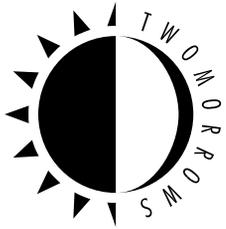


The Magazine for LEGO® Enthusiasts of All Ages!



**\$8.95**  
in the US

# Brick Journal

Issue 20 • August 2012  
people • building • community

## LEGO SUPERHEROES: Behind the Bricks



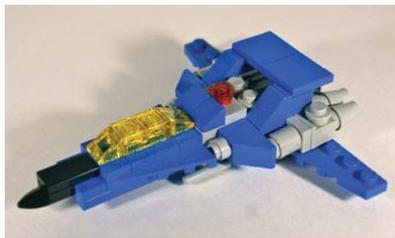
**Features,  
Instructions  
and MORE!**



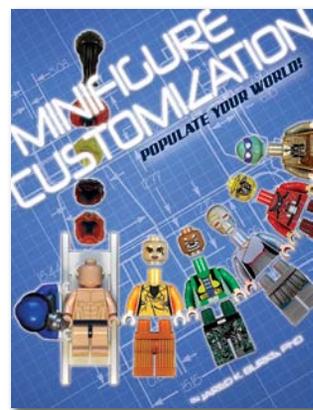
Take home  
some of the

# Brick Magic

2012 Raleigh  
Limited Edition  
MERCHANDISE



Minifigure  
Customization  
Book \$10

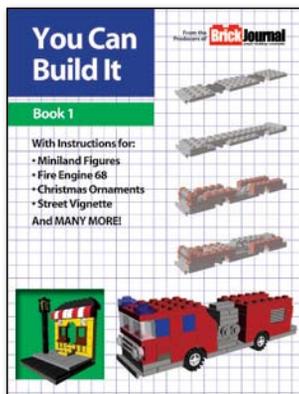


**Tulip or Spaceship Kit \$10**

Get both with You Can Build It, Book One for \$20

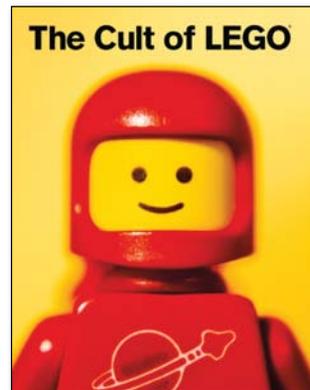


**Patches  
\$2**



**You Can  
Build It  
\$10**

**Cult of  
LEGO \$35**



**T-Shirts  
\$14-16**



**BrickStix  
\$5**



**BrickJournals &  
Compendium 15% Off**



**Order now at [www.twomorrows.com](http://www.twomorrows.com)**

FOR A FREE COLOR CATALOG, CALL, WRITE, E-MAIL, OR LOG ONTO [www.twomorrows.com](http://www.twomorrows.com)



**TwoMorrows—A New Day For LEGO® Fandom!**



TwoMorrows Publishing • 10407 Bedfordtown Drive • Raleigh, NC 27614 USA • 919-449-0344 • FAX: 919-449-0327  
E-mail: [twomorrow@aol.com](mailto:twomorrow@aol.com) • Visit us on the Web at [www.twomorrows.com](http://www.twomorrows.com)

# Brick Journal

Issue 20 • August 2012  
people • building • community



## Contents

From the Editor ..... 2

### People

Nathan Sawaya: Herobuilder! ..... 4

Alex Jones:

A Comic Portfolio in Bricks ..... 6

Peter Corp: Iron Mecha ..... 12

Building Comic Art with BaronSat ... 14

Evan Bacon: Comic Book Builder ..... 18

From Iron Man to Batman:

Tyler Clites on Building Heroes ..... 20

Greg Hyland:

Drawing AFOLs and More ..... 24

Brandon Griffith Strikes Back ..... 29

### Building

Minifigures and New Gothopolis ..... 36

What Happened

to LEGO Universe? ..... 41

Miniland Heroes ..... 50

Minifigure Customization 101:

Sculpting Custom Hair

from Clay ..... 52

You Can Build It:

