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Brick Journal

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people • building • community

LEGO® DINOSAURS!

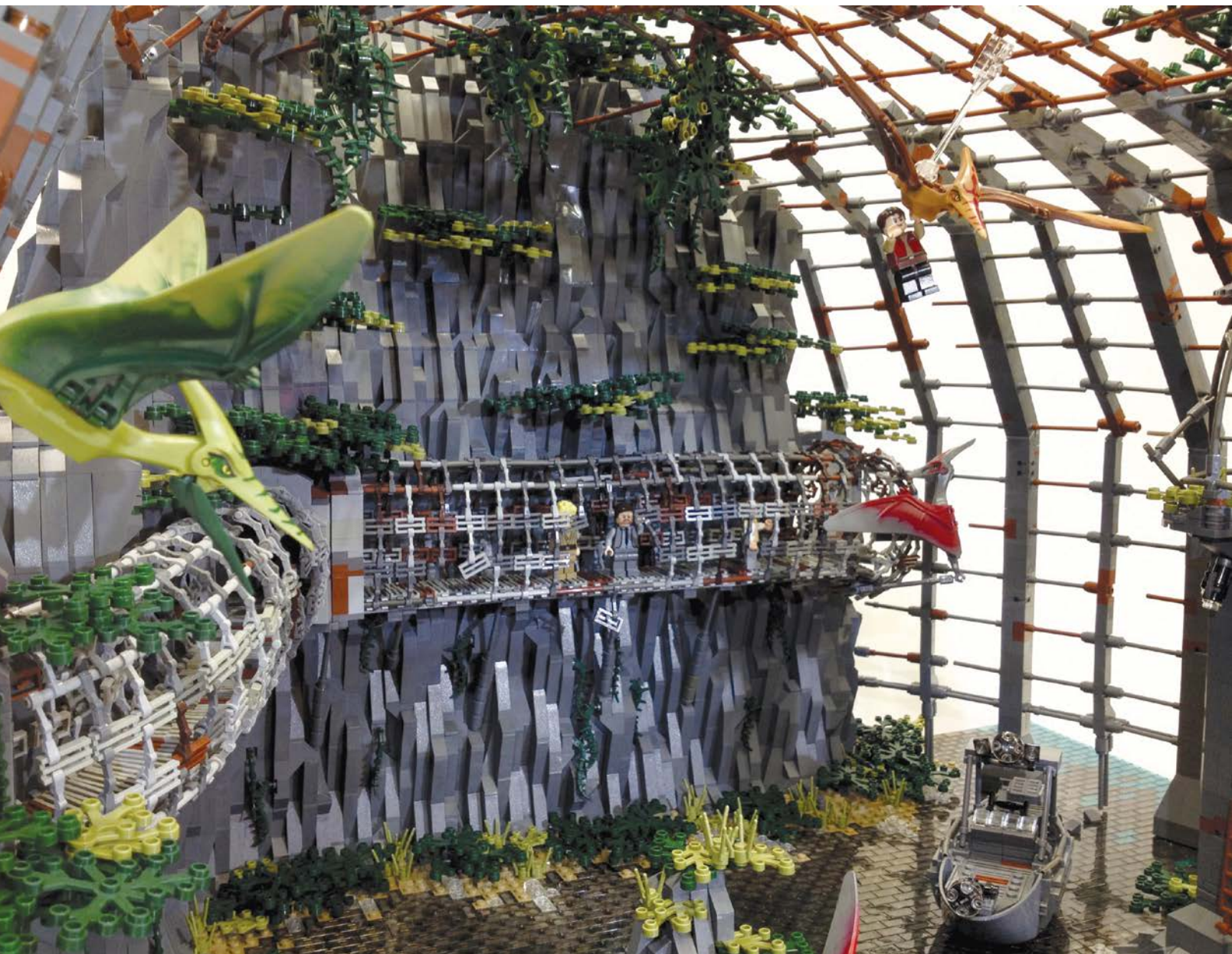
*Building the Beasts
with William Pugh*

*Looking
at Dinosaur Bones
by Matt Sailors*

*Visiting
Jurassic Park
with Diego Maximino
Prieto Álvarez*

**Instructions
AND MORE!**





Contents

From the Editor.....	2
People	
The Brick Goes to the Oscars	3
Brick Built Muppets:	
Can You Picture That?	7
Statue of the People's Liberty.....	12
Sami Mustonen: Prehistoric Builder	16
Building	
Building Dinosaurs with the Brick... and Clips!	19

Welcome to Jurassic World.....	26
Welcome to Jurassic Park!.....	34
Making Micro Dinosaurs.....	42
BrickNerd's DIY Fan Art:	
Triceranerd	45
You Can Build It:	
MINI T-70 X-Wing Starfighter.....	50
Minifigure Customization 101:	
Captain CAAAV VEEMAN!.....	55

Community

Arjan Oude Kotte's <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>	60
Building Dippy the Dinosaur and More.....	66
LEGO Robotics: Just What the Doctor Ordered!.....	70
Community Ads.....	78
Last Word	79
AFOLs by Greg Hyland	80

The Brick Goes to the Oscars!



