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**Brick**

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**Journal**

people • building • community

# **Making the Rounds at the Major LEGO Fan Conventions**

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# Brick Magic

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Right: One of the layouts from Brickcon's  
*Big in Japan* display.







*Dirk with the completed mosaic.*

**Dirk Denoyelle:**

## **Building a Calling Card**

*Article by Joe Meno  
Photography from Dirk Denoyelle*





## Yul B. Karel: Robot Builder

*Interview by Joe Meno  
Photography by Yul B. Karel*

Yul B. Karel is a LEGO builder who created some unique models of robots. Not C-3PO or Robby the Robot, but the robot toys that were made in the '50s and '60s. He's now a Creative Director of his own studio, Indesain Studios ([www.indesain.net](http://www.indesain.net)), which develops websites, graphics and print media for corporations. He lives in Tangerang, Indonesia, which is a small city on the southern side of Jakarta.

He started LEGO building when he was 7 or 8, and stopped when he went into Junior School because, as he puts it, "there were other things more interesting to me at that time such as girls, soccer, and Playstation!" He returned to the LEGO hobby in 2007, when he started collecting new and vintage sets. He also started building models of cars, trucks, and houses. *BrickJournal* chatted with him briefly about his robots.

# Norbert Labuguen: BIONICLE Builder

*Article by Joe Meno  
and Norbert Labuguen  
Photography by Joe Meno  
and Jason Head*



*Norbert Labuguen poses with Shadow Scorpion.*

*Norbert Labuguen is a BIONICLE® builder who hit the convention scene this year in the US with a bang - he recieved multiple awards in the first two conventions he has attended for his models. He fits his building in with his job as a In-House Reservations Agent for a large hotel in Long Beach, California and as a staff volunteer with Comic-Con International: San Diego. His education (which has become handy with his building) is a Biology Degree with an option in Zoology from California State University, Long Beach.*

*Norbert chatted with BrickJournal about his building and his convention experiences.*

### **BrickJournal: Norbert, how long have you been building?**

I started building at the age of 6. When I was 18, though, I only had a few sets, so I pretty much only collected until I was 20. It has been 21 years on and off since I started seriously as an AFOL.

### **Did you start in BIONICLE, and if not, what did you start building in?**

The first set I collected was the Monorail Transport System (#6990), circa 1987. I also had a few Space Police sets as well. I did not do anything seriously until 1990 when I could afford to buy more sets. These were primarily space and aquatic/submarine themes.



## Classic Set Spotlight



# Set 6786: Blacktron Alienator

*Article, set art and interview  
by Huw Millington*

*Additional photo provided  
by Bjarne Tveskov*

<b>Name:</b>	Alienator (US), Strider (UK), Space-Rider (Germany)
<b>Theme:</b>	Space/Blacktron
<b>Pieces:</b>	82
<b>Minifigs:</b>	1
<b>Availability:</b>	1988 - 1991
<b>Brickset</b>	
<b>User Rating:</b>	4.6/5

Hi, I'm Huw Millington, owner of Brickset.com. This is the first in a series of articles in which I'll be looking back at much-loved classic LEGO sets. I'll tell you why I've chosen them, what Brickset users think about them and, hopefully, we'll track down and interview the set designers to find out about them from LEGO's perspective.

With so many to choose from it's obviously going to be a difficult task selecting which sets to feature. For this first article, I've chosen one of my personal favourites, the Blacktron Alienator or Blacktron Strider as it was known in the UK.

The original Blacktron sets were released in 1988 and were the first space sets that weren't white, blue or grey. Although they were black and yellow spacecraft, and its all-black minifigs with black visors looked menacing, there was no mention in the 1988 catalogue that these were 'baddies' however I suspect many kids thought they were. It was not until 1989 (when the original Space Police sets were released) that it became apparent that they were, in fact, the bad guys in space and were being pursued and captured by galactic law-enforcement agencies for crimes unspecified.

The Alienator was the smallest of five sets in the original Blacktron space sub-theme (one of which, the Renegade, was released only in North America). In my view, it is the best of the theme. The Alienator is a heavily armed bipedal walker and it did not take much imagination to picture it plodding over dusty planet surface leaving a path of destruction in its wake.

As well as introducing a new colour scheme, Blacktron sets also included another cool feature: modular design. They all split into multiple sub sections which were held together with Technic pins. Not only could you recombine parts from the same set to make different vehicles, but if you had more than one set you could combine parts from them all to make all manner of spacecraft and wheeled vehicles.

So, what makes this a classic? As well as the great colour scheme, minifigs and modularity shared with other Blacktron sets, what makes this one special is its design and selection of parts. There had been several two-legged space walkers released previously but this was the first that actually looked as if it could walk. It was

## Building

# Jordan Schwartz: Losing the LEGO® Aesthetic



*Owlet.*

*Article and Photography  
by Jordan Schwartz*

As someone who has built hundreds of MOCs in the past five years during my time in the LEGO fan community, I have developed objectives and goals – mostly subconscious – that I try to accomplish with each and every creation I devise. These objectives range from the obvious (i.e. wanting to make each creation as accurate as possible) to the obscure (i.e. wanting to encompass some strange technique, element, etc.). Unfortunately, it is not possible to achieve everything I want in every MOC simply because there are way too many variables in any given model. However, as I am sure you have experienced before, when you have accomplished what you set out to in your creations, there is no better feeling.

