



Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse Case Study

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What happened?

- On July 17, 1981, two of the three walkways at the Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed, killing 114 people and injuring over 200.
- This was due to a changed design from a one-rod to a two-rod system to simplify the assembly task.
- The top walkway collapsed on the bottom one, causing death and destruction to all who stood on and below.
- **LET THIS BE A LESSON!!! DO NOT TEMPT ME!!!! I AM YOUR RULER NOW AND FOREVER!!!!!!**



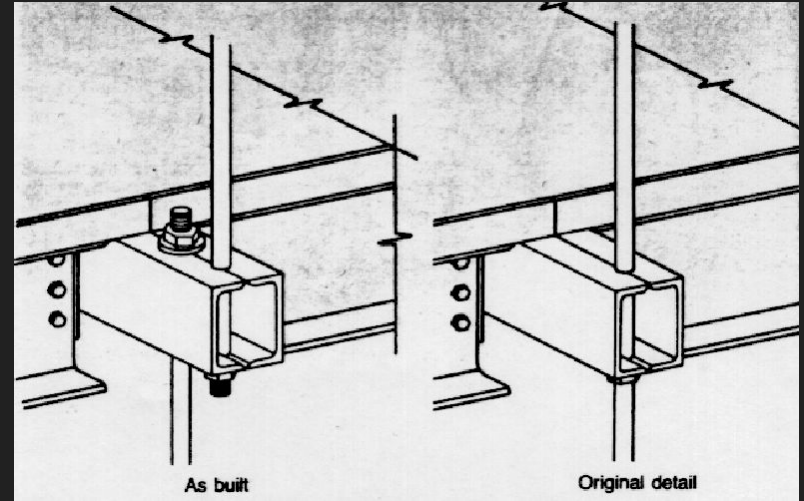
Ethical Issues/Negligence

- The main ethical issue of this case study is negligence on the part of the G.C.E International Inc.
- Part of the atrium roof collapsed due to the same weight issues while the hotel was first under construction.
- An inspection team from G.C.E was called in and afterwards, the firm told the owner that the problem was fixed and that the atrium was safe
- Negligence and lack of attention are what caused this disaster.



How could have the outcome been different

- To simplify construction, the firm approved a last minute alteration.
- By threading two rods through each side of the supporting beam, they put too much stress on the longitudinal weld which resulted in the beam failing.
- Sticking to the original design would have avoided this catastrophe.







How could the problem be solved?

- If the structural design was not changed to cost less, the integrity of the rods would have been stronger
- The team could have spent more time analyzing the first collapse and working on a better solution.
- If there was a greater focus on the structural safety of the walkways the two collapses would've been avoided

Conclusion-Group Outcome

- The risks towards safety weren't worth the money that was saved by not redesigning the walkways.
- The investigation into the incident found the engineering firm guilty for creating the plans that lead to the failure.
- The owner didn't know that the design would be faulty as he was told by the firm that the design was safe.
- Many early red flags surely should've motivated a redesign, however due to negligence on the part of the firm, no proper changes were made.

Work Cited

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