

Manisha Bhartia
Executive Director & Head of India Studios
Regional Cities Director
BDP
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Manisha Bhartia is an urban designer and strategic leader with more than two decades of experience shaping cities, districts and large-scale developments across India, Asia and the UK. As Executive Director and Head of BDP's India Studios, and Regional Cities Director, she combines design leadership with a deep understanding of the economic, social and institutional forces that shape contemporary urban development.

Based in New Delhi, Manisha leads BDP's India practice and its leadership team. Her work spans complex masterplans, urban regeneration, campuses, public realm and city-scale strategies, with a particular focus on creating places that are liveable, resilient, inclusive and rooted in their cultural and environmental context. She is known for navigating complexity—bringing together clients, governments, communities and multidisciplinary design teams to translate ambitious urban visions into clear, implementable strategies.

Having begun her career in the UK before returning to India in 2010, Manisha brings an international perspective to the rapidly changing urban contexts of India and the wider Global South. Her approach is grounded in the belief that successful urbanism cannot simply be transferred from one place to another; it must respond intelligently to climate, culture, infrastructure, governance and the everyday lives of people.

Manisha holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the TVB School of Habitat Studies and a Master's in Urban Design with Distinction from The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL.

Beyond practice, she is actively engaged in advancing the conversation around the future of cities and the design profession. She is Past Chair of the **Women's Leadership Initiative at ULI India** and serves on the **ULI Delhi District Council Executive Committee**. A regular speaker on urbanism, inclusive development, governance and design leadership, Manisha advocates for cities that combine ambition with empathy—and for a design profession that is more diverse, collaborative and responsive to the places and people it serves.