But in those past five years I have been sharing my MOCs with other fans, through all of the feedback I get [from praise to constructive criticism] there is one comment that rises above all the rest in my opinion. And that is when people say that my creation does not look like LEGO. Think about it – the experienced fan of LEGO knows the elements well. They work with them on a regular basis. They have been building with them for years and years. If you can fool them and make them have to look at your MOC intently so that they can figure out how you realized the shape or texture of it, that is a job well done in my book.



## Harry Potter™ Sets:

# Hogwarts Castle and The Burrow

*Review by Jennifer Joy Poole  
Photography  
by Jennifer Joy Poole  
and the LEGO Group*

Jennifer Joy Poole has been building and displaying LEGO® scenes from all seven Harry Potter books for some time, so it only makes sense that she review a couple of the new HP sets that just came out. Known as the "Harry Potter Girl" on the East Coast, she reviewed the sets from two points of view: that of an adult builder and also an avid Harry Potter fan. Following are her comments.

A couple years ago I was told by a LEGO contact that the Harry Potter license would never again grace store shelves, so the about-face on the company's part was cause for celebration. I had gotten used to the notion that I would have to customize minifigs and pick my own scenes to make sets. I am overjoyed that I have a vast array of new flesh-colored characters to use, though I will have to continue to make do customizing Dean Thomas since he is dark-skinned. There is still a lack of diversity in the LEGO minifigs, and this is a case where a more balanced approach to them would be really appreciated.



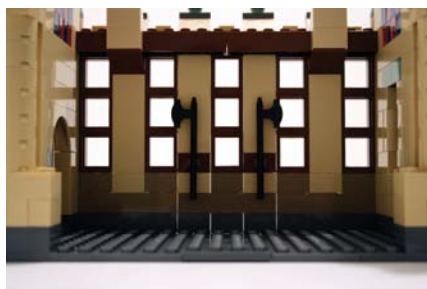
## Hogwarts Castle

The newest Hogwarts Castle is a very good playset. I think it would be great for boys and girls and most AFOLs. There are rooms for Gryffindor's common room, Slytherin's common room, the Room of Hidden Things, the restricted section in the library, the Great Hall, Dumbledore's office, and the Astronomy tower. Kids can reenact what they read in the book or watched in the movies. AFOLs can marvel at the design of the castle itself and secretly plot to make a full castle in their spare time - or perhaps I'm the only one?

Hogwarts Castle is large and some took some time to build. LEGO has gotten so good at bagging their sets that it's very easy to build one section at a time. The outside of the castle seems to be very similar to the original HP castle (4709) stylistically. It looks cleaner with no plastic shingles on the Great Hall. The new 10 X 10 octagon modified plate makes the "tower" a far more interesting shape.

However, there are architectural problems with the great hall. The four 4X12 grey plates that create the base do not connect perfectly. To create more stability, the designers could have used an 8 X 12 or even a 16 X 12 plate. The large table must be attached in order to reinforce the plates, otherwise the bottom grey plates will detach from the rest of the building when moving the great hall.

The castle walls are also rickety. Although the 1 X 2 dark tan bricks near the base of the great hall create a good decoration, they cause the 1 X 2 tan pillars to be less structurally sound. The walls do not tighten up until the top two 2 x



*A look at the floor plates.*





# Iain Heath: Bricks of Character

Article by Iain Heath  
Photography by Iain Heath, Tommy  
Williamson, Micah Berkoff, Lino Martins  
and Joe Meno

The LEGO® community has two main strengths: *fanaticism*, and *diversity*. It's also very large. Ok, so it has three main strengths: *fanaticism*, *diversity* and *largeness*, and an unshakable loyalty to the LEGO Company and its products. Four! Four main strengths: *fanaticism*, *diversity* ...ok, let's quit while we're ahead, and just focus on that *diversity* part, shall we?!

Since you're holding an issue of *BrickJournal* in your hands (or tentacles) then it's fair to say you're a LEGO fan, and that you *didn't* just get your first LEGO set from Granny this past Christmas. And as a LEGO fan, you probably have a particular "thing" that you like to do, right? Maybe you love collecting Star Wars sets, or having huge Medieval battles with your friends, or creating Steampunk vehicles inspired by your favorite anime. Or a hundred other things. And that's my point - we're a very diverse bunch!

Within the LEGO community you'll find many "hubs" centered around different themes like these. Some are pretty well known, such as Space, Castle, or Trains, while some are less well-known, like Microscale, Caver Racers, or Frogspac (don't ask). If you've ever been to a public LEGO exhibition or attended a LEGO convention, you'll have seen special areas devoted to these themes.

So what do you do if your creations don't fit into one of these categories? Which table do you put them on? This was the conundrum that faced me when I got involved in my first LEGO convention!

## In the Beginning

So how did I get into this pickle?

