

RESTAURANT ENTRANCE

Expert Investigates Pedestrian Fall

A woman was exiting a restaurant under a small canopy above the doors when she unexpectedly stepped across a single riser in the raised 'porch'. The tile pavement continued across the step and into the restaurant, and she didn't see the change in elevation as she was walking toward her parked car. The configuration of the entrance had been recently changed, and the redesign involved the services of an architect.

A Robson Forensic architect was retained to determine if the restaurant, who maintained the entrance, and the architect, who oversaw construction of the new entrance, created a dangerous condition that caused the woman's injuries. We determined that the configuration of the step was difficult for exiting patrons to identify, because of the lack of delineation of the tread edges and the absence of handrails to guide patrons toward and down the step.

Our architect determined that the architect for the project violated the standard of care for safe egress from a building, as well as provisions in the applicable building codes. We also determined that the restaurant owner violated applicable codes for property maintenance by failing to install handrails and other safety features that would have made the step easier to detect and reasonably safe for exiting patrons.

Contact the [Premises Safety](#) team at Robson Forensic for information on how we can aid in your investigation.