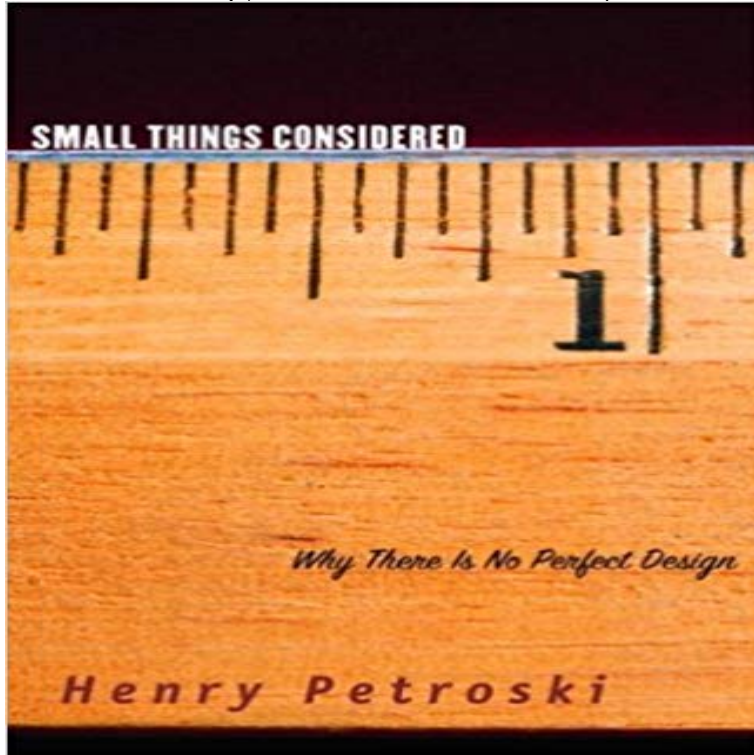


# Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design



Henry Petroski, America's poet laureate of technology (Kirkus Reviews) author of *The Pencil* and *The Evolution of Useful Things* now gives us an entertaining and perceptive study of design in everyday life, while revealing the checkered pasts, and some possible futures, of familiar objects. Chairs, lightbulbs, cup holders, toothbrushes, doorknobs, light switches, potato peelers, paper bags, duct tapes ubiquitous as these may be, they are still works in progress. The design of such ordinary items demonstrates the simple brilliance of human creativity, while at the same time showing the frustration of getting anything completely right. Nothing is perfect, and so the quest for perfection continues to continue. In this engrossing and insightful book, Petroski takes us inside the creative process by which common objects are invented and improved upon in pursuit of the ever-elusive perfect thing. He shows us, for instance, how the disposable paper cup became a popular commercial success only after the public learned that shared water glasses could carry germs; how it took years, an abundance of business panache, and many discarded models from cups that opened like paper bags to those that came with pleats for the inventor of the paper cup to arrive at what we now use and toss away without so much as a thought for its fascinating history. A trenchant, surprising evaluation of why some designs succeed and others don't, *Small Things Considered* is also an utterly delightful study of human nature. Henry Petroski, the Aleksandar S. Vesic Professor of Civil Engineering and a professor of history at Duke University, lives in Durham, North Carolina. He is the author of ten previous books.

Editorial Reviews. From Publishers Weekly. Design can be easy and difficult at the same time, but in the end, it is mostly difficult. So writes engineering *Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design* eBook: Henry

Petroski : Kindle Store. Henry Petroski, Americas poet laureate of technology (Kirkus Reviews)-author of The Pencil and The Evolution of Useful Things-now gives us anSmall Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design [Kindle edition] by Henry Petroski. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones orDownload Citation on ResearchGate Review of Small things considered: Why there is no perfect design by Henry Petroski, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2003Small Things Considered has 258 ratings and 36 reviews. Cheryl said: Bleah. Im not a student of design, but still I am familiar with almost every examplSmall Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design (Vintage) Henry Petroski ISBN: 9781400032938 Kostenloser Versand fur alle Bucher mit VersandAmazon?????Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design????????Amazon????????????Henry Petroski?????Read Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design (Vintage) book reviews & author details and more at . Free delivery on qualified Why has the durable paper shopping bag been largely replaced by its flimsy plastic counterpart? What circuitous chain of improvements led toEntertainment Weekly has all the latest news about TV shows, movies, and music, as well as exclusive behind the scenes content from the entertainment - 36 sec - Uploaded by D. EliscaLarry Orfaly 288 views 8:38. [READ] In the Company of Microbes: Ten Years of Small Things