I've been collecting and building LEGO sets all my life. Back in the day, when people still wore Brylcreem, LEGO bricks were pretty basic. You had about 6 colors to work with, and even fewer shapes. The humble cheese wedge was but a twinkle in some future LEGO designer's eye. So playing with LEGO bricks required a lot of imagination! A yellow brick stacked on a blue brick was Mr Spock. It was that simple.

Then one day, the LEGO Group invented the minifig. And they liked the minifig, and saw that it was good. And we kids





Brickcon 2010 in Seattle, Washington.

thought it was pretty cool, too. Now we had Space and Castle and Town and Pirates, and a couple more colors to work with, and things were swell. Swooooosh! Ka-pow!

Then one day, the company said to the minifig, "Go forth and multiply into about a million different themes, most of which shall fizzle after about a year." And the minifig said, "OK, but I'm going to need a lot of complex specialized parts for each theme, for no apparent reason." And the LEGO Company made it so. And almost went out of business. But then LEGO discovered licensed themes, and balance in the Force was restored.

## Dumbing Things Down

So that's the situation I found myself in by the end of the 90's. Minifigs and themes were two of LEGO's greatest innovations. But I found it very hard to do anything with LEGO outside the scope of minifig-based, theme-based play. As an adult, I wanted to find something more creative to do with my collection. But it was comprised largely of minifigs, minifig accessories, and horrendous "one use" bricks such as the *bathtub* brick. And there was no Internet-based LEGO community to inspire me yet.

When I had kids, I decided to turn my LEGO collection into the 'family' collection. And I tried an experiment. I removed all the minifig-related parts, and those bathtub bricks, reducing it to just basic bricks. But as a compromise, I kept a couple of minifigs (a wizard, a spaceman, an explorer, etc.). I figured these would give the kids a focal point for building. But instead they just used the minifigs like action figures, and ignored the regular bricks.

*...welcome to Surprised-ville. Population: me!*

I quickly realized I'd have to lead by example, and build stuff that was way cooler than those stinking minifigs! I began with small models of my favorite mythical creatures. Then I moved onto characters from our favorite TV shows. And soon the kids started to get the idea. But by accident, I had also finally discovered what I wanted to do with LEGO. I had a purpose.



HALO® Spartan built by Shawn Snyder.





## Keith Goldman: Remembering Nate 'Nnenn' Nielsen

*Article by Keith Goldman*

*Photography from nnenn, Paul Lee, Zander  
Cameron, and Joe Meno*

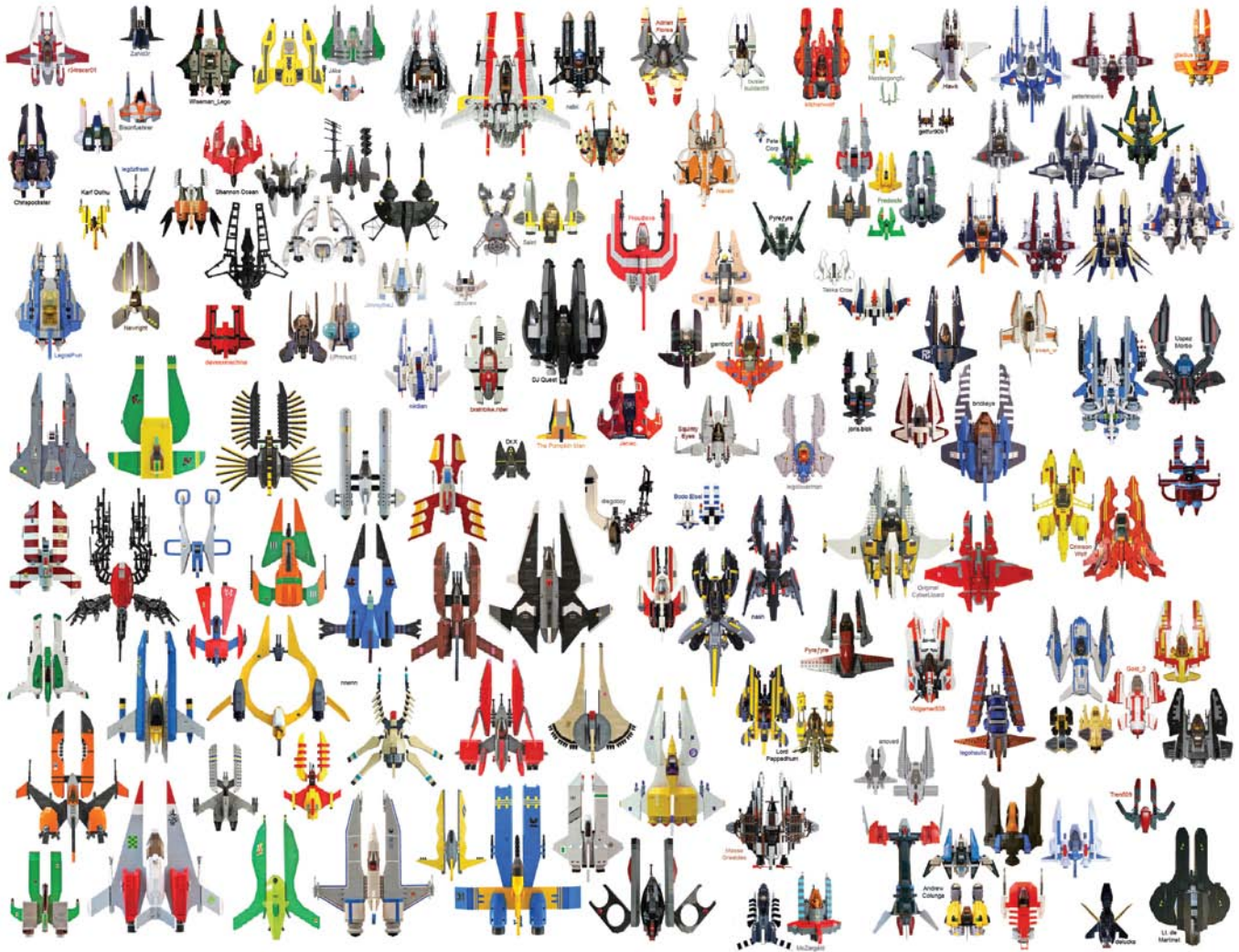
In April of 2010, the LEGO fan community lost one of its most talented and prolific builders, Nate “nnenn” Nielsen, to a tragic car accident in his home state of Washington. Of course, this isn’t the first time we’ve lost one of our own; in years past we’ve had to say goodbye to Travis Kunce, James Jessiman, Lawrence Livesey, Gaetano Notaro, Peter Parsons and Erik Brok, to name a few. Each of these builders gifted us unique and astounding MOCs, and Nate was no exception. Although Nate was only an active member for 4 short years, he produced hundreds of unforgettable designs and made an indelible impression on builders around the world.

