Jordan Lee 0:01

Thanks for joining today, Priya. Could you start by telling me about your role at BrightWave Technologies?

Priya Sharma 0:06

I’m a UX designer, focusing mainly on our SaaS platform. I handle wireframes, prototypes, and collaborate with developer

s to refine interfaces.

Jordan Lee 0:15

How long have you been working remotely?

Priya Sharma 0:18

Since March 2020. What was supposed to be a temporary arrangement became permanent.

Jordan Lee 0:25

How did that change your design process?

Priya Sharma 0:28

A lot. Before, I sketched on whiteboards with teammates. Now I rely on Figma and digital sticky notes. It works, but it’

s slower for idea generation.

Jordan Lee 0:36

What’s the biggest challenge in remote design collaboration?

Priya Sharma 0:40

Brainstorming. Energy drops when you’re staring at a screen. People multitask more. We’ve had to work harder to keep ses

sions engaging.

Jordan Lee 0:48

What tools have helped the most?

Priya Sharma 0:52

Figma for designs, Slack huddles for quick syncs, and Notion for documentation. We also use Loom videos to explain desig

n flows asynchronously.

Jordan Lee 1:00

How about communication with engineers?

Priya Sharma 1:04

Mixed bag. It’s easier to document feedback, but harder to build rapport. Misunderstandings about design intent happen m

ore often.

Jordan Lee 1:12

How do you make up for the lack of face-to-face?

Priya Sharma 1:15

I schedule short “coffee chats.” No agenda, just talking. It helps recreate hallway conversations.

Jordan Lee 1:23

Has remote work influenced creativity?

Priya Sharma 1:27

Yes, I think we lost spontaneity. Inspiration often came from random conversations. Now I intentionally block time for b

rowsing inspiration boards or sharing design references.

Jordan Lee 1:35

What about your personal routine?

Priya Sharma 1:38

I try to create boundaries. I dress like I’m going to the office, even though I’m at home. Otherwise, the days blur toge

ther.

Jordan Lee 1:46

Has BrightWave done anything to support designers remotely?

Priya Sharma 1:50

They gave us stipends for home office gear, which helped. But more importantly, they introduced “no-meeting Fridays” to

reduce Zoom fatigue.

Jordan Lee 1:58

How has remote work affected career growth for you?

Priya Sharma 2:02

It’s tricky. Visibility is harder. You can’t just walk into a manager’s office. I’ve had to be proactive in documenting

achievements and asking for feedback.

Jordan Lee 2:10

Do you see yourself staying remote long-term?

Priya Sharma 2:14

Probably hybrid. I miss the energy of in-person design jams, but I like the flexibility of remote.

Jordan Lee 2:22

What’s one improvement you’d like to see in remote collaboration tools?

Priya Sharma 2:26

Better integration of video with whiteboarding. Right now it feels like two separate worlds.

Jordan Lee 2:34

Any unexpected benefits of remote work?

Priya Sharma 2:38

Accessibility. We’ve been able to bring in external testers from different regions much more easily for usability studie

s.

Jordan Lee 2:46

What advice would you give junior designers about thriving remotely?

Priya Sharma 2:50

Document everything. Don’t rely on people remembering what you said in a call. And find ways to make yourself visible be

yond your design files.

Jordan Lee 2:58

Thanks, Priya. Anything else you’d like to add?

Priya Sharma 3:01

Just that design is still about people. Even remotely, it’s important to nurture human connections, not just push pixels

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