Mini Batwing ..... 56

You Can Build It:

Batmobile ..... 59

### Community

Not Quite LEGO:

Bring on the Bad Guys! ..... 66

Cover Art: Making Issue 20 ..... 73

Superheroes Assembled ..... 74

Inventing the LEGO Wheel ..... 76

Community Ads ..... 78

Last Word ..... 79

AFOLs ..... 80

## People

# Nathan Sawaya: Herobuilder!

*Article by Joe Meno*

*Photography provided by Nathan Sawaya  
and Craig Mathew*

Nathan Sawaya is one of the LEGO Certified Professionals in the US. With this distinction, he has been able to do many different projects, including a couple that have included superheroes. In 2011, he was approached by Los Angeles Times writer Geoff Boucher (writer and blogger of the Hero Complex blog on the Los Angeles Times webpage — <http://herocomplex.latimes.com/>) to create a LEGO sculpture for the Hero Complex Film Festival, an annual event that showcases movies and moviemakers.

As Nathan notes, “Looking over the list of attendees for 2011’s fest, I noticed that Richard Donner, the filmmaker that took Superman to new heights with 1978’s *Superman: The Movie*, was a guest of honor. I thought it would be fun to do my version of Superman for the festival. I also threw in Green Lantern, as that seems to be on a lot of people’s minds these days.”

In 2012, Nathan’s work will become part of a traveling art exhibition, “Darkness & Light: Art Inspired by Heroes and Villains, Hope and Heroism.” Sponsored by Warner Brothers Consumer Products and DC Entertainment, this is a collection of original artwork inspired by the universe of DC Comics and its iconic characters, including Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman.

The collection, which includes more than 100 original works from artists spanning the globe and ranging in various forms, from graphic designers and painters to sculptors, will also raise awareness and funds for DC Entertainment’s WE CAN BE HEROES giving campaign ([www.WeCanBeHeroes.org](http://www.WeCanBeHeroes.org)).

The exhibit’s curator, Warner Brothers Consumer Products Vice President of Worldwide Creative Brian Deputy, has been a huge fan of Nathan Sawaya’s work for years and felt strongly that Nathan’s unique perspective and style would add another layer of depth to this incredibly diverse collection. Nathan has



