

# MEHEK KHANNA

Design Strategist | Researcher | Futurist

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London, GB

I'm a transdisciplinary strategist driven by curiosity and a deep passion for problem-solving. With a Masters from the Royal College of Art and an extensive background in design, envisioning, and innovation, I tackle challenges with a comprehensive, end-to-end approach that integrates disruptive research and holistic solutions. My expertise lies in social and design innovation, where I address complex, 'wicked' challenges through cutting-edge design and futures research methodologies. I am particularly passionate about Regeneration, Circular Economies, Emerging Technologies, and Planet-Positive Futures. My work is dedicated to advancing Equitable Health, Inclusive Design and creating a more sustainable life. I am adaptable to the needs of any project, capable of leading multi-faceted teams, and delivering well-considered, meaningful outcomes, be they through research, design or strategy.

## ◆ KEY SKILLS

- Social and Design Innovation
- Inclusive Design and Research
- Service and Systems Design
- Strategic Foresight
- Venture Building
- UX/UI, Wireframing, Prototyping
- Data Visualisation and Writing
- Talent and Stakeholder Management
- Public Speaking and Event Management

## ◆ EXPERIENCE

**Wicked Acceleration Labs, Imperial College Business School**

Oct 2023 - Present

*Design Researcher*

- **Teaching Assistant:** Orchestrated the design and implementation of the Wicked Imperial Module, empowering 60 students to tackle 10 complex ecological, social, and technological challenges globally through immersive industry partners and research experiences with a 100% success rate, resulting in enhanced student competencies in systems thinking and social innovation.
- **Designed Research Resources:** Developed and integrated advanced research tools and frameworks, elevating the lab's ability to dissect and address multifaceted issues. This initiative strengthened the module's reputation for rigorous, impact-driven research.
- **Optimised Business Strategies and Secured Funding:** Spearheaded the scaling of lab operations, identifying opportunities, focusing on process optimisation, data visualisation, and strategic alignment of values. These efforts significantly increased operational efficiency, enabling the lab to expand its reach and influence. Successfully secured key strategic partnerships and additional funding with sector-leading companies, enhancing the lab's capacity to engage with high-profile collaborators and drive impactful research.
- **Curated High-Profile Industry Engagement:** Conceptualised and executed the 2023 Wicked Symposium on Innovation Acceleration and Digital Transformation, featuring 11 high-calibre sessions with 32 industry thought leaders. This event attracted over 50 senior executives and decision-makers, positioning the symposium as a leading platform for cutting-edge innovation discourse.

**Deloitte Digital, USI**

Aug 2022 - Aug 2023

*UI/UX and Service Designer*

- **Pioneered Digital Product Design for Key Industries:** Researched and designed digital products, wireframes and testing strategies with a focus on digital data management for healthcare, FinTech, and insurance clients. Specialised in developing solutions that streamlined employee data entry processes, leading to improved efficiency and reduced operational bottlenecks. Incorporated inclusivity guidelines and rigorous testing to ensure that the services were accessible and user-friendly for a diverse audience.
- **Optimised Service Design for Environmental Impact:** Addressed complex service design challenges for grocery retail giants by designing seamless store delivery pickup experiences. Conducted extensive user research, accessibility testing, and innovation sprints, resulting in optimised user engagement, increased customer satisfaction, and a measurable reduction in the carbon footprint associated with store pickups.
- **Secured Strategic Recognition:** Won the 'Best Design Award, 2023' for developing an interactive portal that enhanced collaboration and visibility across all departments within the Deloitte Digital Studio. This portal significantly improved cross-departmental communication and showcased ongoing projects, strengthening the studio's internal cohesion and alignment.

**Dr. Reddy's Studio 5b**

Jun - Jul 2022

*Design Research Intern*

- **Conducted In-Depth Multidisciplinary Research:** Engaged in comprehensive research activities to address the complex challenges faced by patients with chronic cardiovascular disease, focusing on diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Utilised a transdisciplinary approach that integrated insights from healthcare, sociology, and design, ensuring a holistic understanding of patient needs across various Indian metropolitan cities. Implemented a robust research methodology, including primary interviews, expert-led workshops and participatory design sessions.
- **Delivered Strategic, Data-Driven Insights:** Synthesised complex research findings into a comprehensive, data-driven report for the Strategy Department and provided actionable recommendations that informed strategic decisions.