Article and Photography by Klaus Neyer

My name is Klaus Neyer and I have been a fan of LEGO for as long as I can remember. I am 15, and, in what should be my Dark Ages, I am having more fun with LEGO than ever! Growing up in Carlsbad near LEGOLAND and down the freeway from Hollywood, my environment has definitely influenced my MOCs. One year ago I decided to combine my love of LEGO and my love of movies by challenging myself to build representations of all eight Best Picture Oscar-nominated films. I found the challenge to be frustrating yet rewarding. The collection was well-received by LEGO and movie fans alike, and I was honored to win trophies for the builds at Bricks-by-the-Bay and BrickCon, which are LEGO fan conventions on the US West Coast. I was hooked.



Brick Built Muppets: Can You Picture That?

Article by Joe Meno

Photography by Andreas Weissenburg

Above: *The Electric Mayhem*

Below: *Floyd and Janice*. Muppets TM & © Disney.



If you've heard of the Muppets, you've heard the Electric Mayhem. Since *The Muppet Show* premiered on TV in 1976, the Electric Mayhem has been the house band for the show. With the leader Dr. Teeth; guitarists Floyd and Janice; Zoot, the sax player; and drummer Animal, they performed not only for the TV show but in the Muppet-related movies that were made in the years since, and now in *The Muppets*, a new show on ABC.

The band became the basis for a series of LEGO builds by Andreas Weissenburg (Flickr name: grubaluk). A 49-year old software engineer and developer living in Luebeck, in the northern part of Germany, he built all of the members of the band after building Statler, one of the balcony hecklers in the *The Muppet Show*. As Andreas recalls, "I tried to create some of my own characters, but in one attempt, the combination of parts reminded me of Statler. I googled for pictures and recognized that my model could work, and then I was hooked."

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Statue of the People's Liberty

Article by Dan Parker

For BrickCon 2015, we did not originally plan a MOC specific to the event's theme, MOCKing History. Two separate projects and the notion of a trip to Moscow's Red Square changed that.





The Russian train.

Now only 40 days until BrickCon, design of the overall setting was next. We decided on a stair-stepped arrangement with the train on a lower frontal track, a street and parade on the upper main deck behind that, and the statue/pedestal along with buildings and portion of the Kremlin wall as the backdrop. Width of the display was set at 45 inches (the length of the train) while a 20-inch depth meant placement on a standard show table would still allow a two-track right-of-way. Once this rough composition was established we assigned the individual components (buildings, military vehicles, the spectator-populace, and details) to shop builders.

Work thus far had been fairly straightforward. For the train and remaining items, I followed my long-standing philosophy that working with the LEGO medium is akin to being a cartoonist: capturing the spirit or style of an item is often more important than exact detail of the prototype. In telling a story, we strive to capture the essence of the subject matter so that it is familiar to all. Examples include the locomotive built to a common continental profile with a livery based on period uniform colors, buildings embodying the architecture but selectively compressed (the actual area structures are *huge!*), and the parade vehicles. Often, I'll review dozens of different units of a topic until I understand key and/or shared features and styling, then I'll build what is thus an original but seems genuine to all.

The same applies to the armor. Ever since the release of the Indiana Jones Soviet amphibian (set #7625) I'd wanted to construct a larger Soviet-styled military column. Along with a re-colored amphibian, we produced a freelance tank, artillery mover (tractor) and gun, and ground units equipped with *BrickArms* weapons and headgear. The dark gray tank roughly follows a Cold War-era outline. It



Sami Mustonen: Prehistoric Builder

Article by Joe Meno

Photography by Sami Mustonen

Sami Mustonen (Flickr name: senteosan) is a digital artist and 3D modeler in Finland that also builds LEGO creations. Like many other LEGO fans, he enjoyed LEGO building during his childhood but had a Dark Age for about a decade before he returned to building in 2013.

Back in his childhood, Sami's favorite sets were Pirates and Western themed. Now he loves modular buildings, anything UCS-related (Ultimate Collector Series), and Technic sets—for him the bigger the set, the better the building experience. However, his latest building has been in a different direction.