# Alex Jones: A Comic Portfolio in Bricks!

*Article and Photography  
by Alexander Jones*

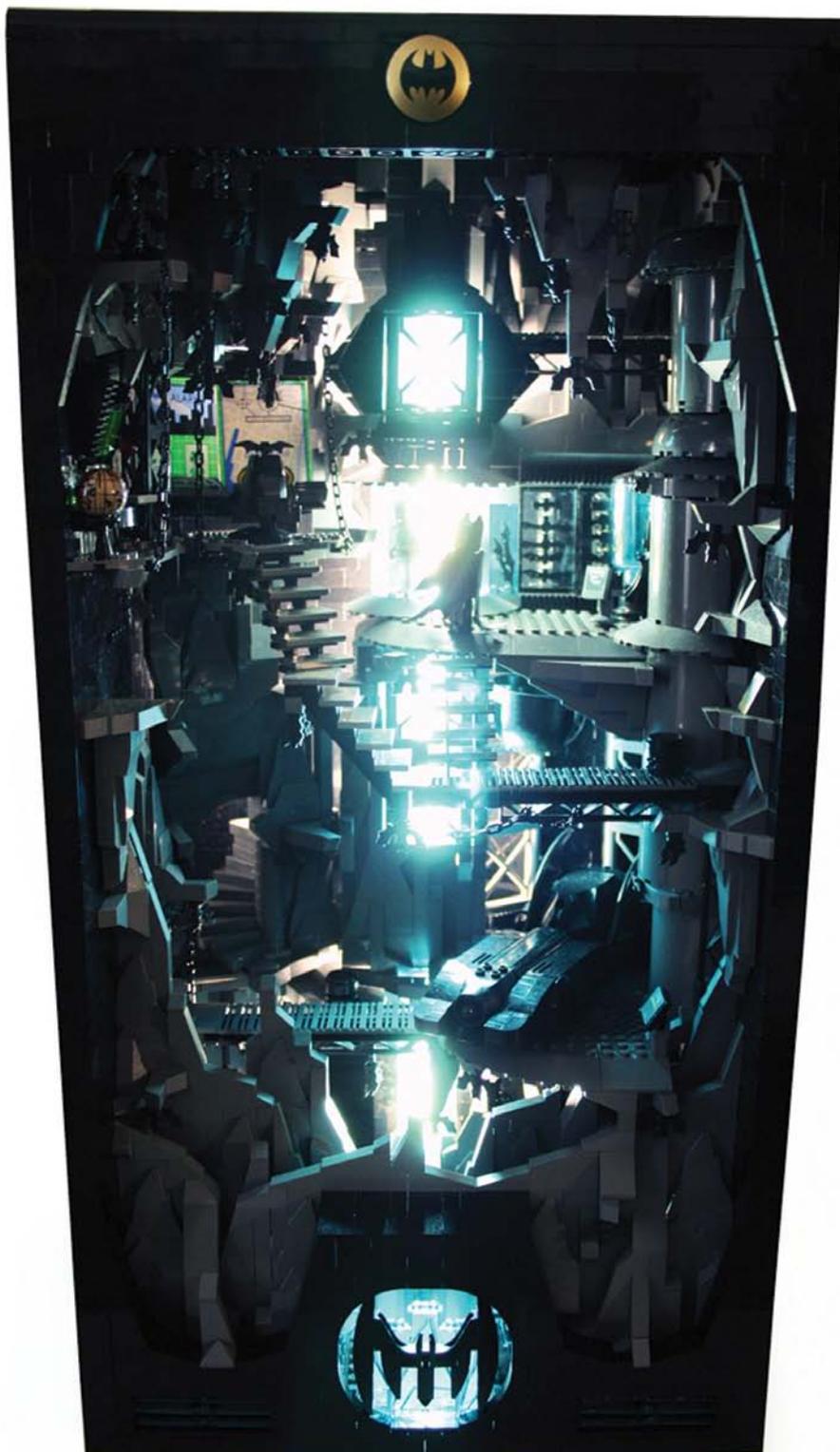
My name is Alex Jones, also known as Orion Pax. I'm a construction toy designer and brick artist from Germany. My focus lies on high-end detailed constructions, models and layouts.

Since my last interview with *BrickJournal* (Issue 2, Volume 2: Summer 2008) a lot of things have changed. I became a professional working freelance for TLG promoting and presenting my creations on exhibitions. I did lots of different projects like *Back to the Future*, Graffiti, and more '80s recreations like M.A.S.K and TRANSFORMERS.

I do urban and street art exhibitions presenting companies like SNEAKER FREAKER. I recently started [orionpax.de](http://orionpax.de) where you can see all of my projects.

This article though is for another great passion I share with most of you guys.

Superheroes like Batman or Iron Man are always worth a good creation....



## '90s BATCAVE

When I did some of my latest Graffitis I worked with lights. I thought it would be cool to transfer this idea into my other creations and the perfect way to create some mystic atmosphere. And what is better then a Batcave to get even more of that?

Also at one point, every decent brick collection has enough Batman parts to make you build something with it. It is the same with Star Wars.

For what is the reason for collecting all these nice figures when they just collect dust? They need to be in a nice vignette or diorama.



## SPAWN

What Todd McFarlane delivered to the world of comics was and will always be the best comic line I can think of. When I started my design career, I was a lot into drawing and he was probably my biggest source of how to do it the right way.

Like I mentioned earlier in the article sometimes only one element gives you the inspiration for a whole creation.

In this case it was Toy Story Zurg's big cape. I used three of those with a bit of scissor customization to get the fringe look right. For the head I spraypainted big Buzz Lightyear's head black.

The painting on his face is custom too. I think a great detail of the sculpture is the base with the cross in the back. It always adds a lot to your creation too if you build it into a small diorama or vignette. Gives it a better presentation.

A big challenge on the body was to find the right proportions and the right elements to keep it as organic as possible. I still have him watching over my models in my cabinet of creations.