It is difficult to begin a discussion of Nate’s models without mentioning the space-fighter, which was the form he returned to time and time again throughout his building life. Inspired in large part by his father and the jets he flew for the US Air force, his Flickr screenname ‘nnenn’ became synonymous with futuristic fighter-craft.



## Vic Vipers + November = NoVember

A huge fan of the "Vic Viper" space-fighter design from the video game *Gradius*, Nate inspired legions of builders to put their own unique spin on the deceptively simple design in his yearly Vic Viper NoVember build challenges. At the end of the month Nate would gather the images and design a poster featuring the models of each participating builder. This annual building challenge has continued since Nate's untimely death and the official poster has become more crowded with the now familiar design.



## Sci-Fi Builder

Although the Vic Viper was a significant influence on Nate's style, he certainly was not limited by it as he stretched the sci-fi genre in every possible way. Perhaps the best example of just how far he pushed the envelope is the popular spaceship he called "Ogre." This ship has all the hallmarks of a great 'nnenn' construct: unconventional design, advanced building technique, unique color scheme and slick presentation. Fellow builder Ley Ward (Professor Whateverly) had this to say about the Ogre:

*"This is a prime example of Nate's 'beyond the box' approach. He didn't just think outside, he cut that box down, added some tape and discarded any bits that didn't fit his vision. Then he put together a colour scheme that even made him uncomfortable causing everyone (himself included) to reconsider what works for a spaceship. More telling though, is how the discussion on that design morphed into a tutorial on developing a design."*

Above: The Vic Viper poster for November 2008.

Below: The "Ogre."







# British Bricks: The Great Western LEGO Show at STEAM

*Article and photos by Tommy Williamson*

One of the perks (or curses) of my job is occasional travel, sometimes for extended periods of time. It's hard on the family but it can also be a great adventure. My travels have recently brought me to England, where I have been for two months and expect to be for at least another seven. I've already discovered I can't be without at least a small LEGO collection, and have already begun decorating my flat with LEGO creations. I've also discovered there is a booming AFOL community here. I've joined my first LUG, The Brickish Association, and I've already attended my first event here, The Great Western LEGO Show (GWLS) at STEAM in Swindon. The GWLS is the largest fan-organized event presently in the UK. Originally started in 2002, this year marks the 8th year of this fantastic show.



*The Great Western LEGO Show's venue.*

GWLS is a partnership between The Brickish Association and STEAM, one of England's (if not the world's) finest rail museums. The event always draws a huge attendance, and this year was no exception. Over the October 2-3 weekend, over 7,500 members of the public, young and old, weaved their way through both the museum and the LEGO displays.

For me the event started early Saturday morning. I made my way from my hotel to STEAM and met up with a few of the organizers. I officially signed up for The Brickish Association and got my exhibitor pass. I brought three small MOCs to display, Alice and Hatter as well as my first micro spaceship. I found some space to display them and set about meeting people and taking pictures. The





# BrickMagic 2010: Capturing the Magic

Article by Joe Evangelista  
Photography by Joe Meno

Top: Cinderella Castle from Walt Disney World.

Below: Crowds make their way through the displays during public hours.

Think back to a time when clowns making balloon animals was funny; when magicians could amaze you with simple sleight of hand by making a coin disappear and then pulling it out from behind your ear; and a time when a simple shape could be turned into just about anything that your imagination could conjure. This feeling does not last forever though, usually just as long as your childhood will allow. But there are times that make you feel like a kid again where everything is magical and everything you see is new. This past May was such a time thanks to the new LEGO® fan convention *BrickMagic*.

