

Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

DENISE P. BEKAERT, R.A., A.I.A.
Architect

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2002 to **Robson Forensic, Inc.**
present *Associate*

Provide technical investigations, analyses, reports and testimony for failure analysis and towards the resolution of litigation regarding slip, trip and fall injuries; construction materials failures; code compliance; construction claims; and professional liability. Expertise as applied to:

Code Compliance and Conformance: NYC Building Code & Reference Standards; NYC Multiple Dwelling Law; NYC Zoning Ordinance, NYS Building Code, life safety; requirements for health, safety and welfare of building occupants; NYC MEA number requirements; material ratings and certifications for non-flammability and toxicity (UL, ANSI, ASTM)

Walking Surfaces: Thresholds; tread to riser ratio; curbs and edges; ramp surfacing; ramp rise; stair nosings; tactile warning surfaces; changes in levels; changes in material, slip resistant surfacing

Handrails and Other Support: Handrail location; handrail shape, size and graspability; continuous handrails; handrail stability; handrail material; handrail extensions; handrail openings; handrail height; parapet and roof guard rails; areaway guard rails; window guards; bathroom grab bars; hallway grab bars; grab bar bracing

Egress and Circulation Paths: Door widths; door swings; vision panels; landing size and surfacing; hallway and stair width and location; lighting; door closers; door hardware; visual directions and maps; aisle width; furniture and seating arrangement; fire escape functioning and obstructions; lighting

Special Building Types: Historical buildings; mixed-use facilities; places of assembly; health clubs and gyms including wet areas; detention facility; drug rehabilitation facility

Special User Requirements: Access for persons with disabilities, barrier free standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); adaptable facilities; special requirements for the elderly and children

Fire: Fire proofing, fire detection and suppression; fire dampers, smoke alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers; ANSUL system requirements; requirements for fire rated doors and windows; wire glass

Design and Construction: Functionality of design for intended use; misuse of intended design; compatibility of construction elements; parapet and roofing moisture penetration; foundation waterproofing; fire-cut beams; wall, floor and roof construction and joints; joining and finishes;

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brick jointing; sealants and caulking waterproofing and moisture resistance; acoustical and thermal insulation; structural elements; maintainability of building components; door and window failures; glass and glazing failures

Construction Supervision: Approvals and permit procedures; insurance and bonding; coordination of mechanical, electrical plumbing services; firestops; ventilation of mechanical rooms; proper location of service equipment; routing, sizing and arrangement of electrical, HVAC and plumbing equipment; hidden defects (i.e. missing reinforcing); inspection failures; illegal construction

Construction Site Security: Construction fences; construction sheds; lighting; flagmen; cones; unprotected openings; protection of pedestrians

1994 to **Denise P. Bekaert Architect**
2002 *Principal*

General architecture involving new and renovated structures of wide variety of uses including: commercial bookstore, historic brownstones, public exhibition spaces, conference and retreat facility, single-family addition, single family residence, and offices. Practice offered full design and development, construction and bid documents, permits and approvals, and construction oversight responsibilities.

1988 to **Davila-Petraglia, P.C., Architect**
1994 *Project Architect*

Oversaw various new masonry and gut rehabilitation for elderly and transient homeless housing. Design, development and construction documentation for training kitchens, classrooms, drug rehabilitation clinics and community agency offices. Specification writing, and shop drawing review.

1988 **Sultan Associates**
Intern Architect

Responsible for schematic drawing and review of renovation of general office public spaces and general construction documents.

1984 to **Weschler-Grasso-Menziuso, P.C. AIA**
1988 *Intern Architect*

Responsible for architectural contract drawings and coordination with engineering and structural documentation on high-rise, high-end multi-family buildings in New York City, including field surveying and as built conditions surveying.

1983 **AEGIS Corporation**
Draftsman

Construction drawings for psychiatric hospital.

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1980 to **Beach-Philpot Associates, P.C., AIA**

1983 *Intern Architect*

Assisted civil engineer in surveying and preparation of master planning drawings for the Army Corps of Engineer at major army bases. Schematic design and layout of laboratory.

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Registered Architect – New York

EDUCATION

M.S. Urban Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, 1984

B.S. Architectural Studies, Florida A & M University, 1980

REPRESENTATIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Failure Analysis," Institute for Design Professionals, May 2011

"Improving Public Health by Greening Your Specifications: LEED Principles and Practices in Specifications," Pratt, July 2010

"Today's Structural Steel," AISC, Pratt, July 2010

"Specifications Writing, Principles and Practices," Pratt, July 2010

"Improving Energy Performance in the Building Envelope," Tremco Group and Dryvit Systems, Inc., October 2009

"Materials, Design, and Special Inspections under the New 2008 NYC Building Code," Institute for Design Professionals, June 2009

"The Roofing and Below-Grade Waterproofing Symposium: Practices, Methods, and Systems for New and Existing Buildings," Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger, June 2009

"New New York City Building Code," Institute for Design Professionals, September 2008

"Designing with Precast Concrete," High Concrete, May 2008

"Passive Fire Stop Systems," 3M, April 2008

"Security Design through CPTED," Pratt, October 2007

American Institute of Architects, October 2007

"Adaptive Reuse of an Existing Building: Using the NYS Existing Building Code, Chapter 12"

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“NYC Green Schools Guide”
“Details and Solutions to Masonry Wall Failures”
“Glass as a Structural Material”
“Electrified Hardware”
“Comprehensive Approach to Historic Renovation”
“Weaving New Systems into Historic Structures”
“Responding to Climate Change”

“Carbon Fiber Reinforced Precast: New Technology for Highly Sustainable Buildings,” Altus Group, October 2007

“Design and Construction of Cold-Formed Steel Structures,” Structural Framing Alliance and the Structural Engineers Association of New York, May 2007

“Preventing Moisture, Air, and Vapor in the Building Envelope,” New York Society of Professional Engineers/American Institute of Architects, March 2007

“Flashing Details for Masonry Cavity Wall Construction”
“Role of Air & Water-Resistive Barriers in Building Envelope”
“Causes and Solutions for Water Vapor Transmission in Concrete Slabs”
“Sealants & Adhesives for Prevention of Air & Water Infiltration”

“Construction Cost Estimating - An Overview,” New York Institute of Technology, November 11, 2006

“Building Envelope Construction, Protection and Restoration,” New York Society of Professional Engineers/American Institute of Architects (NYS), October 26, 2005

“Specifying, Cleaning, and Protecting of Masonry and Concrete”
“Sealants & Adhesives for Construction”
“Concrete Restoration & Protection”
“Construct, Protect, and Restore Commercial Roofs”

“Traco Architectural Summit,” Traco, September 27, 2005

“Paints and Finishes”
“Designing with Laminated Glass”
“Energy Efficient Glazing”
“AAMA Specifications”
“Improving Thermal Performance in Structural Windows”

“Construction Law,” Pratt, July 21-22, 2005

“Mold Liability Issues,” Pratt, June 3, 2004

“Curtainwall Systems: Current Issues and Case Studies,” Architectural Engineering Institute and Ornamental Metal Institute of New York, March 2004

“Electrical Systems Design,” New York University, February - May 2002

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute of Architects
American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM)
 Committee F13 on Safety and Traction of Footwear
 Committee E06 Performance of Buildings
 Committee E58 on Forensic Engineering
National Safety Council

EXPERT NOT RETAINED