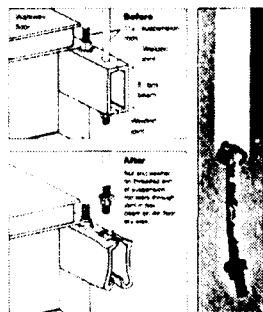
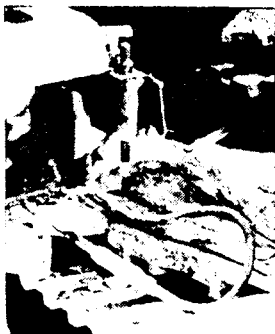
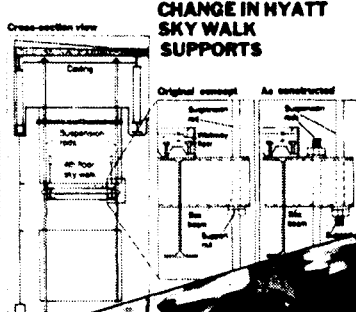


SUSPENSION ROD TEARS FROM BOX BEAMS



This combination of photos and illustrations shows part of the structural failure that occurred on the highest sky walk at the Hyatt Regency Friday night. The photos show what happened after the collapse. The illustrations are actual drawings of what happened.

CHANGE IN HYATT SKY WALK SUPPORTS



Critical design change linked to collapse Hyatt's sky walks

It was these beams that tore down and away from their ceiling-anchored moorings and both the walkway and a second-story walkway, hanging below and connected to the hotel lobby.

However, none of the experts—a structural engineer hired by The Star—was certain that it is not yet possible to determine whether that tearing failure was the primary cause of the collapse, or merely one in a chain of structural failures. But it is clear, significantly, he said.

The tragic collapse Friday night killed 11 persons and injured 100 others, at least 26 of them critically. At the time of the collapse, about 1,000 people were at

feeding a tea dance in the hotel lobby. Many were standing on the sky walk, most on the second-story level, watching the dancing below, some of them either dancing or waving to the music, according to eyewitnesses.

The original design plans were revealed today when city officials made all Hyatt construction records available for inspection, including the specifications for the project and the construction plans.

These records and the altered design, as constructed, were studied by Luskha, a structural engineer who was engaged by the newspaper

power for the project. Luskha is a former member of the Kansas City Board of Engineers. He independently corroborated Luskha's conclusions.

This second engineer asked that his name not be used for fear he would be ostracized by the local architectural community—that it would attract

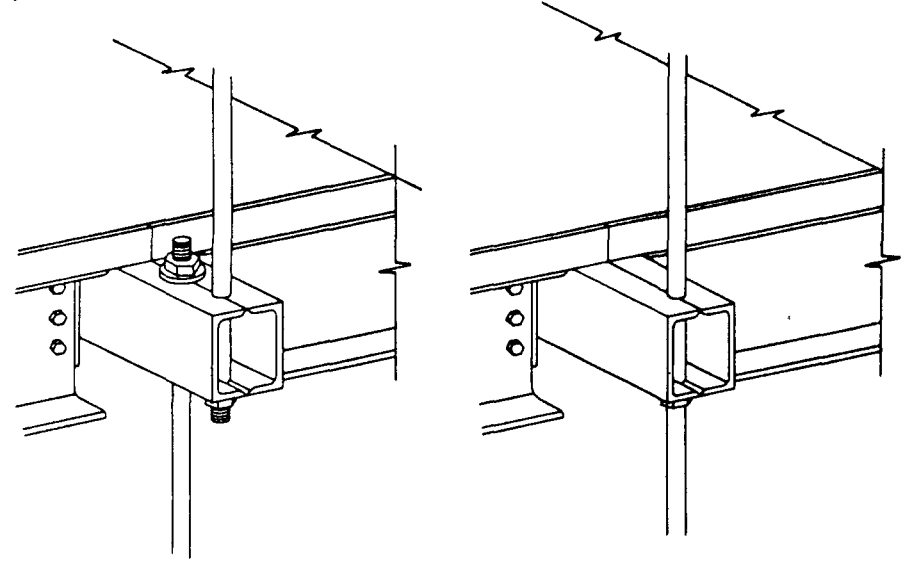
Once the details

weight of a loaded structure.

After examining the original design blueprints on file at City Hall and taking up photographs of the construction details, Luskha determined that the original design was flawed.

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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 days of the accident in this Pulitzer Prize-winning story. Later tests at the National Bureau of Standards confirmed the cause to be in the detail.