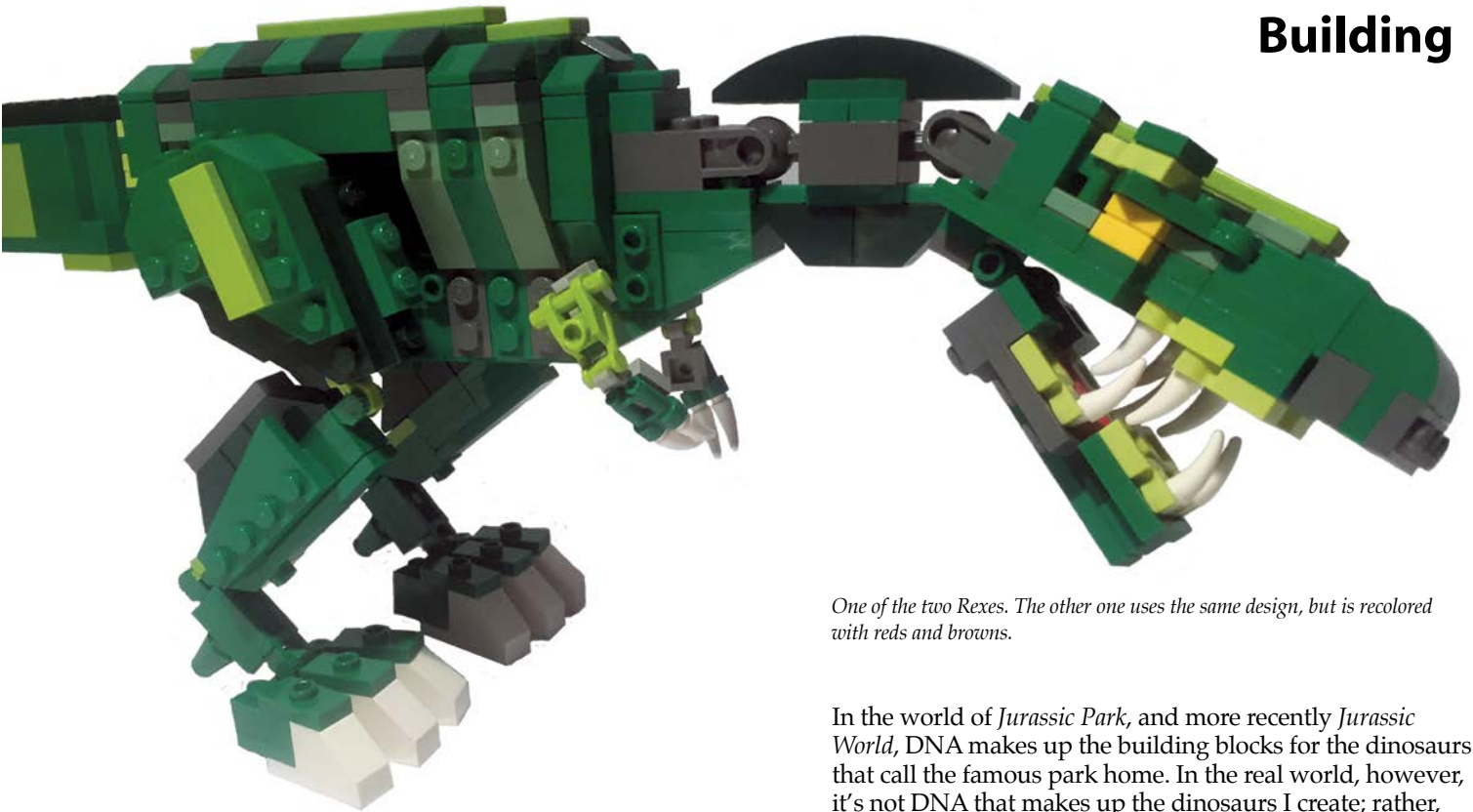
Dinosaurs have fascinated Sami for his whole life, and he became a huge fan of the *Jurassic Park* films. His interest led him to building a series of models that have been submitted to LEGO Ideas: a microscale *Jurassic Park* display, including vehicles and buildings, and also some larger scale models of dinosaurs. For Sami, creating organic shapes from plastic bricks is a nice challenge.

His larger dinosaurs became what he calls Bricksauria. Three animals have been built so far: a Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Stegosaurus, and an Indominus Rex. Sami's hardest and most time-consuming model was the T. Rex, as he explains, "everybody knows how it should look and act, and it was my first large dinosaur creation."

To build one of his models, Sami initially decides the scale and researches

Jurassic Park, Jurassic World TM
& © Universal Studios/Amblin
Entertainment.





One of the two Rexes. The other one uses the same design, but is recolored with reds and browns.

Building Dinosaurs with the Brick... and Clips!

Article and Photography by William Pugh



For a larger dinosaur like the Rexes, a pair of sturdy legs is a must. These legs use multiple plates, hinges, and brackets to keep everything sturdy and detailed, while two hinge plates allow for each toe to have independent movement.

In the world of *Jurassic Park*, and more recently *Jurassic World*, DNA makes up the building blocks for the dinosaurs that call the famous park home. In the real world, however, it's not DNA that makes up the dinosaurs I create; rather, the building blocks I use to create dinosaurs are, quite literally, building blocks. Utilizing the various special, unique pieces, and the most vibrant colors LEGO offers, I have created my own Park.

