

Guest Editor:



Manisha Amin

Manisha was born in Kenya, Africa, to Indian parents, and she identifies as a woman of colour with lived experience of disability.

Since 1990 Manisha has worked in innovation, design, environmental advocacy, and not-for-profits. She is passionate about social justice and human rights and has skills in the areas of strategy, policy, program design, co-design, and inclusion.

Today Manisha Amin is the CEO, and chief strategist and visionary, of the Centre for Inclusive Design (CfID), a social enterprise leading the conversation in the power of thinking from the edge. In short, Manisha brings a wealth of experience in the understanding and implementation of inclusive design and human-centred strategy and facilitation. She also has the demonstrated ability to build strategic partnerships and manage complex stakeholder relationships. In this last year alone, CfID has worked with over 98 organisations to make them more inclusive and interviewed around 400 edge users, applying their input in inclusive design.

Manisha's contribution to diversity and inclusion was recognised with a feature article in the July '21 issue of Company Director.

Manisha also shares her experience with others as a mentor to people working in the not-for-profit sector, through the Fundraising Institute of Australia, and Bambuddah Group, a digital agency committed to creating a sustainable world of equality and opportunity.

Manisha currently sits on the Boards of Diversity Council of Australia, Bambuddah Group, SBS Community Advisory Panel, and Nautunki Theatre Company, which promotes inclusion in the arts. She was a former Board member and Deputy Chair of ADHD Australia. Manisha has a PhD in Arts and Social Science, Masters in Professional Writing, and a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) from the University of Technology, Sydney. Manisha is also a published novelist, Dancing to the Flute (2012).

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I feel very privileged to be the Guest Editor for the July 2023 Vol-18 No-7 edition, of the Design for *All Institute of India Journal*. I would like to thank Dr. Sunil Bhatia for inviting me to put this edition together, and also extend my gratitude to all the wonderful authors who have contributed.

As you will read, each author is an expert in the theory and practical application of inclusive design. They share their journeys on how they found inclusive design and the challenges they face in promoting and instigating the program. They share ideas on how to engage and keep themselves and clients on track. Their stories demonstrate how important inclusive design is, not just for edge users, but for our society as a whole. How inclusive design transcends a multitude of disciplines, and how designing with, not for, is the key. By designing with those who are often overlooked or neglected in the process, value is added, and we all find greater worth in the product and services being offered.

We started the Centre for Inclusive Design with a vision to support the creators of the world to design services, products, policies, and experiences that were better for everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, ability, religion or other forms of human difference. We are indebted to Dr Jutta Treviranus and the Inclusive Design Research Centre for their work in this area and their methodology which we use to this day.

We have curated an inspiring group of practitioners for this journal, who take us on a journey through the dimensions of inclusive design. From the act of designing, to the teaching of inclusive design, to who we need to be as designers and the challenges of the self. Inclusive design is a journey not an end point, and we sometimes don't get the outcomes we imagined. These papers are brave and inspiring, teaching us how to approach design and the outcomes of that design. I'm privileged to work and learn from leading practitioners, researchers, and teachers in what it means to be human, and look forward to sharing just some of their insights with you today.

Jess Mitchell starts our journey with an article on the practical application of codesign. Jess has a clarity of vision coming from years of practice in codesign across government, industry and academic practice. As she notes, 'codesign requires you to question many things...including the designer's role'. This paper addresses the issue of what codesign is and isn't. It's a must for anyone working in this field where words matter as much as actions.

Ruth De Souza and Sukhmani Khorana demonstrate inclusive design in practice. Their research focuses on the use of Apps for South Asian New mothers during COVID-19. The deft use of storytelling, through this piece, highlights the practice and benefit that comes from lived experience and hearing the perspectives of those who are often forgotten in 'mainstream' research. Ruth and Sukhmani bring these voices to the fore and, in doing so, lay bare some of the very real biases we have around what makes for a good experience with technology.

Sambhavi Chandrashekar takes us from the exterior to the interior. Her stories aren't of users but of the impact Inclusive design has had on her as a practitioner. She reflects on her path to discovery of transformation. Her generosity in sharing her knowledge, its effect on her students, colleagues, and partners, and the benefits inclusive design has had on individuals and society as a whole.

Bem Le Hunte reveals how a systems approach to inclusion is taught in higher education. We travel with her through the birth of a transdisciplinary curriculum which centres on the role of the creator in the process, not just the outcome. It's an education model celebrating diversity and unity, and making our universit[ites] 'whole' again. Bem's work is inspiring, and is a must for anyone considering innovation in our ever-increasing complex world. Her light and the collective energy shines throughout the article.

Finally, we finish with Suryamayi Aswini Clarence-Smith. Her paper is brave and bold, as she outlines the idea of 'Dreamweaving' in urban design. This is a reflective piece from a designer's point-of-view, demonstrating what it means to not only look at outcomes but also the strengths and challenges of our practices in inclusion. Importantly, she also includes an insight into the intersection of power and practice.

Inclusive design isn't a guarantee of inclusion. It does, however, allow us to look at the world differently, to open up opportunities we may not have experienced, to learn from our mistakes, and to be better designers. In an increasingly complex and dynamic world, I hope these voices offer you some solace as they do me. Together we

are taking steps to ensure the future isn't just a reflection of our past.

The stories you are about to read are far more entertaining and enlightening than my introduction. I do hope, however, I've whetted your appetite.

Please enjoy.

Dr Manisha Amin.