

Strength of straw

IT SEEMS the three little pigs may have been on to something with tests showing houses made of straw bales are more likely to survive a strong earthquake. A report in *New Scientist* revealed houses built using straw bales for walls survived earthquakes greater than 7.6 magnitude with nothing more than a few cracks and some flaking plaster.

Daily Telegraph

16 April 2009 Sydney

John Palazzini Australia