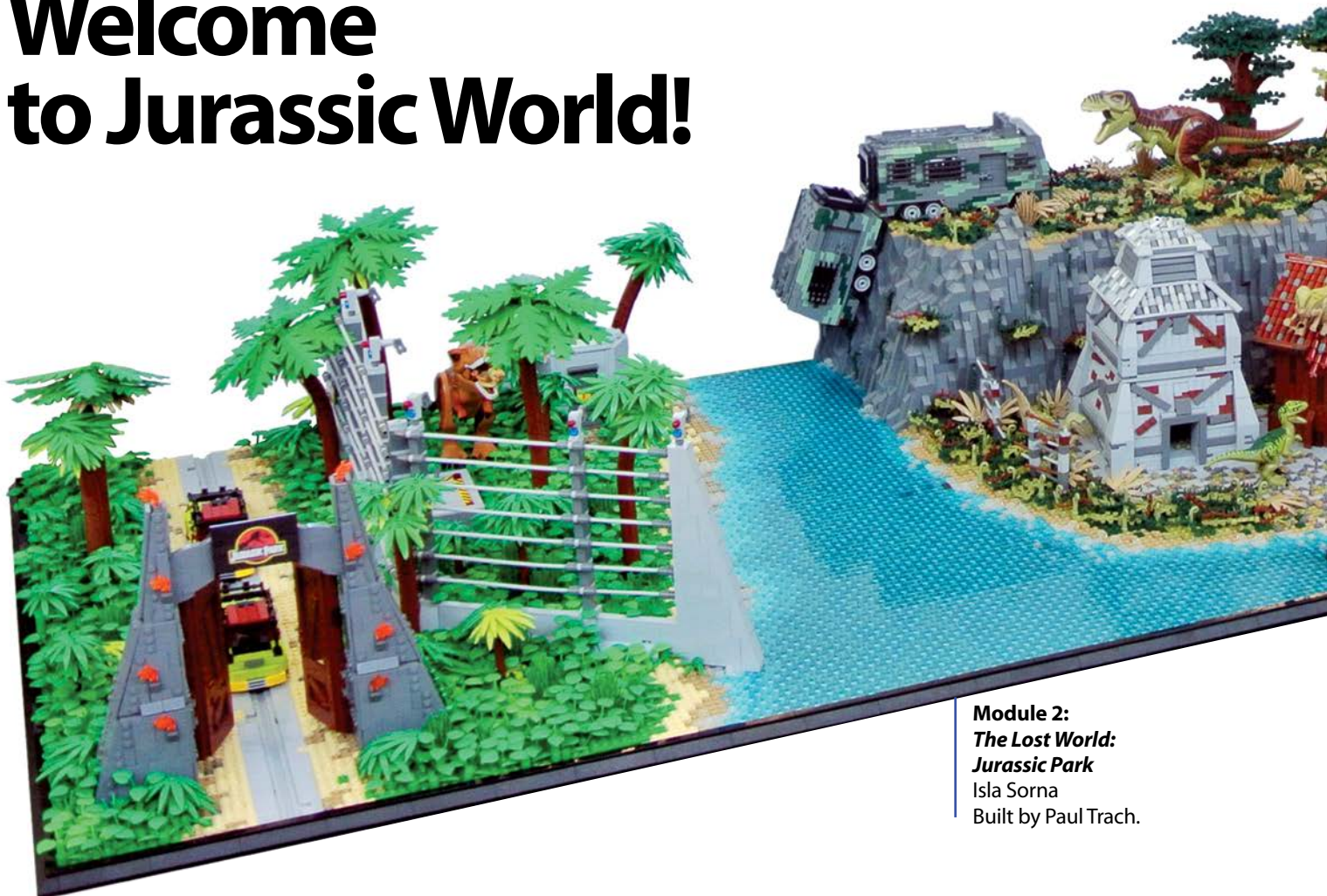
These creations are nothing new. I started building at a very young age, and after visiting the first BrickMagic convention, I decided I wanted to be a part of the show. The following year, I had the beginnings of my Park: a pair of tyrannosaurs, pteranodons, a pack of velociraptors, and the gate to the original Jurassic Park. Certainly not impressive, but it was a start.

As the months went by afterwards, I kept building. I made a name for myself online, and garnered a small following. Among them were a few AFOLs who acted as mentors in my building. They showed me what worked, and what didn't, and taught me new building techniques. Those teachings coupled with the online community drove me to be better and improve and build more and more.

The only problem was my collection. Being a young builder just starting out, I didn't have access to many pieces. That's when I turned to LDD (LEGO Digital Designer). Using this software, I could build whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. I could see what worked, and what didn't, and I could try different color schemes on my dinosaurs. And that's what allowed me to create the park I have now.

The park, which I have recently converted into a *Jurassic World* theme to coincide with the new movie, is now about three times bigger than my original. Consisting of 17 dinosaurs, a gate three times the size of my first, and a motorized Jurassic World tour vehicle, it's my largest creation yet.

Welcome to Jurassic World!



Module 1: Jurassic Park
Isla Nublar
Built by Markus Aspacher.

Module 2:
The Lost World:
Jurassic Park
Isla Sorna
Built by Paul Trach.

During the LEGO fan event Bricking Bavaria (a European event), a diorama based on the *Jurassic Park* series of films was displayed. This massive layout was the effort of two LEGO builders: Paul Trach and Markus Aspacher. Each did separate sections of the layout and built models of some of the trademark vehicles in the movies, including the *Jurassic Park* Jeeps and *Jurassic World* monorail. One of the creatures was also built—the mosasaur. *BrickJournal* talked to them about the layout and its challenges.

Paul is a corporate lawyer at an energy corporation. In his free time, he hangs out with friends and enjoys climbing and working out.

Both Paul and Markus are prolific builders, so much that, as Markus notes, “people think they only build in their free time.” But Markus also likes to go out with friends on the weekend, watch and play soccer, and in the summer, hike in the mountains. Paul builds *Space*, *Castle*, and *Lord of the Rings*-themed builds, and has been recognized online for his work. Markus also builds in the same themes, so it was natural that they work together on a layout.

According to Paul, they planned the build more than six months before, but only talked about the basics at that point. Building began three months before the exhibition, and at that stage they discussed their plans and progress constantly. “Actually,” Paul recalls, “it was three really tough months of building nearly every day. We made it just in time, finishing our work two days before the exhibition.

