF
• The Phoenix project features 36 floors with 325 units, a parking garage, retail, and amenities such as a basketball court. It's a landmark structure with a glass corner and modern aesthetics.

CRG IDEA Tempe Residential Tower
PHOENIX, AZ | 330,500 SF
• The residential project features 17 floors with 400 units, is a part of the arts community in Tempe, next to the TCA.

Confidential Distillery, Manufacturing
LEBANON, KY | 180,000 SF
• Anticipated to break ground in early 2023 and completed in the third quarter of 2024, the 150,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, carbon neutral distillery and aging warehouses located in Marion County, Kentucky, will be approximately 265 acres and include a world class visitor center to welcome bourbon enthusiasts on the historic Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Acibadem Hospital
Malaysia | 90,000 SF
• Creating functional and visually appealing spaces. From selecting materials to considering lighting and acoustics, every aspect of the design is carefully considered to create a space that is both beautiful and functional.

University of Chicago, Student Housing
Chicago | 300,000 SF
• Proposal for the gateway for southern edge of the campus with 5 houses, each with 100 students

GYY Hangar, Aviation
GARY, IN| 330,500 SF
• Hanger for 6 planes at the Gary airport

Coca Cola OKC, Industrial
LEBANON, KY | 220,000 SF
• Facility for Coca Cola bringing from idea to design to construction.

Columbia Ventures Ballfield
DENVER
• Mixed use tower with early learning center, commercial, retail and residential units above located in Denver overlooking stadium & downtown Denver views

Navy Pier
CHICAGO, IL
• Exploring opportunities and design with the board, creating spaces that bring in the culture, people and also economics for Navy Pier.

Denver Pavilions Retail Mall
DENVER
• 4 stories retail mall with a mix of restaurants, gaming zone, retail shopping, parking, and public spaces

Experience + Collaborations

Workshop Architects

Architectural Designer

Milwaukee, WI

Performs various aspects of architectural design as directed, including conceptual studies, program requirements, systems selection, and layout; preparation of programming, schematic design, and design development and construction documents as directed; preparation of marketing and presentation materials; active involvement in experiential and other learning opportunities to develop skills necessary to assume more senior roles within the firm.

Project Experience

Marquette University Student Success Center
MILWAUKEE, WI
- The center provides ongoing support for students with advisors, mentors, and resources, and uses innovative technology and research to foster resilience and overcome challenges such as mental health crises, academic and financial setbacks.

University of Wisconsin Steven's Point - Albertson Hall
STEVEN'S POINT, WI
- New efficient facility with four stories on a
- smaller footprint, providing easily accessible student support services on the first floor, along with 24-hour access student lounge and study spaces throughout the building.

Purdue University Memorial Union Ground Floor Renovation
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN
- Historical-themed renovation with modern amenities and additional seating by converting old kitchen. 900 seats, 11 dining venues, including Drew Brees' sports bar. Improved convenience store, 144 exterior seats with fire pit on new construction terraces.

St. Olaff College
NORTHFIELD, MN
- Ole Avenue Project creates a new gateway between St. Olaf and the community, addressing three-decades-long housing shortage, and improving residential experience for all students. Design features new 300-bed residence hall, town house-style residences with 140 student beds, 200 parking stalls, green space, and other improvements to promote interaction and community.

Marquette University The Commons
MILWAUKEE, WI
- The newest addition to Marquette's residential offerings, The Commons, is designed and programmed to embrace the lifestyle of the modern student while providing a welcoming and comfortable first "home away from home" for Marquette undergrads.

Experience + Collaborations

Other Experiences.

Intern to Architectural Designer to Associate Principal

Global Projects – Dubai, India, China, UK

I spent six and a half years growing from intern to associate principal, eventually leading a small team and managing projects for high-profile clients. The work spanned India's tallest towers with Architect Hafeez Contractor, global collaborations with Foster + Partners, the Amaravati capital city project in India, and large-scale developments in China and Dubai. Each step raised the stakes—whether it was the speed of high-rise delivery, the discipline of working within a global practice, or the complexity of shaping a city at masterplan scale.

Project Experience

Foster + Partners
Amaravati Government Complex
MASTER PLANNING,
- The new administrative capital of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati was born following the redefinition of state boundaries between Andhra Pradesh and the newly created state of Telangana. Foster + Partners has designed the masterplan for the new government complex, which forms the central focus of the 217-square-kilometre city.

Foster + Partners
The Capital Building
Legislative Assembly Building,
- The legislative assembly building sits within a large freshwater lake and is framed by the secretariat and cultural buildings. Based on Vaastu principles, its square plan has the public entrance from the north and the ministers' entry from the east.

Foster + Partners
The People's Building
High Court Building
- The high court complex is located off the central axis, with its stepped roof form inspired by India's ancient stupas. The deep overhangs of the roof provide shade while also allowing the building to be naturally ventilated. Influenced by the traditional temple arrangement, the plan of the building is formed of alternating concentric layers of rooms and circulation spaces.

Architect Hafeez Contractor
The Hubtown
Tallest Residential Highrise
- Ole Avenue Project creates a new gateway between St. Olaf and the community, addressing three-decades-long housing shortage, and improving residential experience for all students. Design features new 300-bed residence hall, town house-style residences with 140 student beds, 200 parking stalls, green space, and other improvements to promote interaction and community.

Architect Hafeez Contractor
Siemens Headquarters
Mumbai
- The newest addition to Marquette's residential offerings, The Commons, is designed and programmed to embrace the lifestyle of the modern student while providing a welcoming and comfortable first "home away from home" for Marquette undergrads.