## People



# Peter Corp: Iron Mecha

*Interview by Joe Meno*

*Photography provided by Peter Corp*

*Peter Corp is a mecha builder that built an Iron Man model after receiving a custom headpiece. The model was seen online and BrickJournal talked to him about his building style.*

**BrickJournal: Why do you build?**

*Peter Corp:* A need to be creative—it fuels the soul of our very existence as humans.

We humans are naked inventors. We were born with neither LEGO wings, nor claws, nor color changing camouflage. Our existence is dictated by our ability to adapt through innovation. If we do not have it, we build it. Is that not LEGO in a nutshell?

Often times, we humans are too much in a hurry to stop and smell the flowers. I was once told, “If you look at something long enough you will see details that you never realized were there before.”

Thus, the outcome of a MOC (My Own Creation) is actually nothing more than just the culmination of one’s ability to observe the environment with greater detail. It is as if the builder telekinetically grabbed your head and forced you to take a second look through a magnifying glass at what was once one small fact about life that you never realized was worth exploring. Van Gogh painted shriveled up old sunflowers. Arguably the subjects are not fancy but they are emotionally powerful because of his simple ability to make one stop and actually see the flowers as he saw it, through his eyes, and in a split second see what the creator spent a lifetime studying. Is that not us when we show off a creation?

The intellectual stimulation of creating LEGO MOCs equilibrates the vapid mundaneness in this world with some sanity. As a Border Collie was bred to herd livestock, humans were bred to create. A Border Collie in captivity would literally chew a hole in the wall out of boredom, as do humans that would do destructive things like crime or drugs when they are not given the chance to channel their inherent and primordial need to create. “I object to power without constructive purpose,” as Spock would say.

Why do I build? Because I would destroy if I did not.

**BrickJournal: Any tips on posing mechs?**

*Peter Corp:* Look closely at the hips of any good-looking mech on Flickr. The one thing that most people rarely notice consciously is if the hips are tucked in. By pointing the hips forward it gives the figure a much more powerful stance. Leaving the hips flailing equates to an awkward hunched-backed teenage boy in a bad prom picture.

Oddly enough I learned this technique from my iaido sensei who would hit us with a kendo stick if we didn’t tuck in our hips. “Imagine a beam from heaven to earth. Your head should be aligned with your hips,” he would say. This is why I always build extra hip joints into my figures, to give them that extra bit of chutzpah. Sometimes posing a creation is more important than the creation itself. Most of my creations are just a handful of common parts; it is the pose that breathes in a life spirit and brings emotional connection to the viewer. Try it — swing that pelvis like the end of an Elvis



A selection of Batmobiles, from movies and animated shows.

# Building Comic Art with BaronSat

Article by Joe Meno

Photography provided by Eric Druon (BaronSat)

*Eric Druon, also known as BaronSat, is a computer graphic artist, working on images and arranging them on pages, mostly for advertising leaflets. He has always loved LEGO bricks and started to make custom models in the '80s; then when internet exploded he found great websites and discovered he was not alone. That was in the late '90s, early 2000s. He builds mainly playsets, displays or dioramas, as people want to name them and of course characters, then unusual vehicles. Sci-Fi is of course a favorite theme and as an ex-Star Wars collector he always enjoys building models based on this universe.*

*Eric built a selection of superhero creations, so BrickJournal interviewed him on those models and how he did them.*

**BrickJournal:** What got you into building superheroes? "It's because of the comics!" ... not my fault. Like many people I read comics since my teenage years so it was obvious to combine with LEGO bricks.

The Marvel & DC Minimates and Hasbro Super Hero Squad products somehow started the fire.

