

DESIGN

A House That Survives Tsunamis by Letting Water In

A \$4,000, 450-square-foot house designed to survive a tsunami, right, is being tested by a family in Bala Pitiya, Sri Lanka. It was created by students at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, who made it more porous than the typical Sri Lankan house by adding floor-to-ceiling openings. The design won a competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the prototype was built by the Senseable City Lab, a research group at M.I.T.; Buro Happold, an engineering firm in London; Architecture for Humanity, a nonprofit group in Bozeman, Mont., and the Prajnopaya Foundation in Carlisle, Mass., which creates educational programs for developing nations. The house, designed without bathroom or kitchen fixtures, awaits local feedback, said Tenzin Priyadarshi, president of the Prajnopaya Foundation.

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