Today as globalization marks its peak, the world has almost become one global community, pushing diversity and inclusiveness on the forefront for any design process. Designers are working tirelessly to show how diversity makes their teams strong and unique, and how their designs work not only for all ages but for different genders, races, levels of impairment and disability, culture and ethnicity. While sometimes diversity may not seem like a crucial aspect of design but I firmly believe it is one the most essential element that works toward the success of any design solution whether it may be a product, an interior or architecture.

Almost three years ago, I traveled 8,431 miles from India to the United States of America in pursuit of higher education. The moment I stepped in New York I was greeted by a world quite unlike mine; unfamiliar faces with unfamiliar features greeted me all along. My eyes were accustomed to foreheads decorated with red dots (bindis) which found earring pierced with silver rings welcoming them. Bangles replaced by bracelets, saris replaced by skirts, I fell in love with the cultural contrast of my new life. I spoke differently, dressed differently, probably walked differently and mostly I thought differently. Little did I know that these differences would be the driving forces that would allow me to produce ideas that are unlike any others. Having lived most my life in Jaipur, India which is home to many magnificent palaces where royalty still resides, I continue to be filled with a sense of wonderment when I notice the importance that traditional architecture places that run on the natural source of light and air circulation. These structures pay homage to the brilliance of the architects and designers of that era for their resourcefulness. Thus, often my design solution inherently working with natural light and air circulation.

Being a traveler I have observed that every country has a different tale to tell and different design perspectives. This varied style and complexities in design always catch my eye; be it the magnificent and vibrant style of India, the classy European style or the minimalistic style of Japan or South Korea and so on. Different cultures have always been a source of inspiration for me. This has allowed me to bring together ideas from across the world that would be inclusive of everyone. Moreover, often you see a correlation between diversity and innovation. A diverse population will bring out a different point of views about the same subject; thus giving more a unique insight into a mundane object providing people with a new canvas for innovation. You can see many objects from our daily life like automatic doors, and voice-recognition software that is now common but was produced due to the need in the disabled population.

I’d like to say in the end, diversity and inclusivity are not just buzzwords. These words are burgeoning with potential, and have the power to move our society towards something better.