It's a good time to be an Adult Fan of LEGO (AFOL), or any aged fan of LEGO for that matter! There is so much positive news coming from the company these days, and that excitement is carrying over into the growing number of LEGO conventions that have begun tapping into that enthusiasm. There has been a vast increase in the number of people attending conventions. To answer the growing demand, *BrickMagic* was held on Mother's Day weekend (May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>) at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, NC. Although it is brand new to the convention circuit, it has perhaps made one of the strongest waves in quite a while. The event allowed fans to return to a familiar place – their version of the *Cheers* bar: a place where everyone knows your name. The convention floor became a walking version of Facebook. You could see what everyone was working on (similar to a live picture album), view their current status (progress or lack thereof depending on how they had packed for the trip), and randomly talk with friends that you have seen only once before whose names you still struggle to remember.

Running a convention in today's LEGO fan environment is not an easy thing to do. While years ago fans were content to simply gather together and be in the same room talking shop about their favorite hobby, today there are many expectations that need to be met in the minds of most AFOLs. We as fans have gotten spoiled in the past with lavish hotel settings, immersive panel discussions, challenging build competitions, great prizes, and official set unveilings. With all of that (and more) to live up to, how can a new event meet the bar that has been set by all of the conventions that have come before it? Know your audience and know what makes them tick (or at least tickles their fancy). *BrickMagic* also had an ace up its sleeve in the form of an organizer, Joe Meno, who is no stranger to conventions and has run them for the community in the past. And while he won't tickle anything for you, he will regale you with stories of conventions past and find you a place to call your own in any setting.





Meno, John Morrow, and the rest of the organizers were able to successfully incorporate all aspects of a great show and still maintain a healthy balance between the exclusive AFOL convention and the public showcase. The private convention for fan exhibitors became home for 95 fans who filled a 10,000 sq. ft. Hilton hotel ballroom with amazing creations. The 8,000 public visitors rushed through the doors all weekend long to see what fans had brought to share. From pirates to western, numerous train layouts to Harry Potter, castles to spaceships, and everything in between, there was something for everyone at the show. And if 95 fans can fill a space that large with that much variety, just think what they'll do with even more space for next year's event!

In addition to the main convention hall, BrickMagic featured the standard array of 'brick vendors' selling everything from basic LEGO (both new & used) to custom LEGO compatible gear. Conventions in general are a great way to stock up on retired sets and pick up some fun custom parts to add some variety to your collection. Custom part makers BrickForge and BrickArms were both in attendance to cater to some of the fans' more realistic demands – historic weapons & armor, farm animals, Vespa scooters, modern weaponry, and of course mushrooms (because nothing speaks to the fact that you've been up all night building better than a mushroom patch).

But the real show started on the night of Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, just before more exhibitors had even arrived. Thirty minutes away from the convention space at the xyz theater in Durham, the BrickFlix event not so silently kicked off the festivities for the long weekend. With a sold-out family show and a well attended late show, audiences were able to view a variety of LEGO stop motion animation films in an actual theater! No more small computer monitors to squint your eyes at – BrickFlix showcased high quality videos at a larger than life size! David Pagano, well-known in the Brickfilms world, was in attendance to answer questions from young fans and showcase some new films he had just finished shooting. Expect to see this event to return at future BrickMagic conventions.

BrickMagic also saw the launch of a new book – *LEGO: A Love Story* – written by newcomer fan Jonathan Bender. His book chronicles how he came out of his "Dark Ages" (a period of time when LEGO is buried in the closet because it is seen as un-cool) and came to fall in love with the simple act of building creations with the little bricks that helped to define his childhood. "I could not have asked for a better first event to launch the book. The crowd was enthusiastic and interested in finding out more about what was inside the book. A few AFOLs really helped me out by keeping me company and talking about the book on the public days. I really enjoy conventions, it's a chance to see what people have built in person, talk about different building techniques – it's kind of a dream LEGO vacation. The only thing I would have changed (thankfully) is that I would have brought more books. We sold out by lunch on Sunday." In the book, Jonathan chronicles his early experiences in finding the LEGO fan community. Apparently he has been to quite a few conventions, as BrickMagic did not seem to intimidate him at all. "The adult fan community is incredibly welcoming. Something about playing with LEGO bricks just seems to attract nice people. And although I'll admit it's a bit strange to be coming to a convention with a book about the world of conventions, any worries about fitting in disappeared when I found myself helping Joe Meno carry in some of Nathan Sawaya's sculptures just a minute or two after saying hello."