**BrickJournal:** You have built a lot of Batmobiles—what inspires you so much about the vehicle?

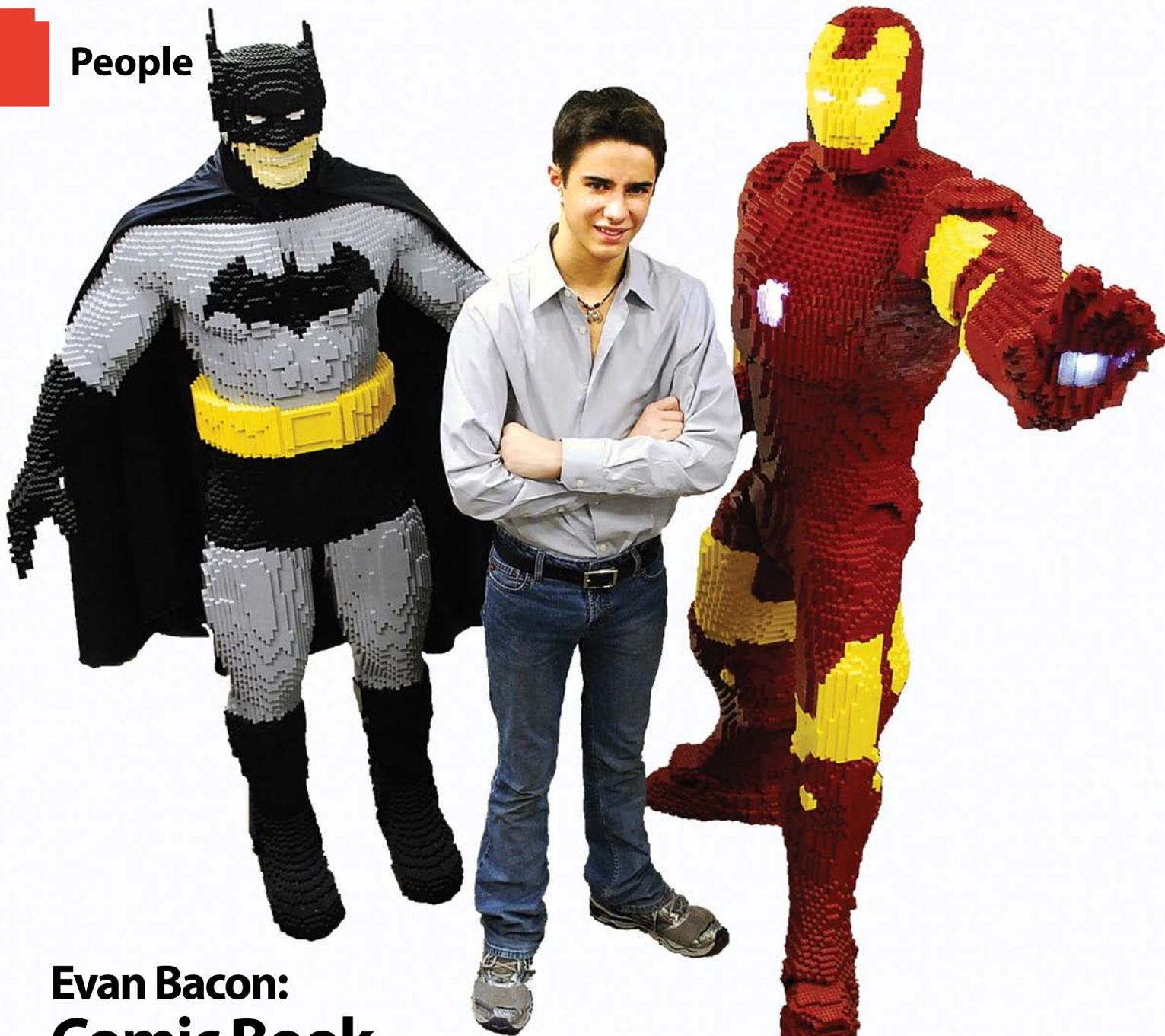
I may love to build dioramas, but like other guys I enjoy powerful cars. A hobby, in my opinion, can take you to another world, so building real cars from everyday life seems boring to me. Some people do that with a lot of talent but by myself, I just can't. On the other hand, the Batmobiles are "extraordinary" and constructing such models is pure pleasure. Forget traffic, gas cost, etc. — "ride like the wind" with your brick Batmobile.

**BrickJournal:** What led you to build a unique Batcave? Some of the elements are from the comics, but it is more your design.

For the Batcave as for all my other models, the first thing I do is gather documents from all eras and types. Then I mix them (just can't help it, my brain is where the chaos takes place), make some very rough drawings, and finally, when I start to build I just follow my mental picture... or build something totally different at the last moment because I think it's the thing to do.

