



How to Catch a Robot Rat: When Biology Inspires Innovation (Hardback)

By Agnès Guillot, Jean-Arcady Meyer, Agnes Guillot

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2010. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 231 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Humans have modeled their technology on nature for centuries. The inventor of paper was inspired by a wasp's nest; Brunelleschi demonstrated the principles of his famous dome with an egg; a Swiss company produced a wristwatch with an alarm modeled on the sound-producing capabilities of a cricket. Today, in the era of the new bionics, engineers aim to reproduce the speed and maneuverability of the red tuna in a submarine; cochlear implants send sound signals to the auditory nerve of a hearing-impaired person; and robots replicate a baby's cognitive development. *How to Catch a Robot Rat* examines past, present, and future attempts to apply the methods and systems found in nature to the design of objects and devices. The authors look at natural technology transfers: how the study of nature inspired technological breakthroughs--including the cricket-inspired watch; Velcro, which duplicates the prickly burrs of a burdock flower; and self-sharpening blades that are modeled on rats' self-sharpening teeth. They examine autonomous robots that imitate animals and their behaviors--for example, the development of an unmanned microdrone that could fly...



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