

## Bimal Patel

For Bimal Patel, being an architect, urban planner and an academic is an opportunity to improve everything, from details in furniture, to buildings, to streets and public spaces, to cities, to urban policies and much more.

I watch Bimal each day, working hard, sleeves rolled up, working to improve our social and spatial environments. He is driven to improve things, to see if things can be done better, to see if more can be done with less. He thrives on finding fundamental solutions to complex urban problems, not just symptomatic quick fixes. He has the intellect and passion to decipher the established connections between architecture, planning and bureaucratic processes and politics and the zeal to reframe and rewire these connections.

Bimal wants to make planning work and to enable design and planning professionals to make our cities better places for all. He wants 'to get the job done', to get complex projects implemented. His democratic and inclusive approach enables him to build trust and build consensus. As a result, he has, more than any other architect-planner of his generation, succeeded in reorienting institutions, redirecting policies, and implementing large urban projects.

Bimal's energy is highly contagious; those around him are willingly swept up in his energy storm. An erudite calm descends when you are in discussion with him.... but you'd better hold on tight, because you are most definitely in the eye of the storm!

Bobby Desai