*Jonathan Bender with his book.*



*The Pennsylvania LEGO Users Group (PennLUG) tends to its display. Other user groups that participated included the Washington, DC Metro Area LEGO Users Group (WAMALUG) and the North Carolina LEGO Users Group (NCLUG).*

*Below: David Pagano takes questions at the Brickflix Film Festival.*

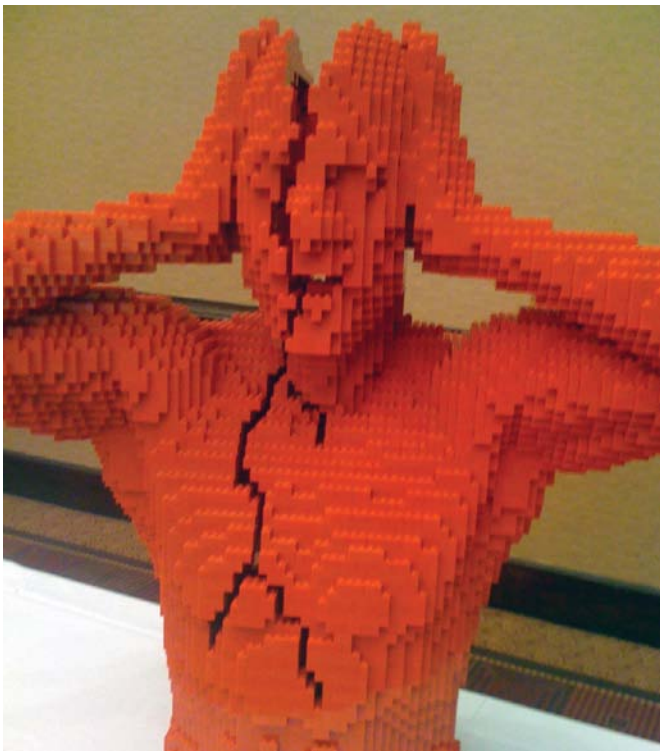






Nathan Sawaya has become a household name for anyone talking about LEGO thanks to the copious media coverage from his traveling art show and commissioned works. His vision of LEGO as art has become infectious, and inspired countless people around the world. He came to BrickMagic as the Guest of Honor and brought with him an array of his creations, and gave the public a chance to work with him on a large sculpture designed specially for BrickMagic 2010 – a large peace sign. When asked about the build, Nathan had this to say: “The attendees really seemed to enjoy seeing the sculpture grow over the course of the event, and it was also a great opportunity to interact with people and talk to them about the artwork.” Nathan has certainly made a name for himself as a LEGO artist, and his LEGO Certified Professional title only further reinforces how impressive his creations are. While you won’t see him at every convention, it is good to know that he doesn’t set himself on a high pedestal. “I like that we are all AFOLs. With my schedule I don’t get to attend as many conventions as I’d like to, but by far one of my favorite parts of conventions is just hanging out in the after hours and getting to know people. I love seeing people’s creativity on display. There were some fantastic layouts.”

Nathan enjoyed many aspects of the show and contributed to one of the more popular photo-ops for families. “There were so many highlights that it is hard to pick one. I enjoyed the people of Raleigh who really rallied around the event. I also enjoyed speaking with all of the kids who attended and told me about their LEGO adventures. The highlight however might have to be the ‘Hugman’ I placed on the sign outside the hotel. My ‘Hugmen’ are my form of LEGO graffiti. It is a monochromatic figure built out of bricks that stands with his arms hugging something. I have placed these all around New York City and I love looking out there and seeing people interact with it. Several times I saw whole families posing for photos with the little guy.”



*Top: Nathan Sawaya building his peace sign.*

*Above: One of his sculptures on display.*

*Right: Hugman at the Brickmagic signpost.*





What sets BrickMagic apart from other LEGO fan conventions is the close-knit family-like atmosphere that all convention exhibitors enjoyed. For many it became a convention of firsts – first time attendees, first ever brick film festival, first time a significant other came to support a show, and the first time someone almost cried during the closing remarks. There is a lot of passion and spirit in all those involved in the event and it's hard not to jump right in and get lost in the fun. There are plans to expand and grow the event so that it will reach and inspire even more people.

Be ready for even more at next year's BrickMagic event again on Mother's Day weekend May 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. 

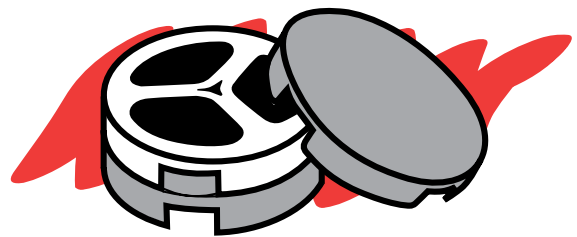
You can find out more information on BrickMagic by visiting [www.brickmagic.org](http://www.brickmagic.org) or scanning the left code. Information on BrickFlix can be found at [www.brickflix.org](http://www.brickflix.org) or scanning the right code.



*Top right: A dragon burns a field.*

*Right: Minifig model based on a local bridge.*

*Below: Another element of the castle layout.*



**BRICKFLIX**

MAY 4, 2011

CALL FOR  
SUBMISSIONS

The BrickFlix Film Festival was founded in 2010 as part of the first annual BrickMagic LEGO convention.

