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# PE

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Building homes for better health

Engineers have been urged to take part in a global competition to develop an innovative housing design that can help mitigate the transmission of airborne diseases such as tuberculosis (TB).

The international charity Architecture for Health in Vulnerable Environments has launched the competition to raise awareness of how housing layouts can minimise airborne disease infection. Adjusting the material composition of walls, floors,



**Danger zone: Slum homes harbour infections**

and roofs can lower humidity, improve ventilation, and increase direct sunlight, which in turn reduces the presence of indoor pathogens.

The charity hopes the development of such housing will help improve conditions in Haiti, which is still struggling to cope with the aftermath of the massive earthquake which struck the country six months ago.

A campaign website ([www.archiveinstitute.org/haiti](http://www.archiveinstitute.org/haiti)) serves as a platform for engineers, architects

and health professionals to post their details and find suitable team-mates to partner with.

An interdisciplinary panel of judges will choose five winning designs for construction in a community development and healthcare pilot project in the coastal town of Saint-Marc in western Haiti, an hour from the capital.

The winning designs will be showcased in travelling exhibitions to universities worldwide and in a "best practice" design development compendium.