THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Tuesday evening, July 21, 1981. Main Edition.

SUSPENSION ROD TEARS FROM BOX BEAMS

CHANGE IN HYATT SKY WALK SUPPORTS

'ritical design change linked to collapse Hyatt's sky walks

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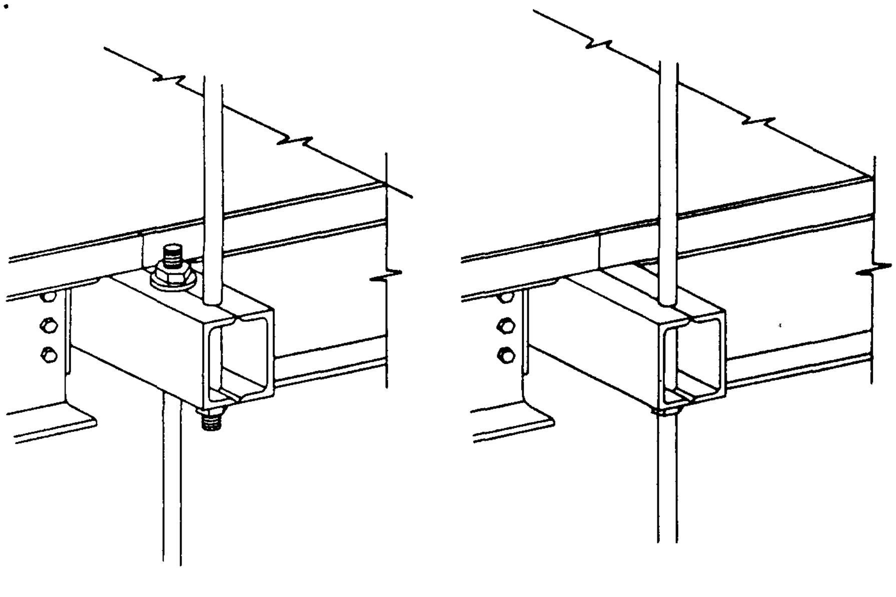

As Built

Original Detail

VII. The collapse of two suspended walkways in the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel in 1981 killed over one hundred people and was the worst accident due to a structural failure in the history of the United States. There were many theories offered for the cause of the collapse, including the presence of too many people dancing on the walkways, recalling the collapse of early suspension bridges under the feet of marching soldiers. The real cause of the failure was quickly traced to a single change in the design of a support detail, apparently made to facilitate the erection of the skywalks. *The Kansas City Star,* which had hired an engineer as a consultant on the story, revealed the true cause within ys of the accident in this Pulitzer Prize-winning story. Later tests at the National Bureau Standards confirmed the cause to be in the detail.