Markus agreed: “The first module (JP1) was not as difficult as the others and was built in 2 weeks, but the third (JP3) was very difficult to build. The aviary was a

Article by Joe Meno

Photography
by Markus Aspacher
and Paul Trach



Module 3:
Jurassic Park III
Isla Sorna
Built by Markus Aspacher.

Module 4:
Jurassic World
Isla Nublar
Built by Paul Trach.

real challenge, and I needed all the time and finished only a day before the exhibition started. Markus built the first module, depicting Jurassic Park and the third module, a diorama of the pterosaur cage in *Jurassic Park 3*. Paul built a scene from *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* for the second module, and the mosasaur pool for module 4.

Planning the layout and modules was done with an open plan, with both Paul and Markus building spontaneously from a basic outline of the project. Since both builders had experience in building landscapes and buildings, they already had an idea how the different parts would be done. Only the really difficult parts, such as the mosasaur and the pterosaur cage, needed experimentation to create the detailed builds they wanted. Part of the trial building for those models was done because the



Welcome to Jurassic Park!

Building



The iconic Visitor's Center.

Welcome to Jurassic Park!

Article by Diego Maximino Prieto Álvarez

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One of my most beloved interests as a kid was dinosaurs, a range of once-living creatures we will never meet. As fascinating as they could be, I spent years devouring every book or movie related to those animals. Like the *Star Wars* license, The LEGO Adventurers Dino theme came out at the right time to me. Apparently, the LEGO Group has been studying the core children trends over generations, or I have common tastes.

I eventually saw the movie *Jurassic Park* and was completely fascinated by the way Steven Spielberg adapted the “terrible lizards” described in the Michael Crichton novel with the help of Stan Winston’s magical effects. Its cinematography, I must say, has aged well over time. I also watched every sequel, and despite their flaws, I enjoyed them. The more sequels they made, the more realistic dinosaurs I could see.

It’s easy to compare it with *Star Wars*: both films were captivating and inspiring, and both also became construction toys.

As can be expected, after the LEGO license agreement with *Star Wars* in 1999, I hoped for some other favorite films would follow a similar path to be turned into building sets. At some point, those expectations became real if you take in consideration the small number of *Jurassic Park III* sets released under the “Studios” banner. Strangely, apart from a spinosaurus, none of the sets contained any real characters from the franchise, relying on generic figures instead: filmmaking crew, stuntmen, and a random Johnny Thunder (because everything is better with Johnny Thunder). I wasn’t frustrated; the number of dino-related products in the catalog was big enough to not nitpick about secondary flaws.

It wasn’t until 2008 when I started to care about those design details, due to the *Indiana Jones* merchandise. I wished they would have kept that increased level of design and branding strategies with other Spielberg movies.

In terms of LEGO licenses, some movie franchises have been following a specific pattern: a first wave based on

previous movies, and a late second one to cover a new theatrical release (Check the trends of *Toy Story*, *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Spider-Man*...) In some way, I hoped for a "Jurassic Park IV" movie as a excuse to see a classic visitor center toy set.

As any child, fan or toy collector, my imagination filled in the missing scenes and characters, and I projected my own idea for a "LEGO Jurassic Park" theme. I can see every scene in the saga as a potential set. If you have read *BrickJournal* #37, you would notice this was the similar case for the digital *Star Wars* ships I built: There were too many missed set possibilities.

Over the last decade, the first *Jurassic Park* film has turned into an old classic. The fans are mostly adults, so it makes sense to include any related content in the biggest set (only an older audience can afford the expensive toys), and also in the smallest one (as a beginner starter kit). The remaining medium-sized sets could focus on any creature ambush/"catch the dinos" scene from the sequels, which is a recurring topic on dino-themed toys.

Ford Explorer

One of my first attempts was a digital LEGO Digital Designer vehicle inspired by the fictional tour car. I have already seen several great MOCs by other builders in the Internet, so I make my own interpretation instead, which was a simple build closer to the modern LEGO City vehicle designs.

Originally intended to be part of a bigger set featuring most of the recognizable elements for the first film, it was scrapped when other projects related to the same subject matter started to surface on the LEGO Ideas site. This is not the first time I have discarded an early concept because someone else has made a better project. The truth is that I experienced similar scenarios with *Portal* and *Doctor Who* ideas (Yes, more licensed stuff. You might guess that I am not very original...). That is my advice: If you have a great idea, and it is so great, more people will also have the same idea eventually. So finish it off right now.

Visitor Center

As I have already stated, this was a build long in my mind. But, honestly, LEGO Ideas was the reason I actually considered finishing it, giving it the final look of a playset or a dollhouse.

When the *Back to the Future* (another Spielberg movie produced by Universal Pictures) DeLorean set was announced some years back, I accelerated the visitor center WIP to 88 miles per hour! *JP* could easily share the same license agreement.

The most frustrating part of the building process was, by far, the number of times I cancelled the project, and then restarted it, over and over again. Licenses from other companies, having the theme retired for ideas.lego.com for a while, and the 2015 LEGO *Jurassic World* line announcement were some of the several moments when I was about to give up and drop the project files into the trash bin.

I was assuming we would see products from the old movies next to the *Jurassic World* ones. When the 2015 sets were finally revealed at toy fairs, I noticed none were based on the previous trilogy, so I pushed forward the project immediately.



