

# Small things considered: why there is no perfect design

[Literature](#)



## 1. Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design

a. What do you think the author believes is the primary purposes of most things (sic)?

As an engineer Petroski has achieved vast information about the current state of events, the price of commodities keep rising despite the struggle to bridge the gap between rich and the poor. However, in the book title, the author is explaining that situations that leads to more invention and innovation (Henry 07).

The primary reason behind writing this book was to showcase the idea that each item has to change so that the products and services would match the economic requirements. Engineers and technicians frequently try other ways of reducing the size of products so as to fit in-minimum available resources (Henry 09).

b. What did the economist Herbert Simon mean by the term " satisficing"?

Considering the information obtained from the book, it is adept to conclude that Mr. Herbert Simpson the term economist consistently derived an explanation that elaborately hinted on the term satisfaction, to mean that human wants which assisted in reading through the night. Satisficing would mean having the comfort and relief on completion of a demanding event (Henry 24).

c. Provide an example of " negotiable and non-negotiable" constraints with respect to design.

Constraints are categorized into two groups; negotiable and non- negotiable constraints which forces. Negotiable contrarians are the category that could

be discussed between the tenant and the landlord while the non negotiable contrarians are the kind that are out of question meaning that you either adhere to or leave the premises being that no alternative options are available (Henry 30).

d. According to Petroski, what is the ultimate context of design?

In accordance with Petroski, the ultimate design context is changing with time. However, considering the olden days when television sets were replaced by Integrated circuits and later the introduction of digital gadgets changed to development phase of the world. This means that design will never stagnate at a point (Henry 19).

e. Provide at least two examples each of Petroski's

Domestic design

i. Off-the-Shelf Design

Off the shelf design is a kind of design that an individual never intend to possess, but after an explanation or trial of the design, it was found to be accurate with the intended function (Henry 22). A good example is evident when schools opens, children tend to demand anything that is used at school through the counter and the student gets the design though in many occasions the design may not be like the official material used at school (Henry 29).

ii. Familiar design

When handling a familiar design, we consider a kind of attire that people from for example dust court which is designed for specific purpose in a laboratory set up. Other than the dust court, you may rehire a balloonist to assist others who are in need of such services so that the same services are

shared among the people within the community for financial gain (Henry 17).

### iii. Folk design

When we consider having a big cinema hall, but the number of people interested in purchasing the requirements, unlike the olden days, when people were forced to watch video with places, like Kenya cinema full capacity. However, a change in lifestyle, many people open schedule time to visit parks and animal sanctuaries for in-expectation (Henry 125). However, through such visits, many have achieved great goals in life

### iv. Kitchen Sink design

In design, there are a lot to be desired, for instance when a new tenant decides to alter some set up especially the sink so that a lot more utensils. This would change the design set up in a new premises (Henry 42). Additionally, when the sink itself is leaking, the tenant is forced to replace it with another which might not be pleasing to the house agents.

### v. Selective Design

Selective design according to Prof. Petroski's are practiced in occasional events for instance during weddings where specific group of are accorded similar wedding gowns. However, not only in design that selective design can be found, the daily information. Other than attire, many people purchase mobile phones selectively depending in the features available within the phones so that they could go with class (Henry 12).

### Work Cited

Henry, Petroski. Small things considered: why there is no perfect design. Pennsylvania- USA: Vintage Books, 2004.

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