**BrickJournal:** With the other sets you built, like Wayne library and the villain hideouts, you made play-friendly sets—is this something that you work on in your models, or do you like making display only models?

I prefer display models but as I'm excited by the work of TLC designers (for decades), I try to put a little bit of action too. We all started to build with regular sets so we are imbued with this particular spirit. Also most other playsets toy brands also include action features.



## Evan Bacon: Comic Book Builder

*Article and Photography by Evan Bacon*

*One of the surprises of Brick Fiesta 2011 was the life-size model of Batman. Built by teenager Evan Bacon, this model won three awards at the event. Here, Evan talks about building both Batman and now Iron Man!*

My love of LEGO bricks began at the ripe age of four when my parents started buying me C3 Batman kits which were quickly replaced with LEGO Batman kits when they were released. I loved putting them together and playing with them for hours and kept them all nice and neat and recreated scenes from the Batman cartoons that I would watch. As I got older, my parents continued to buy me additional Batman kits and minifigs which were used in making cool stop-motion movies. After many years, my LEGO collection became quite substantial and I liked putting together the kits as quickly as I could. I also loved building with the MINDSTORMS sets and would build robots to perform isolated tasks. I built a Disney WALL•E robot, and ones that would turn on and off lights, as well as security system robots!

Being home-educated has given me the opportunity to explore many facets of being creative with LEGO bricks. Friends have said that even when I was 6 years old, I would take paper

## People

# Greg Hyland: Drawing AFOLs and More!

Article and Art by Greg Hyland

Photograph by Joe Meno



Greg at work on a sketch.

Greg Hyland has been a fixture in the LEGO fan community—not for building, but for cartooning. As the cartoonist for BrickJournal’s “AFOLs” comic, he has become something of a jester for the community, pointing out the humor and sometimes the foibles of the LEGO hobby and its people. Joe Meno, BrickJournal Editor, talked to Greg about how he started drawing for the community and the LEGO Group. Here’s Greg’s story...

### Beginnings in Comics and Bricks

I have been working as a cartoonist and freelance artist since 1991. I went to school in animation, so I learned to be an animator for about a year and a half in Toronto and realized that it wasn’t what I wanted, so I focused on comics, which was what I really wanted anyways.

I was involved in a lot of the self-publishing movement in the ‘90s and got relatively well-known. It all kinda crumbled though—selling comic books is, even for Marvel and DC, incredibly difficult now. In 2000, I switched to doing my own comic which was called *Lethargic Lad*, and I switched it from doing a comic book to an online comic which I still do.

In 2002, I was on the From Bricks to Bothans ([www.fbtb.net](http://www.fbtb.net)) message boards and the guy that ran it then recognized my name and asked, “Are you the Greg Hyland that does *Lethargic Lad*? And if you are, would you like to draw comics for us?” I said yes, because I was pretty sure the LEGO Group followed the website. So I started doing comics and it wasn’t too much longer that I got a call from someone from the LEGO Group in Enfield (Connecticut), asking me if I wanted to start working as an illustrator primarily for the LEGO Magazine. So that’s how I started getting professionally involved with LEGO.

*Star Wars* brought me back into building. I always liked LEGO but had, as the kids called it, the Dark Ages. And I remember doing a lot of comic book conventions with friends and we’d stop at Toys R Us because a lot of us collected action figures and we were in Canada, so the American stores were a lot better. I’d always end up looking at the LEGO aisle and going, “Oh, I can’t buy this”—though I did buy a lot of the Islanders pirates sets. I bought that complete line because these guys were cannibals!

But then *Star Wars* came and I bought the X-wing and it got me back into the hobby. I originally said this is the only one I will buy and after I put it together I thought, *I MUST HAVE THEM ALL*. It was about six sets in the series at that point and I thought *I MUST HAVE THEM ALL* and *NO MORE ACTION FIGURES!* I thought I couldn’t buy action figures and get into LEGO because it was too expensive at the time.