A rendering of the Ford Explorer.



The bunker.



Matt Sailors: Making Micro Dinosaurs!

Article by Joe Meno
Photography by Matt Sailors

At one of the many LEGO fan events *BrickJournal* visits each year, a couple of dinosaur vignettes were spotted. Built by Matt Sailors, these creations may be small, but they are also incredibly detailed for their size. *BrickJournal* talked to Matt about his building and these models.

BrickJournal: *What do you do for a living?*

Matt Sailors: By training and profession, I am a medical informaticist. I specialize in information/data modeling, knowledge representation, knowledge management, and clinical decision support. I have been working in this field for over 20 years.

When did you start LEGO building?

I started playing with LEGO back in the Samsonite era—specifically 1972 time frame—when I was three years old. The family story is as follows (I haven't every tried to confirm the details):

While my father was in graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (then just known as "the University of Illinois"), I attended the nursery school run by the child development department. Most of the children attending this nursery school were the sons and daughters of faculty, graduate students, and professionals working at the university or local hospitals. One of the parents is a boyhood friend of Kjeld Kristiansen (owner of the LEGO



Tommy Williamson is no stranger to *BrickJournal*, having been featured previously for his Jack Sparrow Miniland scale figure. Since then, he has gone farther into building, making some remarkable *Star Trek* props and other models. He's now doing a column for *BrickJournal*: DIY Fan Art. Here, Tommy

takes a little time out from his busy schedule at BrickNerd.com to make a model of his choosing for the magazine.



About this issue's model:

Last year I was honored to design a kit for the monthly subscription box service Brick Loot. It was a dinosaur themed box and I had been thinking about designing a Mixel form factor dino for a while. The set I designed was *Nerdasaurus Rex*, and it was a big hit. Well, when Joe told me the theme of this issue was going to be dinos, I thought it was high time *Nerdasaurus* had a friend. I present to you *Triceranerd*! He and *Nerdasaurus* are best pals. 🦖

Triceranerd

*Design and Instructions
by Tommy Williamson*

Parts List (Parts can be ordered through Bricklink.com by searching by part number and color)

Qty	Color	Part	Description
2	White	40379.dat	Animal Tail Section End
1	White	53451.dat	Minifig Helmet Viking Horn
1	White	4081b.dat	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Light Type 2
2	White	15070.dat	Plate 1 x 1 with Tooth Perpendicular
1	White	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2
2	White	32474p01.dat	Technic Ball Joint with Axlehole Blind with Eye Pattern
4	White	15209.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with 2 Teeth Vertical
1	Red	6019.dat	Plate 1 x 1 with Clip Horizontal (Open U-Clip)
6	Dk Bluish Gray	14417.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Ball Joint-8
1	Dk Bluish Gray	14704.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Socket Joint-8 with Friction Centre
1	Dk Bluish Gray	14419.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Socket Joint-8 with Friction and Ball Joint-8
4	Green	50746.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 0.667
2	Green	3005.dat	Brick 1 x 1
3	Green	4070.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Headlight
6	Green	3004.dat	Brick 1 x 2
1	Green	3009.dat	Brick 1 x 6
8	Green	6091.dat	Brick 2 x 1 x 1 & 1/3 with Curved Top
1	Green	3003.dat	Brick 2 x 2
1	Green	2456.dat	Brick 2 x 6

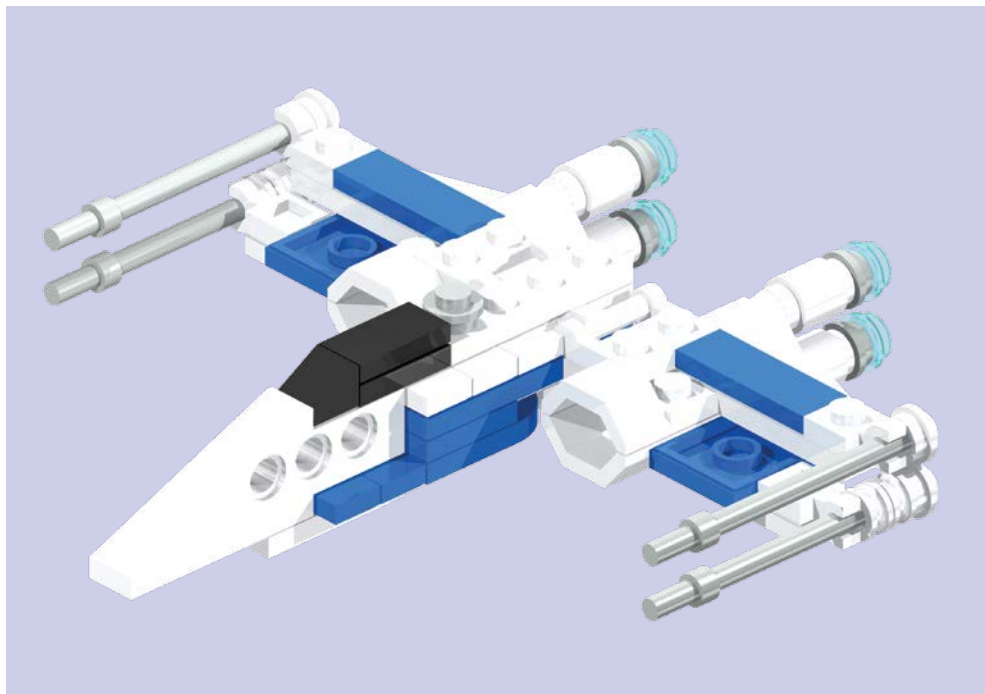
Qty	Color	Part	Description
4	Green	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
5	Green	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2
1	Green	48336.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Handle Type 2
4	Green	3794a.dat	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Center Stud
1	Green	3623.dat	Plate 1 x 3
1	Green	3710.dat	Plate 1 x 4
9	Green	3022.dat	Plate 2 x 2
1	Green	3020.dat	Plate 2 x 4
2	Green	3795.dat	Plate 2 x 6
2	Green	3040b.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 1
2	Green	3665.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 1 Inverted
2	Green	3039.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 2
2	Green	11477.dat	Slope Brick Curved 2 x 1
3	Green	93273.dat	Slope Brick Curved 4 x 1 Double
2	Green	3069b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with Groove
1	Black	47905.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Studs on Two Opposite Sides
2	Black	3024.dat	Plate 1 x 1
4	Black	3070b.dat	Tile 1 x 1 with Groove
2	Black	60592.dat	Window 1 x 2 x 2 without Sill
1	Lt Bluish Gray	14418.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Socket Joint-8 with Friction
4	Lt Bluish Gray	14704.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Socket Joint-8 with Friction Centre

