

## Inspirational Civil Engineering Quotes

We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us. Winston Churchill

There can be little doubt that in many ways the story of bridge building is the story of civilisation. By it we can readily measure an important part of a people's progress. Franklin D Roosevelt, 1931

When engineers and quantity surveyors discuss aesthetics and architects study what cranes do we are on the right road. Ove Arup

This is not the age of pamphleteers. It is the age of engineers. The spark-gap is mightier than the pen. Democracy will not be salvaged by men who talk fluently, debate forcefully and quote aptly. Lancelot Hogben

The major difference between a thing that might go wrong and a thing that cannot possibly go wrong is that when a thing that cannot possibly go wrong goes wrong, it usually turns out to be impossible to get at and repair. Douglas Adams

The joy of engineering is to find a straight line on a double logarithmic diagram. Thomas Koenig

One has to watch out for engineers – they begin with the sewing machine and end up with the atomic bomb. Marcel Pagnol

Nothing is so inspiring as seeing big works well laid out and planned and a real engineering organisation. Frederick Handley Page

Nothing can be of great worth or holy which is the work of builders and mechanics. Zeno, Stoic Philosopher

No greater care is required upon any works than upon such as are to withstand the action of water; for this reason, all parts of the work need to be done exactly according to the rules of the art which all workmen know, but few observe. Sextus Julius Frontinus

Men build bridges and throw railroads across deserts, and yet they contend successfully that the job of sewing on a button is beyond them. Accordingly, they don't have to sew buttons. Heywood Broun

It takes an engineer to undertake the training of an engineer and not, as often happens, a theoretical engineer who is clever on a blackboard with mathematical formulae but useless as far as production is concerned. The Rev EB Evans

His father loved him dearly, but his work, that of a civil engineer, had left him with but little time for his family. Energetic, active, and always taken up with some responsible work, he did not spoil his children with excessive tenderness. Mme Estafavia

Go for civil engineering, because civil engineering is the branch of engineering which teaches you the most about managing people. Managing people is a skill which is very, very useful and applies almost regardless of what you do. Sir John Harvey Jones

From the laying out of a line of a tunnel to its final completion, the work may be either a series of experiments made at the expense of the proprietors of the project, or a series of judicious applications of the results of previous experience. HS Drinker

Engineers ... are not mere technicians and should not approve or lend their name to any project that does not promise to be beneficent to man and the advancement of civilization. John Fowler

Engineering refers to the practice of organizing the design and construction [and, I would add operation] of any artifice which transforms the physical world around us to meet some recognized need. GFC Rogers

Engineering is the art of modelling materials we do not wholly understand, into shapes we cannot precisely analyse so as to withstand forces we cannot properly assess, in such a way that the public has no reason to suspect the extent of our ignorance. Dr AR Dykes

Architects and engineers are among the most fortunate of men since they build their own monuments with public consent, public approval and often public money. John Prebble

A great bridge is a great monument which should serve to make known the splendour and genius of a nation; one should not occupy oneself with efforts to perfect it architecturally, for taste is always susceptible to change, but to

conserve always in its form and decoration the character of solidity which is proper. Jean Peronnet

A good scientist is a person with original ideas. A good engineer is a person who makes a design that works with as few original ideas as possible. Freeman Dyson

A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools. Douglas Adams

Scientists dream about doing great things. Engineers do them. James A. Michener

Scientists investigate that which already is; Engineers create that which has never been. Albert Einstein

Each type of knowledge has value; however, from an engineering point of view, practical knowledge seems to be more valuable than theoretical knowledge. Eraldo Banovac

An engineer is someone who is good with figures, but doesn't have the personality of an accountant.