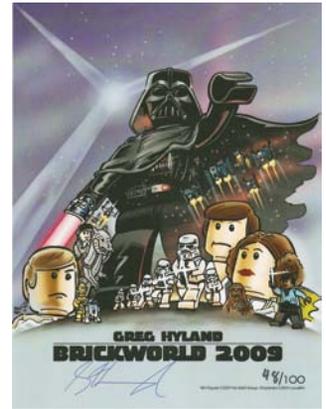
### Getting on the Drawing Board

My first assignments were nice because they (the LEGO Magazine) asked, “What do you like? And draw what you like!” They used me for spot illustrations that they could use anywhere cause there were versions in American, German, French, and British, so they would put together a rough magazine and every language could put together their own thing and rearrange it. So they just wanted spot illustration so any language could put a caption on it. Right then, the Studio Monster sets came out and I loved the Studio Monsters, so my first job with them was drawing Studio Monsters. I was pretty happy with that.

My second job with them was not as interesting because they had their NBA sports sets and they had sportscaster figures that were on the boxes and so I did a lot of sports spot



Original art from a BrickJournal article.



Star Wars prints from fan events.

illustrations with those guys! It was not that interesting to do. But who cares? It was work and it was awesome.

In 2003, I went to BrickFest (a LEGO fan event) in Washington, DC. I was sorta involved with a local LUG (LEGO Users Group) that was going to the event. I heard about it and thought it would be cool if I could go there and set up the way an artist would at a comic convention where they would draw sketches and commissions and sell prints. It would be unique and you know, people seemed to really like that. Here it is almost ten years later and here I am in Chicago at Brickworld just doing the exact same thing. BrickFest was a show that was within driving distance so I wanted to do that.

As a result, I was asked to do things like help illustrate the programs so I got to be active in the fan community too. Illustration was a thing that no one else was really doing so I felt that a good way to help and make things different and stand out.

### Creating "AFOLs"

This led to the "AFOLs" comic which was something that the LEGO Group actually wanted to do. At the time, I was approached by Jake McKee, who used to be the LEGO Community Coordinator. There was a lot of stuff going on that people may remember, like the gray color change and 9-volt train being discontinued. Fans were not understood by the LEGO staff because they did not understand why people were so upset by grays changing. They didn't understand why people were upset with 9 volt trains going away. LEGO also didn't seem to understand a event like BrickFest and what it was really about and what these people were doing it.

Jake's idea was: Comics convey a lot of information really quickly and people tend to remember them too. He wanted me to write and draw a comic book because he liked my

*Lethargic Lad* comic. Jake said let's approach these issues, let's talk about fans are, what they do, and why they don't like what they don't like. He thought I would have the right editorial tone so he wanted me to draw a comic book that would be printed up and distributed internally at the LEGO office to educate employees.

So I did "AFOLs" and they looked at it and it was distributed through the company and they liked it so much, they said, with a bit of tweaking they could do a fan version that could be given to LUGs to give out at their events to the public. And then the public might go, "Hey, we can get involved in this!"

So I rewrote a lot of the strips, but we used a lot of them and then they printed up 10,000 of the comic and gave them away. They sent out cases to LUGs to distribute. The one thing that sorta happened was a lot of LUGs said, "Yeah, I want 3 boxes," or, "We want 2 boxes for events." Then they got kinda weird with them and said, "Oh, these are collector's items!" and they didn't open them or give them away.

A few years later, they would be like, "We got these stupid boxes of comics that we are lugging around. Who would want them?" **Greg Hyland would want them.** So a lot of clubs gave me all the cases that they didn't bother giving away. Now I have probably less than ten copies left because I ended up giving away so many. I am sure that there are still LUGs that have them or hopefully did give them away but I know of some that withheld giving away the comics. It was funny the amount of cases I was getting back. I think I only got one case from LEGO. I think a lot of LUGs got two or three. At one point I had six or seven cases of them that were given back to me at events. I know that LEGO gave them away at San Diego Comic-Con that year and that burned through a lot, so that was that.

