

LESSONS FROM RECENT EARTHQUAKES IN SOUTHERN ITALY AND OBSERVA-
TIONS ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS OF TRADITIONAL CONS-
TRUCTION IN THESE EVENTS

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ABSTRACT This paper discusses the lessons learnt from the most recent Italian earthquake in Campania/Basilicata of November 23rd 1980 and establishes a comparison with actions taken after the previous major earthquake in the South (Belice, January 14-15th 1968). The performance of buildings of traditional construction in these events is discussed with a comparison of the behavior of different building types and construction techniques. The description of damages to settlements is the starting point to review the strategies adopted, assessing pros and cons of involving the local component in self-help techniques