

# Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

THOMAS PIENCIAK, A.I.A., C.B.O.  
Architect

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2001 to **Robson Forensic, Inc.**

present *Associate*

Provide technical investigations, analysis, reports, and testimony for failure analysis, and towards the resolution of commercial and personal injury litigation involving slip, trip, and fall injuries; construction materials failures; code compliance issues; construction claims; and professional liability. Services include:

**Slip Accidents:** Measurement of coefficient of friction of wet and dry surfaces; slip accidents occurring on stairs, ramps, parking lots, sidewalks, dance floors, supermarkets; sidewalk slips on ice; analysis of site and building drainage issues contributing to the formation of ice as related to slip accidents.

**Trip Accidents:** Measurement and analysis of stair geometry and construction; single steps; misalignments of walking surfaces; gratings; sidewalks – obstructions and maintenance; unmarked sloped areas.

**Human Factors:** Body movements and forces imparted during walking, use of stairs, slipping, tripping, and falling.

**Playground Accidents:** Fall zone ground surface materials; playground equipment use area clearances; playground equipment protrusions, pinch points, clothing entanglement, head entrapment; playground equipment impact injuries; appropriateness for age groups; composite playground equipment.

**Issues for Special Users:** Barrier-Free standards, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, access for persons with disabilities, special requirements for the elderly and children of various age groups.

**Building Safety:** Codes, standards; lighting levels and uniformity; unprotected openings in floors and walls; guard rails; glass and glazing.

**Power Doors:** Power operated automatic pedestrian doors; revolving, swinging and sliding doors; design, layout, maintenance; sensors and safety features.

**Security:** Site planning and design; site and building exterior lighting; facility planning; door hardware.

**Conspicuousness of Hazards:** Placement, effectiveness, and illumination of warnings; signage; color and contrast of adjacent materials.

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**Building Failures:** Foundation cracking, settling, or failures due to soil conditions, grading, and water intrusion; roof and wall collapses; construction means and methods.

**Construction Materials Failures:** Water intrusion related issues; brick, stone, and concrete spalling; gutter and flashing system failures; roofing system failures; expansion joint failures; sealant and caulk system failures, window system failures.

**Building Design and Planning:** Building codes and standards; means of egress; security; retrofitting requirements, access for persons with disabilities.

**Site design and Planning:** Site planning; zoning; grading and drainage; control of storm water; parking lots; access for persons with disabilities.

2000 to **Nadaskay Kopelson Architects**

2001 *Project Manager*

Primary focus on construction contract administration, building code reviews, and feasibility studies. Managed construction detailing and document coordination on commercial and multi-family construction projects.

1994 to **Insurance Services Office, Inc.**

2000 *Project Manager, Natural Hazards Mitigation*

Assisted in the development, implementation, and management of an insurance industry program which evaluates the quality of building departments countrywide and ties the evaluation into available property insurance discounts. Responsibilities included public speaking, training employees, and generation of technical manuals and documents to aid employee job performance. Involved with code compliance and structural integrity issues related to natural hazards such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.

1984 to **Nadaskay Kopelson Architects**

1994 *Project Architect / Project Manager*

Managed projects on a day-to-day basis, overseeing drafters and CAD operators, coordinating consultants, client meetings, construction administration, shop drawing review, construction detailing, acting in-house code specialist.

1981 to **Alan Ballou-AIA-Architect**

1984 *Draftsman*

Responsibilities included drafting, design development, detailing, model building, shop drawing checking, measuring and drawing existing buildings, code research.

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1980 to **Ballou, Levy, Fellgraff Architects**

1981 *Draftsman*

Responsibilities included drafting, model making, measuring and drawing existing buildings.

### PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Registered Architect – New Jersey, New York

CABO Certified Building Official

Licensed HHS Building Inspector – New Jersey

Licensed Inspector of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings – New Jersey

Certified Playground Safety Inspector, National Playground Safety Institute

Certified Operator of the English XL Variable Incidence Tribometer (slip meter)

Certified Inspector of Power-Operated Automatic Pedestrian Doors – American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers (2004-2007)

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute of Architects

New Jersey Society of Architects

### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Newark, NJ, 1981

### REPRESENTATIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION

“Ensuring Compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and Applicable Building Codes,” Institute for Design Professionals, November 2011

“Certification Course for Playground Safety Inspectors,” National Playground Safety Institute, October 2011

“CXLT Certification Program,” Excel Tribometers, LLC, June, 2011

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“Workshop on Conducting Periodic Façade Inspections: A Discussion of the ‘How-To’,” ASTM International, April, 2011

“Residential Fire Suppression Systems,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, April, 2011

“Lead-Based Paint Safety for NJ DCA Bureau of Housing Inspectors,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March, 2011

“The New Jersey Energy Conservation Subcode for Building Inspectors,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, October, 2010

“The Art and Science of Designing to Net Zero,” AIA Continuing Education, September, 2010

“Using LEED to Maximize Sustainability,” AIA Continuing Education, September, 2010

“Building with Balance,” AIA Continuing Education, September, 2010

“Green Building Envelope Design,” AIA Continuing Education, September, 2010

“Masonry for Building Inspectors,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, June 2010

“IRC / IBC Stucco Installation Requirements and Code Changes,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, April 2010

“Designing with BIM,” AIA Newark and Suburban, March 2010

“The Housing Inspection Process,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March 2010

“2009 International Building Code Update,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, November 2009

“Tackling Construction Law Issues,” New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, July 2009

