Claims

1. A fastener assembly for mounting a panel to a framework, the fastener assembly comprising:

an elongate flexible tie having a proximal end and an opposing distal end; and

a clamping block having a first tie-receiving channel extending between an inner side and an opposing outer side of the clamping block, ~~the clamping block having gripping means in or adjacent the tie-receiving channel for gripping the tie,~~ wherein the proximal end is fixable to the clamping block, and,

a hinged piece connected by a hinge to the clamping block for pivoting between a closed position in which the hinged piece has an inner surface that substantially overlies the outer side of the clamping block and an open position, wherein a slot in the hinged piece has a form complementary to the cross-section of the tie that provides gripping means adjacent the first tie-receiving channel for gripping the tie and, in the open position, the slot is adjacent to and aligned with the first tie-receiving channel in the clamping block, and wherein, in use, the inner side of the clamping block abuts the panel and the gripping means grips the tie such that tension in the tie presses the inner side of the clamping block against the panel.

2. The fastener assembly of claim 1 further comprising a saddle having a tie-receiving channel, a concave inner face for abutting a member of the framework and an opposing outer face wherein, in use, ~~the~~ an outer face of the saddle and the inner side of the clamping block abut opposing surfaces of the panel and tension in the tie clamps the panel between the saddle and the clamping block.

3. The fastener assembly of claim 2 wherein a female coupling is recessed in the outer face of the saddle and the fastener assembly further comprises at

least one spacer having opposing inner and outer surfaces substantially parallel to one another, each spacer having a male coupling projecting from the inner surface of the spacer that is complementary to the female coupling on the saddle and a female coupling recessed in the outer surface of the spacer that is of like form to the female coupling of the saddle.

4. The fastener assembly of claim 3 wherein the spacer further comprises a tie-receiving channel extending between an inner side and an opposing outer side of the spacer for receiving the tie.

~~5. The fastener assembly of claim 4 further comprising a hinged piece connected by a hinge to the clamping block for pivoting between a closed position in which the hinged piece has an inner surface that substantially overlies the outer side of the clamping block and an open position.~~

~~6~~5. The fastener assembly of any one of claims ~~1~~ 2 to ~~5~~ 4 wherein the tie comprises a head formed on the proximal end and received in a through-extending aperture in the clamping block, the aperture having a stepped form comprising a mouth part proximate the outer face for receiving the head and an adjacent throat part through which the head cannot pass.

~~7~~6. The fastener assembly of any one of claims 1 to ~~5~~ 4 wherein the tie comprises a strap.

~~8~~7. The fastener assembly of any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the saddle comprises resilient material, and opposing arms integral with the saddle that project inwardly from the inner side for clipping the saddle to the framework.

~~9~~8. The fastener assembly of claim ~~8~~ 7 wherein the saddle comprises a base part on which the concave inner face and outer face are formed and from

opposite edges of which the arms extend and wherein a concavity in the base part at an inner end of each arm is arcuate and bounds a hinge portion connecting each arm to the base part.

~~10~~9. The fastener assembly of claim 7 or claim 8 wherein each arm comprises an inner concave face that intersects with a tapered face at a neck, the tapered faces diverging a longitudinal direction of each arm from the neck toward a respective end of the arm.

~~11~~10. The fastener assembly of claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein each arm further comprises a pair of substantially parallel ribs elongated in the longitudinal direction of the arm, and disposed either side of a channel for receiving the tie.

~~12~~11. The fastener assembly of any one of claims ~~5~~ 1 to 10 wherein the hinge comprises a cylindrical external surface received in a complementary pivot-receiving recess in one of the hinged piece and the clamping block, wherein the one of the hinged piece and the clamping block is formed of a resilient material, such that the hinged piece is connected to the clamping block by a snap fit.

~~13. The fastener assembly of claim 12 wherein a slot in the hinged piece is aligned with the tie-receiving channel in the open position and has a form complementary to the cross-section of the strap.~~

~~14. The fastener assembly of claim 13 wherein the slot extends next to an inner side of the hinged piece.~~

1~~5~~2. The fastener assembly of any one of claims ~~5~~ 1 to 11 wherein the clamping block further comprises a second tie-receiving channel, wherein the second tie-receiving channel and first tie-receiving channel are proximate opposite sides of the hinge, whereby the distal end can be passed outwardly

through the first tie-receiving channel, around the hinged piece, and in through the second tie-receiving channel.

~~16~~13. The fastener assembly of claim ~~6~~ 5 wherein the head is formed by doubling over the ~~strap~~ tie upon itself, the head received in a stepped recess in a reinforcement, the reinforcement received in the stepped aperture in the clamping block.

~~17~~14. The fastener assembly of any one of claims ~~5~~ 1 to 13 wherein on an end of the hinged piece opposite the hinge, latching lugs are formed for engaging a complementary recess on the clamping block for latching the hinged piece in the closed position.