“One man’s “magic” is another man’s engineering. “Supernatural” is a null word.” Robert A. Heinlein

In engineering, the joints are the most crucial. They have to be both firm and flexible, exactly like the joints in our body. Haresh Sippy

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It takes analytical skills worthy of a degree in civil engineering to understand when and where one is allowed to leave a car in Montreal. - Kathy Reichs

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George Washington was quite a farmer. He was a farmer, Civil Engineer and gentleman. He made enough at civil engineering to indulge in both the other luxuries. - Will Rogers

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Crossrail is a prime example of infrastructure. It is a rather deadly word, but I think it is exciting stuff, the civil engineering which makes Britain tick - the bridges, tunnels, power and water networks, which bind us together. - Evan Davis

Improvement makes straight roads, but the crooked roads without Improvement, are roads of Genius. - William Blake

Those statues were exquisitely carved, without exception; that was what the Egyptians were really good at, along with organized religion and civil engineering. - Jonathan Stroud

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Man Made Things, Building, etc. we see more decidedly than the other things in a landscape. - Anonymous

Truth is a fundamental principle that is needed for any form of building or construction. So also is honesty. - Sunday Adelaja

Construction is an important front for solidifying the foundations of a thriving country and creating bases for the people's happy life. - Kim Jong-un

If there is a construction or a pathway in the spirit to be made, it is the way of godliness. - Sunday Adelaja

Nothing is built on stone; all is built on sand, but we must build as if the sand were stone. - Jorge Luis Borges

The road to success is always under construction. - Lily Tomlin

We are all the construction of a story and it is only at the end that we can assess the value of the plot. - Anonymous

You are actually constructing what your head understood about what your eyes saw. - Doris McCarthy.

Expectations are resentments under construction. - Anne Lamott

To me a building is beautiful because of the love of one man, he made it out of his love for space, material things like that. - Anonymous

If a building looks better under construction than it does when finished, then it's a failure. - Douglas Coupland

Failure does not exist. Once you hit the construction zone road blocks, follow the detour signs to get back to your original path. - Behdad Sami

Create with the heart; build with the mind. - Criss Jami

Architecture begins where engineering ends. - Walter Gropius

Science is about knowing; engineering is about doing. - Henry Petroski

The real beauty of the building is seen when the right paints touch its walls. - Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it's the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time. - David Allan Coe

I don't know if it's genetic or just because I was surrounded by it, but I was always fascinated with building and construction and development. - Donald Trump Jr.



The human body was designed by a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area ? - Robin Williams

I get just as excited about building a birdhouse as when providing strategic counsel to a client. - Robert L. Peters

Engineers like to solve problems. If there are no problems handily available, they will create their own problems. - Scott Adams

Sometimes the only way to call attention to bad construction was to set fire to the building. - Larry Niven

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I was in school studying civil engineering. A guy approached me on the street and said that I had a interesting look-very exotic. He told me I should try to be in the industry. - Thuy Trang

My father was a professor of civil engineering at MIT, and my mother taught high school English. - Eric Allin Cornell

Civil Engineering is the art of directing the great sources of Power in Nature for the use and convenience of man; being that practical application of the most important principles of natural Philosophy which has in a considerable degree realized the anticipations of Bacon, and changed the aspect and state of affairs in the whole world. The most important object of Civil Engineering is to improve the means of production and of traffic in states, both for external and internal Trade. - Thomas Tredgold

The form a city assumes as it evolves over time owes more to large-scale works of civil engineering - what we now call infrastructure - than almost any other factor save topography. - Martin Filler

The novel, in its best form, I regard as one of the most powerful engines of civilization ever invented. - John Herschel

I would say the most help I got was from my dad. My dad is a civil engineer in Switzerland; he's 90 years old now, so he's no longer active as a civil engineer, but still a very active person. - Claude Nicollier

Dictionaries, manuals, grammars, study guides and topic notes, classical authors and the entire book trade in de Viris, Quintus-Curtius, Sallust, and Livy peacefully crumbled to dust on the shelves of the old Hachette publishing house; but introductions to mathematics, textbooks on civil engineering, mechanics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, courses in commerce, finance, industrial arts- whatever concerned the market tendencies of the day - sold by the millions of copies. - Jules Verne