You Can Build It

MINI Model

MINI T-70 X-Wing Starfighter

*Design and Instructions
by Christopher Deck*




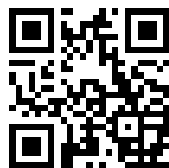
Hello everybody and welcome back to our ongoing MINI model construction series! The brand new *Star Wars* movie has just come into the cinemas, and there is plenty of new stuff to discover! Among the most memorable *Star Wars* starship designs ever is the iconic X-Wing Starfighter.

While we see the Incom T-65B X-Wing Starfighter in episodes 4-6, in episode 7, which takes place several years after the classic trilogy, we get to see its successor: the T-70 X-Wing. Among the main differences compared to the T-65B X-Wing, the newer T-70 X-Wing's nose features a steeper slope, and more obviously, the layout of the engines' cooling vanes is different. Instead of one cylinder per vane—four in total—the newer design features only two cylinders—one on each side of the body—each holding two vanes. Attaching the engines via lever bases to the back of the mudguard piece may require a little more force than desired, as it's a connection not officially intended.

Dividing a cylinder into two halves is very difficult to realize in miniature scale. There are only a few elements which qualify for this challenge. We will use a very old element for this: an arched vehicle mudguard. When we use one upwards and the second downwards we can create a cylinder that divides into two halves. This requires also some nice SNOT techniques

Coming back to the stepper nose, we use another very old piece: a TECHNIC slope which was used as wing backs in a plane. This slope is long and has a steep angle—exactly what we need for the starfighter's nose.

With that we have a complete T-70 X-Wing Starfighter! I hope you will enjoy building this model as much as I did! Happy building and hope to see you next time! 



You can view Christopher's webpage by going to www.deckdesigns.de or scanning this QR code!

Minifig Customization 101

A custom Captain Caveman figure.



A classic Captain Caveman image. TM & © Hanna-Barbera.

Read in announcer voice: *“Set free by the Teen Angels from his prehistoric block of glacier ice, comes the world’s first superhero, Captain Caveman! Now the constant companion to the Teen Angels—Brenda, Dee Dee and Taffy—in their hilarious, and sometimes scary mystery missions. Get ready for Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels!”*

Inspiration

When I heard this issue was dedicated to Dinosaurs, I started digging around in the deep dark places of my mind and I recalled a cartoon from my youth, *Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels*. *Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels* was a Hanna Barbera cartoon produced in the late '70s that I recall watching as a kid. It was totally ridiculous, but absolutely hysterical. Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels were a mystery-solving group similar to the Scooby-Doo gang. The concept and plot for the show was a parody of *Charlie’s Angels*. Given the films I will assume you know of *Charlie’s Angels*. The Teen Angels discovered and thawed Captain Caveman from a block of ice.

Captain Caveman, or “Cavey” for short, is thousands of years old (exact age never disclosed) and is the main character of the show. He has long body hair that covers his body except for his nose, arms, and legs. Captain Caveman’s powers include super-strength, pulling a variety of useful objects hidden inside his fur, and a club that allows him to fly and from which pop out different tools he uses to fight crime. His flying power always seems to fail him at the worst possible moment, which he would attribute to an energy shortage (“Uh oh! Bad time for energy crisis.” *CRASH!*). Apparently this was a pun on the shortages in gasoline in the late '70s. Cavey speaks in stereotypical “caveman-talk,” often mumbles the nonsense

Captain CAAAVEEMMAANN!!

Article by Jared K. Burks



Some other images, including a model sheet for the Hanna-Barbera show.





The parts of Captain Caveman!

phrase “unga bunga,” and he screams his trademark battle cry of “Captain CAAAAVEMAAAAAANNNN!” He also has a bad habit of occasionally eating large non-food objects in one gulp (i.e. bicycles, TVs, safes, table lamps, and bombs), and the Teen Angels occasionally have to stop him from eating potential clues that will help them to solve the mystery.