~~18~~15. The fastener assembly of claim ~~17~~ 14 wherein the clamping block comprises a recess, and in the closed position the hinged piece is received within the recess.

~~19~~16. The fastener assembly of claim ~~17~~ 14 or claim ~~18~~ 15 wherein, with the hinged piece attached to the clamping block in the closed position, the hinged piece lies at or within any profile view of the clamping block in a plane perpendicular to the inner side.

~~20~~17. The fastener assembly of claim ~~19~~ 16 wherein in said any profile the clamping block tapers to narrow toward its outer edges.

~~21~~18. The fastener assembly of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ ~~12~~ 11 ~~to 14~~ wherein the cylindrical external surface is on the hinged piece and the pivot-receiving recess is on the clamping block, the pivot-receiving recess is formed by a tab that projects generally outwardly from the outer side of the clamping block, and a

through-extending tab-receiving opening in the hinged piece receives the tab in the closed position.

~~22~~19. The fastener assembly of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s 12 to 14~~6 wherein the strap is aligned such that a major dimension of the cross-section of the strap is aligned parallel to an axis of the hinge.

~~23~~20. The fastener assembly of any one of claims 1~~2~~ to ~~14~~ 11 wherein a channel in ~~the~~ an outer face of the hinged ~~member~~ piece is formed for receiving the ~~strap~~tie.

~~24~~21. The fastener assembly of any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the tie comprises ratchet serrations disposed in a longitudinal array on a side of the ~~strap~~tie;

the saddle is fixed to the proximal end, the saddle further comprises at least one saddle tooth integral with the saddle and disposed in the first tie-receiving channel such that passing the ~~strap~~ tie through the first tie-receiving channel engages the saddle tooth with the serrations on the ~~strap~~ tie forms a loop adjacent the inner face for passing around a member of the framework and the distal end of the ~~strap~~ tie projects from the outer face, and

the clamping block having a clamping block tooth integral with the clamping block and disposed in the first tie-receiving channel ~~opening~~, such that passing the ~~strap~~ tie through the first tie-receiving channel ~~opening~~ engages the clamping block tooth with the serrations on the ~~strap~~tie.

~~25~~22. A barrier system comprising: a fastener assembly as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~24~~ 21 and mesh panel made of polymeric material and having a honeycomb shaped mesh.

~~26~~23. The barrier system of claim ~~25~~22, wherein webs of the honeycomb shaped mesh have a generally elliptical cross-section, with a long axis of the elliptical cross-section aligned transversely to the mesh panel.

~~27~~24. The barrier system of claim ~~26~~23, wherein the mesh panel further comprises a perimeter frame that surrounds the honeycomb shaped mesh and is integral therewith, the perimeter frame being continuous and imperforate.

~~28~~25. The barrier system of claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein the mesh panel has a rectangular form with an integral stiffener extending continuously along at least one of the long edges of the panel.

~~29~~26. The barrier system of claim ~~28~~ 25 wherein the stiffener is of constant form throughout its length and defines a channel.

~~30~~27. The barrier system of claim ~~29~~ 26 wherein the integral stiffener comprises integral stiffeners extending continuously along two opposite edges of the panel, notches in the two opposite edges are disposed a regular rectangular array, the notches being aligned so as to define parallel hinge axes between notches on opposing ones of the opposite edges, such that the panel may bend along the parallel hinge axes.

~~31~~28. The barrier system of any one of claims ~~25~~ 22 to ~~27~~ 24 comprising a corner panel assembly of a plurality of first rectangular panels each with continuous hinges along both long edges, each of the first rectangular panels connected to an adjacent one of the first rectangular panels by one of the continuous hinges.

~~32~~29. The barrier system of claim ~~31~~ 28 further comprising two second rectangular panels, each with a continuous hinge along one edge, wherein

opposing outermost ones of the first rectangular panels are each connected to one of the two second rectangular panels by a respective continuous hinge.

~~33~~30. The barrier system of claim ~~31~~ 28 or claim ~~32~~ 29 wherein a hinge pin joins each adjacent rectangular panel, and each hinge pin is sheathed in compliant material.

~~34~~31. The barrier system of any one of claims ~~25~~ 22 to ~~33~~ 30 further comprising a bracket for supporting a lower panel edge in abutment with an adjacent structural member, the bracket having a face for engaging a complementary surface of the panel; recesses in the bracket for receiving the ~~strap~~ tie disposed in opposing sides of the face, and a support surface substantially perpendicular to the face, through which the weight supported by the bracket is transferred.

~~35~~32. The barrier system of claim ~~34~~ 31 wherein the bracket comprises projecting flexible tabs providing a snap fit engagement with openings in the mesh panel and a spacer block with opposing outer and inner sides replicating cooperating attachment features of the bracket and mesh panel respectively for permitting a snap fit engagement between the bracket and the inner side of spacer block and between outer side of the spacer block and the openings in the mesh panel, and a screw fastener for blocking inward deflection of the tabs sufficient to permit disengagement of the connected bracket, spacer block and mesh panel.