

## Learning from Earthquakes

### EERI Sends Reconnaissance Team to Umbria, Italy

The earthquakes that struck central Italy on September 26 were of only moderate intensity, measured at  $m_s$  5.5 and 5.9 by the US Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center, but they caused catastrophic damage to buildings and killed eight people.

Most of the attention after the quakes was focused on the damage to the Basilica in Assisi and the loss of precious 13<sup>th</sup> century frescoes there. Scores of the region's lesser-known cultural landmarks have also been harmed.

Professor Stephen Tobriner, of the Architecture Department at the University of California, Berkeley,



*Scene of destruction caused by the September 26 quakes in central Italy. For more photos, log on to the EERI web site: <http://www.eeri.org>.*

was selected to lead a team of EERI researchers investigating the effects of the earthquakes. Mary Comerio, also a professor of architecture at UC Berkeley, and Mel Green, President of Melvyn

Green & Associates in Torrance, California, were the other team members. Their report will be included in the December edition of the *Newsletter*.



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