- **Product Design:** Led the end-to-end design process, creating detailed wireframes and high-fidelity prototypes for a lifestyle support application tailored to Alopecia patients. Facilitated seamless collaboration with the development team, ensuring the successful integration of the design into the final product, ultimately enhancing patient well-being and support.

## ◆ EDUCATION

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### Masters in Design Futures

Sep 2023 - Aug 2024

#### Royal College of Art

- **Specialisation in Regenerative and Inclusive Design:** Developed a practice rooted in holistic research and strategic thinking, with a specialisation in addressing complex social, ecological and technological challenges. Through problem-scoping, research and design of solutions tailored to each project's specific challenges and objectives, while balancing the needs of people, the planet, and purpose-driven goals.
- **Leadership in Research and Design Projects:** Led and facilitated research projects and workshops using co-design and participatory design methodologies. Identified emerging trends and synthesised diverse research findings. Developed actionable insights that informed strategic decisions. Adapted methodologies to meet the unique demands of each project, stakeholder and team.
- **Student Ambassador for Design Futures:** Provided mentorship and guidance to incoming students as a Student Ambassador, demonstrating adaptability in offering support tailored to the individual needs of each student.
- **Curated Industry-Leading Events:** Designed and executed the Design Futures Symposium, which integrated industry talks, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities. This event effectively brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, showcasing an ability to create and deliver holistic experiences tailored to varied audience needs and strategic objectives.
- **Co-Authored the Design Futures Manifesto:** Co-authored the Design Futures Manifesto, encapsulating the cohort's collective learning and vision, serving as a foundational document for our values and aspirations as changemakers.

### Undergraduate Diploma in Communication Design

Jul 2018- Jun 2022

#### ISDI | Parsons | Atlas SkillTech University

- 3.6 out of 4 GPA
- **UX, UI and Product Design:** Established a robust foundation in product and communication design, with proficiency in key design tools such as Figma, Adobe Creative Suite, and Unity. Specialised in Digital Product Design, honing advanced skills in creating human-centred experiences and visually compelling interfaces.
- **Thesis:** Restructuring Philanthropy in India Using Design Strategies based on creating an end-to-end philanthropic ecosystem to facilitate the 'act of giving' in India.

### Bachelors in Sociology

Jul 2018 - May 2021

#### University of Mumbai

- Received first-class honours in Sociology and Research Studies.

## ◆ ACHIEVEMENTS

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### 1st Place - Design for Sustainable Homes in the UK

Apr 2024

#### UKRI and MaDE FutureBuild Hackathon

- Developed and delivered a new-age design for a traditional UK dwelling that is climate resilient and has a higher measure of sustainability in 24 hours | Elements included: retrofitting, smart technologies and sustainable materials.

### Head of Youth Operations

Aug 2022 - Mar 2023

#### Mumbai Design Xpress (MDX)

- Leading the Youth Team to curate, organise and host Mumbai's own Design Festival - MDX

### General Secretary and Head of Marketing

Jun 2019 - Nov 2022

#### Inferno 2.0 | Inferno 2019 | ISDI

- **Spearheaded and Managed a 3-Day Online Creative Festival:** Led a team of 150 volunteers over six months to successfully curate the first-ever online edition of Atlas' creative arts and design festival, Inferno. As the Founder and Head of Marketing, secured high-profile sponsorships from Snapchat, the Association of Designers of India and XP Pen.
- **Executed Complex Stakeholder Management for In-Person Events:** Developed and implemented comprehensive PR and marketing strategies. Oversaw logistics coordination, collaborating with vendors and guiding teams to efficiently manage venues, guest relations, judges, and dignitaries' events and interactions, ensuring a seamless and impactful festival experience.

### Highest Academic Excellence Award Throughout the Undergraduate Diploma

2019, 2020, 2021

#### ISDI | Parsons | Atlas SkillTech University