

Henry Petroski

Quotes

Engineering, Design, Done, Mistake, Book, Technology, Mean, Doe, Airplane, Achieve, Ensemble, Decision Making, Art, Advancement, Essence, Availability, Form, Gains, Home, Numbers

The most amazing achievement of the computer software industry is its continuing cancellation of the steady and staggering gains made by the computer hardware industry.

~Henry Petroski

No one wants to learn from mistakes, but we cannot learn enough from successes to go beyond the state of the art.

~Henry Petroski

Engineering is achieving function while avoiding failure.

~Henry Petroski

Failure is Central to engineering. Every single calculation that an engineer makes is a failure calculation.

~Henry Petroski

Form follows failure.

~Henry Petroski

Design is nothing if not decision making.

~Henry Petroski

The bookshelf, like the book, has become an integral part of civilization as we know it, its presence in a home practically defining what it means to be civilized, educated, and refined.

~Henry Petroski

All conventional wisdom has an element of truth to it, but good design requires more than an element of truth - it requires an ensemble of correct assumptions and valid calculations.

~Henry Petroski

Any design, whether its for a ship or an airplane, must be done in anticipation of potential failures.

~Henry Petroski

Our expectations for a technology rise with its advancement.

~Henry Petroski

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