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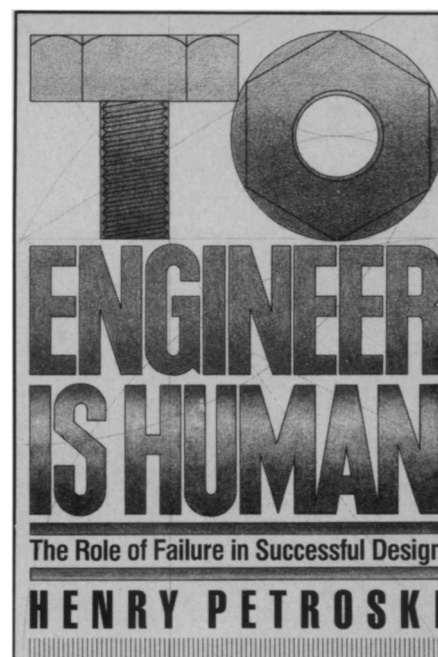
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The impulse to build and to rearrange inanimate nature is as much a part of us as is our instinct to walk and to dance. But just as we occasionally falter in our step, so sometimes do engineers err in their designs.

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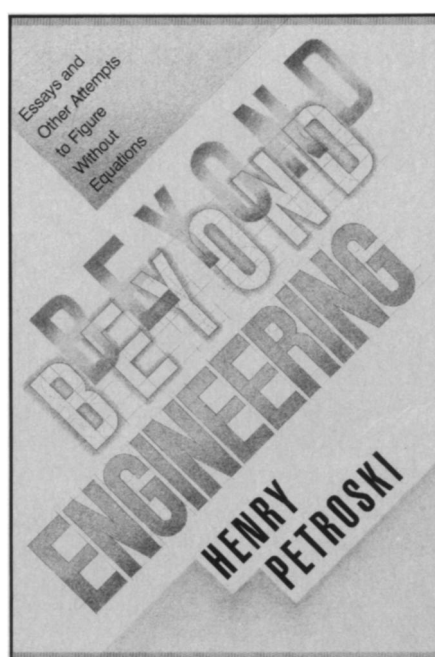
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To Engineer Is Human, St. Martin's Press, 1985, 8½" x 5½", 247 pages, hardcover, \$16.95



Beyond Engineering challenges the conventional wisdom that engineering and writing do not mix. The author argues that writing is not unlike designing a bridge and that today's young engineer is as likely to be interested in constructions of words as in those of concrete and steel. Thirty wide-ranging essays unearth new and sometimes unexpected interrelationships between the technical and literary cultures whose isolation from one another C. P. Snow lamented. Personal essays on energy systems, computers and other artifacts of technology are juxtaposed with those on libraries, reading and books themselves.

Also included are captivating

pieces of whimsy, in which Petroski suspends the laws of nature to balance the federal budget and solve the energy crisis, among other imaginative accomplishments. The book discusses the personalities of those attracted to engineering, the changing character of new generations of engineering students and the politics of engineers. And he allows us an insightful look into the life of an engineering professor juggling teaching, research and family schedules.

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Beyond Engineering, St. Martin's Press, 1986, 8½" x 5½", 256 pages, hardcover, \$17.95

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