



Shirley Chen is Vice President of AECOM and Head of the Buildings + Places division in Hong Kong, as well as Asia Strategy & Growth Lead for the same sector, playing a pivotal role in shaping the firm’s regional direction. With over 20 years of experience at AECOM, she has evolved from a landscape designer into a multi-disciplinary leader, driving complex urban development, infrastructure, and placemaking initiatives across the region and beyond.

Her professional journey has taken her through AECOM’s offices in Shenzhen and Guangzhou, and she is now based in Hong Kong, where the company's Asia headquarters is located. This has given her deep insight into diverse markets and urban contexts across the region. She has led her teams in delivering transformative, award-winning projects, such as the Shenzhen Airport Renewal and the Sanya Haitang River Eco-Park, reflecting her commitment to nature-positive, people-centric design.

An active contributor to her field, she collaborates with governments, developers, industry bodies, and academia to facilitate inclusive, nature-positive design. She serves as an industry expert for ULI GBA and InnoSpace GBA’s Green Future Innovation Think Tank. A passionate advocate for diversity, women’s leadership, and emerging talent, she actively teaches and mentors at universities and leading organizations, including on The Women’s Foundation’s Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders, AECOM’s in-house Womentoring initiative and with CUHK postgraduate students for the Venice Biennale 2023. Her leadership and contributions have been recognized with multiple international accolades, including the 2025 Gold Stevie Award for “Sustainability Hero of the Year” in Asia.