“Daubert Motions: Challenging Expert Opinions,” Lorman Education Services, March 2009

“Structural Problems and Concerns,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, November 2008

“Building Codes in New Jersey,” Lorman Education Services, November 2008

“Concepts & Construction Code Requirements for Means of Egress,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, September 2008

“English XL VIT Certification Program,” William English, Inc., June 2008

“Certification Course for Playground Safety Inspectors,” National Playground Safety Institute, May 2008

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“Health & Safety Standards, Vacant Buildings, Hotel & Motel Areas,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, April 2008

“The 2006 International Building Code Update,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, December 2007

“The Vinyl Siding Institute Installer & Building Code Official Training Program,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, October 2007

“Fire Safety Retrofit Code,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March 2007

“Managing Complex Construction Law Issues,” National Business Institute, January 2007

“Building Diagnostics: Moisture Problems and Mold Growth,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March 2006

“The Role of Windows and Doors in Residential Construction,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March 2006

“Overview of the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law and Regulations,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March 2005

“Certification Course for Playground Safety Inspectors,” National Playground Safety Institute, October 2004

“Masonry Cavity Wall Detailing,” Architect’s Trade Show, May 2004

“AAADM Inspector Certification Program,” American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers, May 2004

“Engineered Lumber in Residential Construction,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, March 2004

“Commercial Roofing 2003 – System Options, Problems, Advancements,” GAF Materials Corporation, October 2003

“Framing Inspections Using a Checklist,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, October 2003

“Establishing Effective Contract Documents and the Pitfalls to Avoid,” AIA Newark and Suburban Architects, September 2003

“Exterior Walls in Construction – Stucco Systems,” Extech, July 2003

“Proper Inspection of Firestop Systems,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, June 2003

“Broken/Problem Buildings,” AIA Newark and Suburban Architects/NJCSI; March 2003

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“AMTRAK Contractor/Lessee/Agency Employee Safety Course for Contractors Working on or about the Right-of-way,” Secaucus, NJ; November 2002

“Advanced Barrier-free Subcode,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; November 2002

“Mold Litigation, Strategy and Investigation,” Lorman Education Services; July 2002

“English XL VIT Certification Program,” International Safety Academy; June 2002

“Stucco and E.I.F.S. Wall Systems,” Architects Trade Show; April 2002

“Air, Water & Moisture Management in Commercial Building Envelopes,” Architects Trade Show; April 2002

“Introduction to the International Building Code,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; October 2001

“Uniform Construction Code Law,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; October 2001

“Playground Safety Inspector Certification Course and Exam,” National Playground Safety Institute; October 2001

“Fire Walls, Separations, and Partitions,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; May 2001

“The Wood Truss Industry – an Overview,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; April 2001

“Acoustics and Noise Reduction,” Armstrong Industries; February 2001

“1996 BOCA Code Update with NJ Changes,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; November 2000

“Residential Roofing Systems Overview,” GAF Materials Corporation; November 2000

“Sprinkler Protection Tradeoffs,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; May 2000

“Dynamic Daylighting Made Easy With Composite Fenestration Systems,” Kalwall Corporation; May 2000

“Barrier Free Subcode,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; April 2000

“Understanding Fire Rated Glazing,” Technical Glass Products; April 2000

“The Future of Construction Contract Documents,” New Jersey Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute with Newark and Suburban Architects Chapter of American Institute of Architects; March 2000

“Innovative Seismic Strengthening,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; October 1999

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- “Tornadoes 101,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; October 1999
- “Strengthening Unreinforced Masonry Buildings,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; October 1999
- “The Residential Code for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Beyond,” BOCA International, Annual Conference; September 1999
- “Inspecting Metal Building Systems,” BOCA International, Annual Conference; September 1999
- “The 2000 International Building Code Structural Provisions Overview,” BOCA International, Annual Conference; September 1999
- “Opportunities for Enhancing the Wind Resistance of Buildings,” BOCA International, Annual Conference; September 1999
- “Seismic Considerations for Building Components,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; April 1999
- “Rehabilitation Subcode Briefing,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; December 1998
- “Earthquakes 201,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; November 1998
- “Wildfire 101,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; November 1998
- “Assessing Risk at the Wildland/Urban Interface,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; November 1998
- “Current Issues and Initiatives in Commercial Roofing: Keeping the Lid On,” Institute for Business and Home Safety, Annual Congress; November 1998
- “Steel Buildings: Special Inspection,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; May 1998
- “Design of Wood Frame Buildings for High Wind Loading,” Southern Building Code Congress International / American Forest and Paper Association; October 1997
- “Seismic Construction Prescriptive Standard,” Southern Building Code Congress International; October 1997
- “Basic Code Enforcement,” BOCA International; November 1996
- “BOCA International Annual Codes Conference,” BOCA International; September 1996
- “Seismic Design Requirements,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; June 1996
- “Building Inspection,” Southern Building Code Congress International; July 1995
- “Wind and Flood Resistant Construction,” NJ Dept. of Community Affairs; June 1995

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“1995 National Hurricane Conference,” National Hurricane Conference; April 1995

“Hurricane Resistant Residential Construction,” Southern Building Code Congress International; December 1994

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Overview of Life Safety” – segment of “Building Codes in New Jersey,” Lorman Education Services, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, January, 2009

“Overview of Life Safety” – segment of “Building Codes in New Jersey,” Lorman Education Services, Atlantic City, New Jersey, November, 2008

EXPERT NOT RETAINED