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# To Forgive Design Understanding Failure Henry Petroski

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*Understanding Failure*

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In *To Forgive Design*, he surveys some of the most infamous failures of our time, from the 2007 Minneapolis bridge collapse and the toppling of a massive Shanghai apartment building in 2009 to Boston's prolonged Big Dig and the 2010 Gulf oil spill. These avoidable disasters reveal the interdependency of people and machines within systems whose complex behavior was undreamt of by their designers, until it was too late.

*To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure: Petroski, Henry ...*

Petroski writes almost an ode to failure: why it happens, why it must be studied and why we must always welcome it. It is through failure that things are

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Failure and designs improve.

Petroski looks at failure in a very broad sense: not just failure of design or technology but of all of the human decisions that come into play when massive projects - like bridges or shuttles - are put together.

## *To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure by Henry Petroski*

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*To Forgive Design — Henry*

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*Petroski | Harvard University  
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To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure Henry Petroski (Author), Stephen Hoye (Narrator), Audible ...

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*To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure | Henry Petroski ...*

In "To Forgive Design" he surveys some of the most infamous failures of our time, from the 2007 Minneapolis bridge collapse and the toppling of a massive Shanghai apartment building in 2009 to Boston's prolonged Big Dig and the 2010 Gulf oil spill.

*To forgive design : understanding failure in SearchWorks ...*

Engineers are always striving for success, but failure is seldom far from their minds. In the case of Canadian engineers, this focus on potentially catastrophic flaws in a design is rooted in a failure that occurred over a century ago. In



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1907 a bridge of enormous proportions collapsed while still under construction in Quebec.

## *To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure on JSTOR*

His latest is *To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure*. He's a civil engineering & history professor at Duke University, and he makes the most of the overlap between his two fields. This book sings to me because I started the Navy's nuclear power school nearly 30 years ago.

## *Book Review - To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure ...*

*To Forgive Design, Understanding Failure*, By Henry Petroski. A sprawling study of structural flaws which reveals the fine line

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Failure history's successes and failures

*To Forgive Design, Understanding Failure, By Henry ...*

The authorities closed access to the bridge and tens of thousands of people, caught in pedestrian gridlock, made their way back to land, a process that for some took hours. The story is one of...

*'To Forgive Design,' by Henry Petroski - The New York Times*

This includes the maintenance of a structure or system, the importance of individual engineering integrity, degeneration through repeated use, and the impetus to understand the cause behind a failure. To Forgive Design

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encourages readers to grasp the underpinnings of fundamental concepts and practices and to take every opportunity to learn the lessons from past and present projects—successful or otherwise. Failures, Petroski writes, “reveal weaknesses in reasoning, knowledge, and ...

## *Academy Bookshelf — To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure*

In *To Forgive Design* he surveys some of the most infamous failures of our time, from the 2007 Minneapolis bridge collapse and the toppling of a massive Shanghai apartment building in 2009 to Boston’s prolonged Big Dig and the 2010 Gulf oil spill.

*To Forgive Design: Understanding*

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*Failure & Industrial...* Petroski

To Forgive Design :

Understanding Failure, Hardcover  
by Petroski, Henry, ISBN

0674065840, ISBN-13

9780674065840, Brand New, Free

shipping in the US Argues that

failures in structural engineering

are not necessarily due to the

physical design of the structures,

but instead a misunderstanding of

how cultural and socioeconomic

constraints would affect the

structures.

*To Forgive Design :*

*Understanding Failure by Henry ...*

To Forgive Design: Understanding

Failure Henry Petroski.

Harvard/Belknap, \$27.95 (408p)

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and About This Author. OTHER

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BOOKS. The Essential Engineer: Why Science ...

## *To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure*

“cyclical nature” of success and failure. *To Forgive Design* is at its best when it pulls back the curtain on tensions between failure analyses and analysts. A chapter centered on the University of Illinois’s Talbot Laboratory offers a memoir of Petroski’s own career over a period of epistemic flux in mechanics. As a student, he

*on behalf of - WordPress.com*

“ *To Forgive Design* remains a largely accessible, important contribution to the growing library of failure. ” —Colin Dickey, *The*

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Los Angeles Review of Books “

When a plane crashes or a bridge collapses, faulty engineering is the usual suspect. But in seeking the roots of failure, we should look beyond design, says engineer Henry Petroski.

*To Forgive Design — Henry Petroski | Harvard University Press*

But based on Henry Petroski's latest book, *To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure*, maybe I should not have been so surprised. As the author points out in the first chapter, dentistry and engineering have many concerns in common.

*To Forgive Design: Understanding Failure. - Free Online ...*

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4.0 out of 5 stars To Forgive  
Design - Understanding Failure  
Reviewed in the United Kingdom  
on 1 August 2012 'To Forgive  
Design' follows the same theme  
of the author's 1992 book 'To  
Engineer is Human', but expands  
the content to encompass other  
notable failures in design,  
construction and management of  
various projects up to the present  
day.

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