Held at the historic Carolina Theatre in Durham, North Carolina, the festival is the first of its kind – showcasing LEGO stop-motion movies where they should be seen – **on the big screen!**

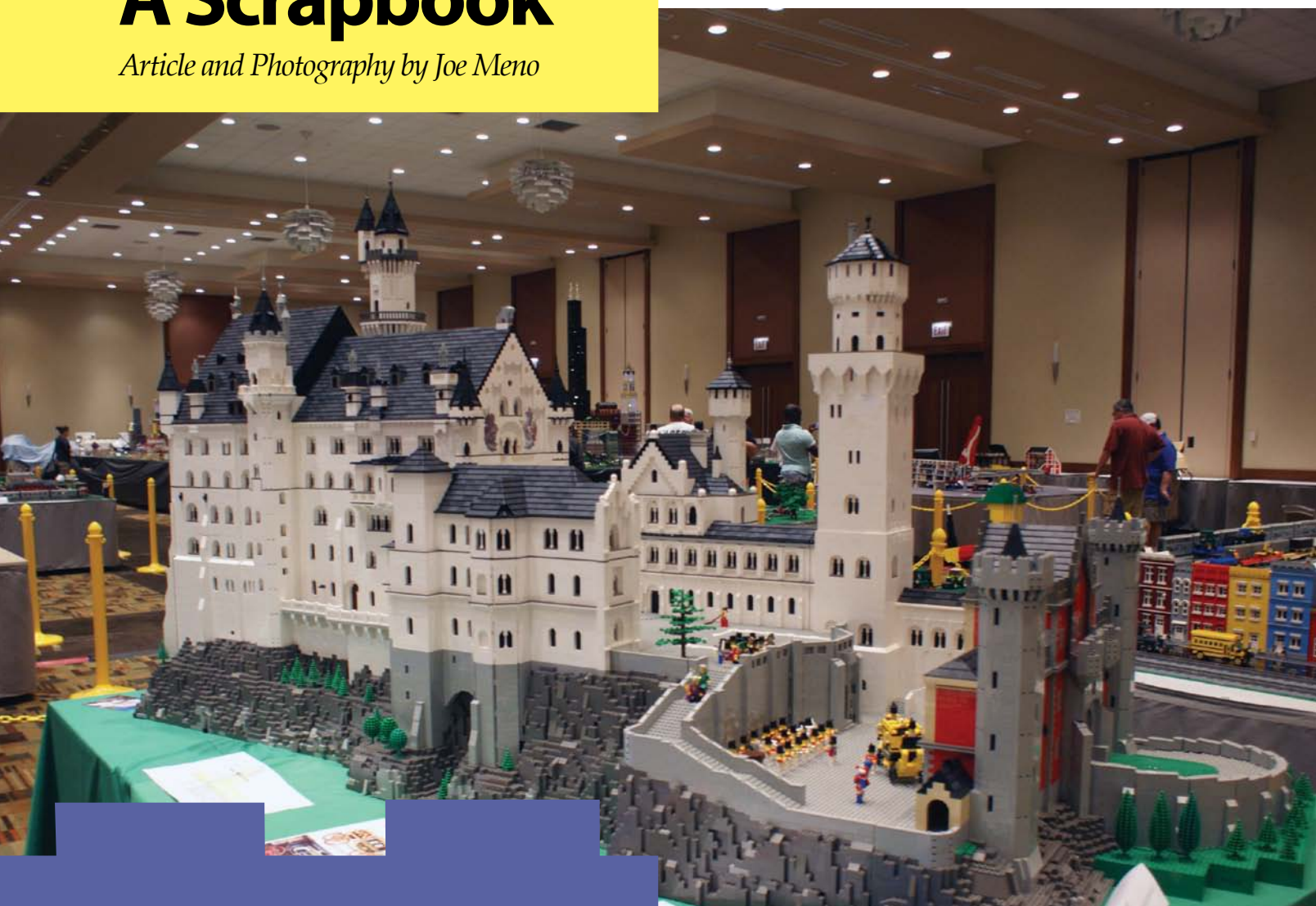
Filmmakers of the brick can submit their clips to:  
<http://brickflix.org/submissions/> for consideration  
for the 2011 show. Deadline is March 1, 2011.  
For details, go to [www.brickflix.org](http://www.brickflix.org).



# Brickworld, Brickfair, and Brickcon: A Scrapbook

*Article and Photography by Joe Meno*

For the United States, LEGO fan conventions have been around for about a decade. In that time, the events have gone from small, fan-exclusive meetings to large conventions with public and private days. I was able to attend the three largest conventions in the US, and rather than make an event report for each one, I wanted to show what goes on. So here's a scrapbook with pics and a quick feature from each event.



## Brickworld

*Location: Chicago, Illinois*

*Convention Coordinators:  
Adam Reed Tucker, Bryan Bonahoom*

*Theme: Space*

*Keynote Speaker: Lisbeth Valther Pallesen,  
the LEGO Group*

The weekend of June 21st was the time that LEGO fans took over the Northbrook Westin and filled it with models of all types and sizes. With an event theme of "Space," there were more than a few spaceships and layouts. Over 800 LEGO fans attended Brickworld and the public came out in the thousands.

However, there were other displays to see too, including a minifig-scaled model of the Neuschwanstein castle, built by Bob Carney, seen above.



## Community

# Fana'briques 2010: Five Years of Success!

*Article and Photography by  
Thierry Meyer*



Fana'briques, a French LEGO fan event, celebrated its fifth year with 89 exhibitors, 2,500 square meters of display space devoted to the Danish brick, and 5,150 visitors. Exhibitors came from six European countries.

