



# ANFA 2014 CONFERENCE

**PRESENTER ABSTRACTS**  
ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCE FOR ARCHITECTURE

## Smell and the Architectural Experience

BIJAL K. MEHTA, MD, MPH, MA

*Assistant Professor of Neurology, David Geffen School of Medicine;  
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Department of Neurology  
University of California, Los Angeles*

### 1. ABSTRACT

Although the visual, somatic, and auditory input have a dominant effect, the sense of smell can have stronger additional influence on the architectural experience. Olfaction may not have an instantaneous impact on one's perception of a building but can have a more memorable or emotional effect. In addition to this effect, some evidence exists that olfaction can improve spatial navigation and augment the dominant visual experience. There are positive and negative effects of smell that alter one's emotional response to a space or can be used to change the visual "opinion" of a space. We will discuss how certain natural and unnatural scents can manipulate the experience of architectural environment as well as improve spatial navigation through spaces for both the general population as well as patients with certain neurological disorders.

