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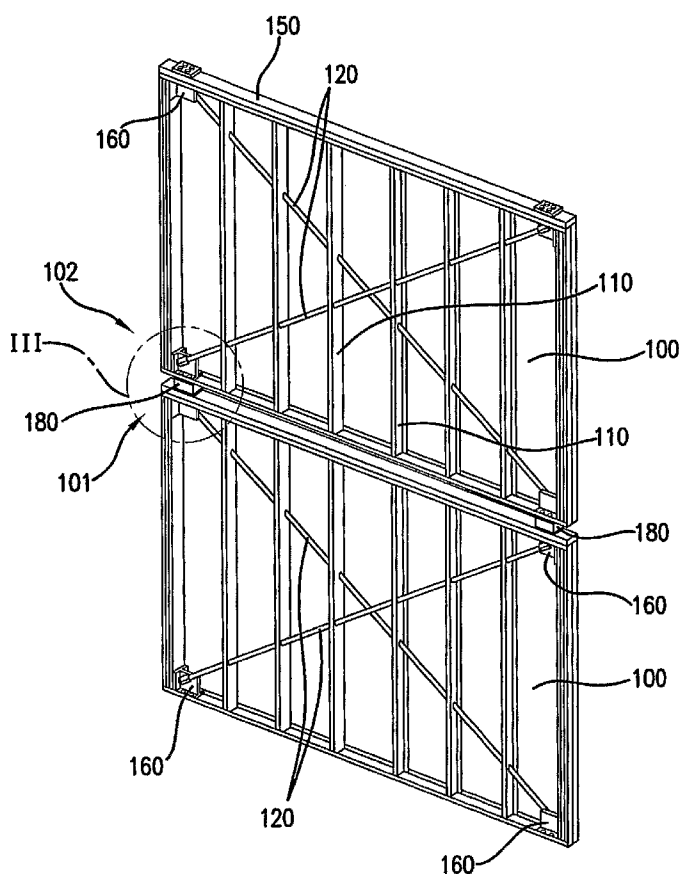
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVED FRAMING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A framed shear wall (100) has a pair of crossed tension straps (120) passing through the studs (110) that make up the shear wall (100). The straps (120) are preferably rods and are preferably attached to upstanding plates (161) installed at the corners of the wall. Each of two straps (120) is preferably attached to an opposite side of the upstanding plate (161) such that the straps (120) do not interfere with each other where the straps cross. The straps preferably include threaded ends and the upstanding plates preferably have threaded receptacles sized to accept the threaded ends of the straps such that the straps can be tensioned before and/or after installation. In one embodiment, the upstanding plates (161) are bolted through a bottom surface of the wall into a threaded anchor plate at floor level, and the threaded anchor plate is attached to a top of a wall on a floor below.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: E04C 3/02(2006.01)

USPC: 52/695,693,696,800.12,656.9

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 52/695, 693, 696, 800.12, 656.9, 653.1, 656.1, 696, 731.1, 731.5, 731.9

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
T, E	US 6,941,718 B1 (diGirolamo et al) 13 September 2005 (13.09.2005), See entire document.	1-20
T,E	US 6,920,724 B1 (HUNDLEY) 26 . <i>July</i> 2005 (26.07.2005), see entire document.	1-20
A	US 5,657,606 A (RESSEL et al) 19 August 1997 (19.08.1997), See entire document.	1-20
A	US 6,185,898 B1 (PRATT) 13 February 2001 (13.02.2001), see entire document.	1-20



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