Given that Captain Caveman is completely covered in hair, how would we possibly create him in LEGO form? We need something that covers the torso and part of the legs to replicate that long body hair he is famous for having. This can be accomplished by using the old style Ghost LEGO element. This works nearly perfectly as only his nose, arms and legs are exposed. He is also quite short, so “stubbie” legs will be used. The first thing that needs to be accomplished is figuring out where on the Ghost part to shorten the length so that it ends just above the feet. I marked the edges of where the torso ends and the area just above the feet. From here I sketched the rough shape on the part.



Sketched alterations.



Shortening the Ghost cover.

I altered the part using my rotary tool with a cut off wheel (cutting disk) to cut across the part and shorten the length. This allowed me to verify my sketching. Just make sure to cut slightly longer. You can always remove a bit more, but it is very hard to add something back.



Cross cut to verify length.

Community



Victor's model of Dippy, with spectators.

Victor M. Nouvilas: Building Dippy the Dinosaur and More!

Victor M. Nouvilas' mom probably never thought of him building and buildings and sonic LEGO sets as a child, but in Spain, their home country, his mom bought him some LEGO sets, and hasn't stopped playing with. As he grew older, he did fourth-year physics studies in Madrid.

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BRICKJOURNAL #39

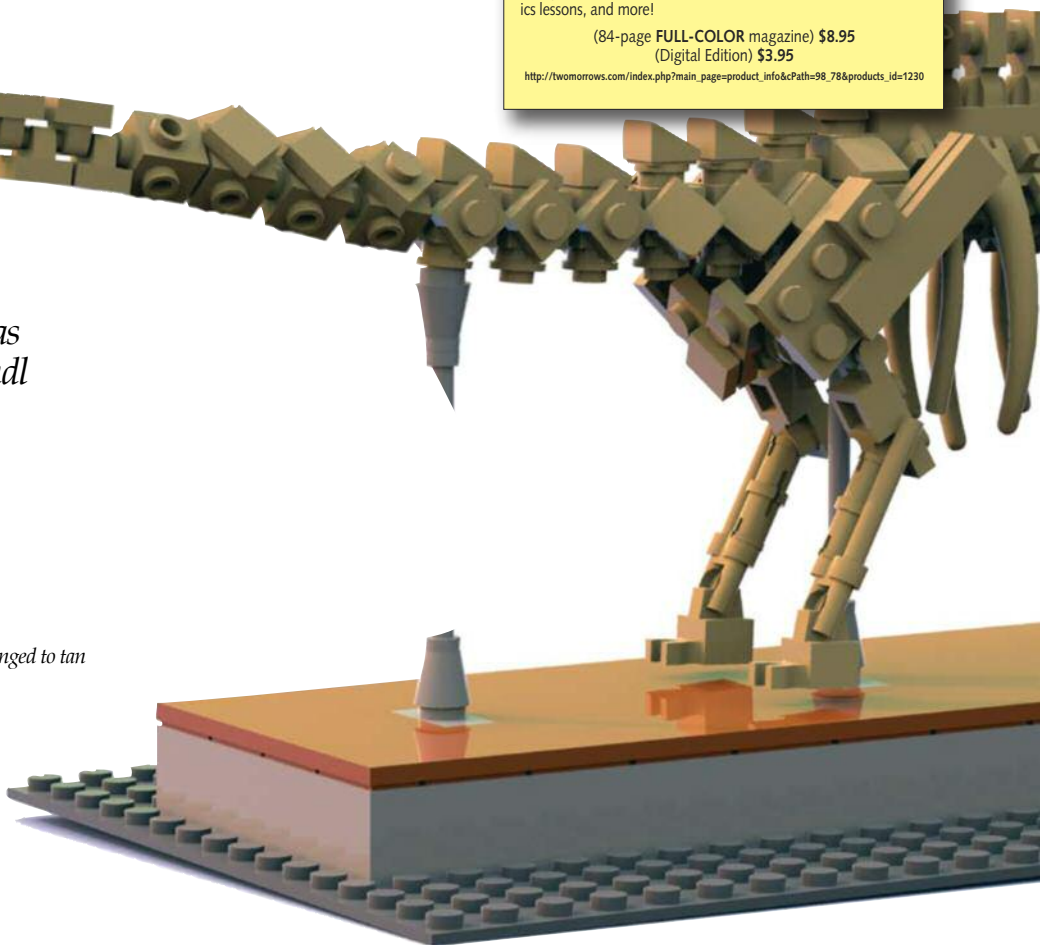
LEGO DINOSAURS! Builder **WILLIAM PUGH** discusses building prehistoric creatures, a LEGO Jurassic World by **DIEGO MAXIMINO PRIETO ALVAREZ**, and dino bones by **MATT SAILORS!** Plus: Minifigure Customization by **JARED K. BURKS**, step-by-step "You Can Build It" instructions by **CHRISTOPHER DECK**, DIY Fan Art by BrickNerd **TOMMY WILLIAMSON**, **MINDSTORMS** robotics lessons, and more!

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Article by Joe Meno
Photography by Victor M. Nouvilas
Dinosaur Render by Michael Brandl

A rendering of Dippy done with the coloring of the bones changed to tan to easier see construction details.



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