

# “THE TSUNAMI CHALLENGE: AFTER THE TENT”

A competition for MIT and the Cambridge community during Springbreak March 21-25, 2005

Six teams from area universities prepare proposals for rebuilding communities in the Tsunami affected countries.



The challenge of the workshop was to brainstorm innovations in the resettlement process for Tsunami affected countries. Immediate large-scale demands, limited materials, disrupted communities, stressed government capabilities suggest new thinking is welcome. Tapping the creativity of students from throughout the extended MIT community offered an opportunity to rethink approaches to housing disaster-affected families.

The Challenge targeted the phase after the immediate disaster needs are addressed, and the search is for more permanent housing and settlement. What can be done that bridges immediate disaster relief and permanent development? Tents are the standard quick first-response for resettlement, but they have a limited lifespan and can only be temporary. ‘After the tent’ captures the concept of the next step, and this is the focus of the challenge.

Students from MIT, Harvard, Rhode Island School of Design, Tufts, and the Boston Architectural Center participated in 6 teams. The Challenge was carried out over a ‘short’ week: the first two afternoons were ‘resource sessions’ on Indonesia and Sri Lanka, the remaining two afternoons were spend in individual team mentoring, and the final presentations were Friday afternoon.



Resource experts include Prof. Ryadi Adityavarman, Architect from Indonesia currently teaching at Wentworth; Hubert Murray, Architect and Planner, also teaching studios in the Department of Architecture; Michael Delaney, Oxfam-America; Marc Older, Planner, who recently visited Sri Lanka and evaluated housing reconstruction; Eswaran Selevrajah, Architect and Planner formerly of Sri Lanka and expert in housing and settlement upgrading; Dr. Sanith Wijesinghe, who recently returned from Sri Lanka assisting in medical relief efforts, Prof. Michelle Addington, Harvard School of Design, Dr. Robert Cowherd, RISD, who had carried out extensive research in Indonesia and had just returned from Banda Aceh, and Dr. Reinhard Goethert, who had worked earlier with the UNHCR and Sri Lanka, and more recently with fishing communities in Indonesia.

What happens now? Many of the students are searching for ways to offer support in the Tsunami affected areas during the summer. Contacts have established in Banda Aceh for assistance in the local redevelopment efforts, and a group of students are posed to travel there at the end of June, assuming funding is secured. Another group is planning to develop their housing proposal further in Sri Lanka in August. Research is beginning on a ‘hybrid’ development model, linking private investment and community-driven development, targeting rapid resettlement strategies.

The workshop was hosted by SIGUS (Special Interest Group in Urban Settlement) of the School of Architecture and Planning, MIT, directed by Dr. Reinhard Goethert, and in collaboration with Prof. Robert Cowherd, Rhode Island School of Design.

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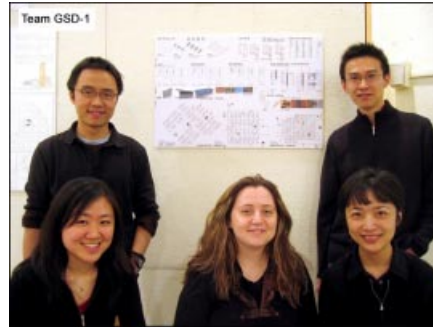


## THE SIX TEAMS

(Not all team members are shown.)

### • “A Framework for Managing Design” (GSD-1)

A multi-pronged proposal ranging from dwelling cores to urban patterns, with focus on flexibility to adjust to culture. Includes income generation by attracting private sector through innovative marketing, and use of local materials. (Ellen Chen, Eric Ho, Nour Jallad, Rick Lam, Ying Zhou)



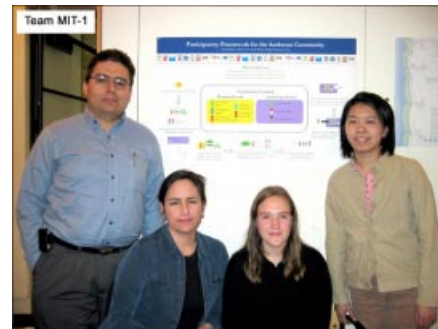
### • “From Housing to Homes: An Urban Plan for Tsunami Relief” (Team BAC-1)

A low-tech, low-rise, community built urban block is the organizing principle of a planning framework designed to address immediate needs for shelter while creating viable permanent neighborhoods. (Jessica Wattman, Erin White, Alexandra Escobar)



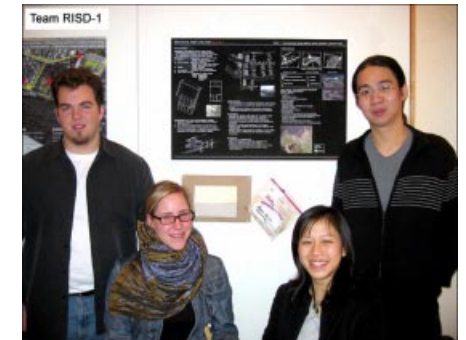
### • “Participatory Framework for the Acehese Community” (Team MIT-1)

An reorganization structure to bridge the gap between the aid organizations and community priorities, balancing a planning section with a monitoring section. (Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Sonia Parisca, Amanda Ikert, Manshi Low; Christine Walker)



### • “Deviating from the New D.U.Z. (De-Urbanized Zone)” (Team RISD-1)

Development of a social core for reestablishing the water-based economy, with housing to be built with simple materials by families. (Tighe Butler, Davit Elecson, David Dwight, Jennifer Niem)



### • “100 Mosques 100 Dossoons” (Team MIT-2)

Drawing on strong cultural traditions, a central Mosque becomes the key organizing element for new communities (‘dusuns’) and a reliable “safe haven” structure. Within a planning framework of canals that shift villages to safer inland locations, construction of mosques is achieved quickly through innovative precast elements, promoting local participation and employment opportunities. (Omar Rabie, Scott Francisco, Anahita Anandam)



### • “Post-Tsunami Reconstruction Guide- lines” (Team MIT-3)

A multi-component proposal which includes an early warning system, an evacuation system, barriers to reduce impacts, and ‘ecotels’ to rejuvenate tourism, with innovative strip typologies in the urban layout to reduce damage and safe havens through multipurpose facilities. (Grant Sharpe, Ajit Singh, Anubhav Gupta, Kaustuv De Biswas, Rakhi Bhavnani)