Everything was prepared on Saturday, June 26, 11:30 AM to welcome local officials Mr. Philippe Meyer, General Councillor, Mr. Michel Herr, Mayor of Rosheim (the host town), and his assistants. The General Manager of LEGO France, Mr. Eric Maugein, was also in attendance with Mrs. Anna Mockers, Junior Category Manager and Mr. David Alain, Sales Manager for LEGO Eastern France.

During his opening speech Thierry Meyer, Organizer-in-Chief, welcomed the officials and thanked the exhibitors (including those who braved a long commute to Rosheim) for coming and bringing their displays and models. Thanks were also given to the teams of volunteers and for those who participated in each of the five previous Fana'briques in the form of a special commemorative brick. Kayser Benoit, association volunteer and an integral

*One of the town layouts at Fana'briques.*





## Event Report: **LEGO®** Architecture Show

*Article and Photography by Patrick Seet*

*August marked the celebration of Indonesia's independence, and what better way to celebrate this nation's birthday than with a LEGO display held in the heart of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta? From August 13 to September 19, 2010, Grand Indonesia Shopping Town played host to the first-ever "LEGO Architecture Show" in Indonesia.*

*The LEGO Architectural Show at Grand Indonesia Shopping Town.*

The LEGO Architecture Show was composed of two main displays, a "LEGO Architectural Building Competition" and "MOC replicas of Jakarta's landmarks." The event was initiated by the local LEGO Distributor for Indonesia, PT ALJ Trading Indonesia, and endorsed by the LEGO Group.

**Build the Future of Indonesia** was the brief given to over forty design students from local Universities "UMN" and "UNINDRA". The result after two months of building was 15 magnificent works of LEGO Architectural MOCs. Each met the brief given and more, incorporating into their design a piece of Indonesia's unique cultural heritage.

The MOCs were truly amazing when you consider that most of these students aged between 19 – 25 years, and had never laid their hands on a LEGO Brick before this competition.

The creations were both detailed and massive in size, each covering an area space of 1m x 1m and the tallest MOC standing at 1.8m high. All the MOCs were built only with white and clear LEGO bricks, a favorite choice among architects for concept modeling.

Speaking to both the University lecturers and students, one could see that they truly enjoyed their time building these



# Inside the LEGO® Inside Tour



*The Inside Tour Group for June 2010, including LEGO designers and coordinators.*

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### **BRICKJOURNAL #13**

Special **EVENT ISSUE** with reports from **BRICKMAGIC** (the newest US LEGO fan festival, organized by *BrickJournal* magazine), **BRICKWORLD** (one of the oldest US LEGO fan events), and others! Plus: spotlight on **BIONICLE** Builder **NORBERT LAGUBUEN**, our regular column on minifigure customization, step-by-step "You Can Build It" instructions, spotlights on builders and their work, and more!

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Have you ever wondered what goes on at the LEGO® Headquarters in Billund, Denmark? Do you desire to go behind the scenes at the LEGO factory? Want to build LEGO models with LEGO designers, meet LEGO employees and experience life at LEGO? The LEGO Inside Tour may be for you! I had the opportunity to accompany the LEGO Inside Tour in May and June this year in Billund.

I knew of the LEGO Inside Tour from talking with some AFOLs who had gone to it, and it fascinated me. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the tour at the end of the first evening to meet with those who had just completed it. I could feel something very special and exciting, as everyone was in high spirits and over the experience and highly recommended it. So naturally, when The LEGO Community team to be a 'fly on the wall' this year, I opportunity!

I met with Camilla Torpe, LEGO Event Manager, beforehand and find out what I could expect on the LEGO Inside Tour. She excitedly explained all:

"The Inside Tour first began in 2005 and has now grown to having three tours a year. Each tour group has only 20 spaces. This limited number allows us to show visitors parts of the company that are not open to the outside world. The tour is designed to give the opportunity to have a true 'LEGO' experience, to show the company really is, and share with them LEGO values. We try to make it a special and unique experience every year, and it has become a favorite event of ours. Everyone involved with the LEGO Inside Tour because they want to share how they contribute to LEGO and its core values. We always like to provide for our special VIP guests the chance to meet and interact with our best and brightest."

"The tour would not be complete without a unique LEGO set made only for this year by our own LEGO Designer Steen Sig Andersen in collaboration with Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen. There are lots of surprises!"

Whether you are a LEGO fan or LEGO Club that has visited the LEGO headquarters and think you've seen it all, I have to say the LEGO Inside Tour is jam-packed with much more — more insider knowledge, people and locations normally not seen from outside eyes, some of which I'm not even allowed to put in this article. One of the things that has to be completed before entry is a nondisclosure agreement. This exclusivity does come with a price tag. The price of the tour in 2010 is \$1,350 per person, (approximately \$2,003 USD, €1,613 Euros or £1,350 GBP) plus travel to Billund. On the surface it might seem expensive, but I soon realized that much is included in the whole experience, and it seemed much more reasonable when everything is included in the price.