AHC + Sitetectonix
Lodha Amara
Mumbai
- A 40-acre residential township designed to bring urban density and livability together, Amara is envisioned as a "city within a city." The project integrates 30+ residential towers with landscaped open spaces, a central clubhouse, and amenities woven through green corridors. The design emphasizes pedestrian-friendly planning, community interaction, balancing high-rise living with parks, sports facilities, and social infrastructure to serve 20,000+ residents.

Experience + Collaborations

Defining Humanity

Founder

Chicago, IL

Founded and lead a global design lab that turns design + technology into social infrastructure for communities that need it most. With 70+ volunteers across 12 countries, Defining Humanity has delivered projects from Madagascar's first 3D-printed classroom to prefab housing in Ukraine, homeless shelters in the U.S., and cultural centers in India. Every project is co-created with local partners, so outcomes aren't just efficient, but rooted in culture, resilience, and long-term capacity.

Project Experience

Fianarantsoa, Madagascar
The Pilot Hut
3D Printed Classroom
- Madagascar's first 3D-printed classroom prototype, developed near EMIT University of Fianarantsoa to overcome remote-area construction and education access barriers. Its hexagonal plan and dual-layer 3D-printed concrete walls (using COBOD's BOD2) improve structural resilience and thermal performance, while 3D-printed planters support outdoor learning.

Tulear, Madagascar
Tulear Educational Campus
3D-Printed Campus
- Tackles Madagascar's school shortage by pairing rapid, modular construction with local training. The team optimized the design in Grasshopper down to three repeatable wall types and prints walls that also act as column frameworks—simplifying assembly and cutting waste. Off-grid delivery is baked in, with solar powering printers and water pumps, while on-site training seeds long-term local capacity.

Sonoma County, California & NYC
Homeless Shelters x 16
Prefab Housing & Master Planning
- Vessel Housing is Defining Humanity's modular micro-housing initiative delivered with Homes 4 the Homeless, VESSEL, and the LIME Foundation to create dignified, affordable communities rather than just units.

Kyiv, Ukraine
Ukraine NEST Housing
Prefab Housing
- Ukraine initiative backs housing first recovery in de-occupied regions helping families stay on their own land with safe, temporary modular homes while they rebuild. Working with the NEST Project (Prytula Foundation), Avangard (manufacturing), and Liv-Connected (modular design), we contributed design and engineering upgrades to improve insulation, durability, and efficiency within local constraints.

Dharamshala, India
Kranti House
Mixed Use
- Kranti — The Revolution Home, is a permanent, purpose-built home and learning environment in Himachal where young women lead lives defined by purpose, community, and possibility. It remedies a decade without stable infrastructure, nine moves in twelve years by creating a flexible, healing campus that can anchor programs and scale impact.

AHC + Sitetectonix
Sao Fianatsa Library
- Media Library & Cultural Hub built with ACASIA and the university, to give students and the wider community equitable access to books, digital resources, and technology. It couples study & research spaces with cultural programming to root innovation in local identity while tackling constraints like limited resources & outdated infrastructure.

Academic Background

Master of Urban Design (MUD)

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, USA | 2021

Focused on systems-level design for mobility, housing, and climate resilience; bridged GIS, parametric modeling, and policy analysis to translate district goals into site-scale moves.

Master of Architecture (M.Arch)

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, USA | 2019

Advanced studio work in computational design, detailing, and constructability; emphasized design thinking to improve quality of design & delivery.

Scholarship (B.Arch)

University of Lincoln, UK

Used the Olympics as a live case for mega-event planning: last-mile logistics, venue–neighborhood connectivity, temporary-to-permanent land-use transitions, and legacy frameworks for housing and public realm.

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch)

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU), IN

Foundations in building science, structures, and human-centered design; early studios prioritized daylight, efficiency, and material pragmatism.

Awards & Recognition

Awards

Outstanding Partner Award
2024
FirstRepair Project

Design Evanston Awards
2024
National Resource Center for State & Local Reparations

2021 Chicago Award in Architecture
1st Prize
Urban West Dance Center

Benn-Johnck Award
2021
Best Design Award

Super Jury
2020
Chemistry Building at UWM Campus

Marcus Prize - Student Winner
2020
Tatiana Bilbao

Top 50 youngest architects
2017
IIA Awards, India

Speaking Engagements

Speaking Engagements & Conferences

**Designing the Future:
Printing Community Layer by Layer**
2025 (Upcoming)
NOMA National

Innovating for Impact: Harnessing New Technologies to Address Global Challenges
2025
AIA National Boston

The Transformative Power of Architecture
2025
AMP, Wisconsin

Defining Humanity: Our Story & Impact
2025
Immigrant Architect's Collation Podcast

Define Humanity Through Design
2025
WIDS Presentation

Designing Change Together
2025
Wright Lecture Series

International Visioning Session
2024
First Repair National Symposium

Building for Tomorrow
2024
AIA Wisconsin Conference

Technology & Empathy
2023
QTS Experience Podcast

Design with Social Impact
2023
HGA Design Council

One School One Day
2023
LJC Core Council

Empathy Engineered: Crafting Compassionate Spaces
2023
AIA IL EP Summit

Incorporating Sustainable Design Solutions in Our Projects
2023
ICFAI Lecture

Innovation & Technology
2023
Chicago Innovate

Parametric Design
2023
ICFAI Lecture

3D Printing with Concrete
2023
ASTM Conference

Yash Mehta.

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