# BRANDON STRIKES BACK



ARTICLE BY  
**CLEAVE CHUTNEY**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
**VICTORIA LARA**  
(VICTORIALARAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)  
MAKE-UP  
**ERIK TROPPE**

MODELS  
**AMANDA GIST**  
**ROBERTA SETZU**  
**CHELSEA SPIRITO**  
WALL ART  
**DAVE FLORES**  
(DAVIDFLORESART.COM)

## People



**T**ake one of the best film trilogies of all time, smash it together with one of the oldest games of all time, and build it out of one of the greatest toys of all time. RESULT: Star Wars LEGO Chess!

Brandon Griffith, visionary builder, has done just that! He has built a variety of different BrickJournal featured models in the past including the ships of Star Trek (*BrickJournal* #6) and OneLUG's "The Last March of the Ents" (*BrickJournal* #19). One of his most recent projects showcases three themed chess sets built of LEGO bricks celebrating the Original Star Wars Trilogy!

At first glance, one can't help but notice how attractive women flock to the beautifully crafted sci-fi sets. On closer inspection, subtle details begin to jump out, recreating the cinematic excitement that came from watching those now classic scenes. The combination of functionality and design make these Star Wars themed chess mash-ups some truly impressive work.



We caught up with Brandon at his favorite rib joint in sunny Burbank, CA where—between hefty bones of beef ribs—he was kind enough to answer a few questions about his incredible creations.

**Cleave Chutney:** Hello, Brandon. My name's Cleave.

**Brandon Griffith:** Nice to meet you. Your name is Cleave?

**CC:** That's right.

**BG:** Cleave, as in Cleveland?

**CC:** No, Cleave as in to split or divide by a cutting blow.

**BG:** Okay.

**CC:** My parents were butchers.

**BG:** Sounds good.

**CC:** Thanks for letting us talk to you. I'd like to know a little bit about these amazing Star Wars Chess sets and you, in general, as a LEGO builder. How long have you been building?

**BG:** I started building when I was two years old. Like most people, I played with LEGO until I became a teenager and entered my 'dark ages'. When Star Wars LEGO came on the scene in 1999, I started buying LEGO again but it wasn't until 2002 that I started building My Own Creations.

**CC:** So, other than your love of the Star Wars films, what was your motivation in building these sets?

**BG:** Actually, my first MOC coming out of those teenage 'dark ages' was a Star Wars chess set. It was very basic and contained figures from all three movies in the original trilogy. Several years and MOCs later, I had the idea to



## A NEW HOPE®



**CC:** I have to ask: any chance of you doing sets for the prequels?"

**BG:** I thought about it but, truthfully, I just don't have enough passion to do a prequel set. As of right now, I don't have any plans to make any of them.

**CC:** How about 'Clone Wars'?

**BG:** Again, not a huge fan.

**CC:** Sorry. Now that all of the chess sets are completed, looking back, which one was the most difficult to construct?

**BG:** The most difficult was the ROTJ. Using the color palette of dark green and brown was a challenge. Dark green has such a limited part palette.

**CC:** And which is your favorite?

**BG:** The 'Empire Strikes Back' set is by far my favorite. I spent a lot of time and extra care on it. Not only is it my

favorite movie of the trilogy as a viewer, it also has my favorite planets, locations, scenes and moments to recreate as a builder.

**CC:** So, you've finished the *BrickJournal* photo shoot, what happens to the sets? Storage? Potential sales? Will you use the pieces for parts?

**BG:** I would love to have a display case big enough to house them—each is 25" x 25"—so the footprint is quite large. After the shoot, they'll go into storage. I won't ever take them apart.

**CC:** What's next for Brandon Griffith? Are there any other ideas for new sets?

**BG:** 'Lord of the Rings' would be cool, especially with the new sets coming out. I'm a little burned out on making chess sets at the moment. I don't know, maybe a 'Marvel versus DC' chess set if they release enough mini figs.

## Building

# A LEGO® Master Builder's First Project: Minifigures and New Gothopolis

Article and Photography by Erik Varszegi

Deep within the LEGO Model Shop in Enfield, there is a model that sits on a shelf. The model is actually more of a layout, and if you're a comic book fan, you will recognize some of the landmarks that occupy this space: the Daily Planet, LexCorp Headquarters, and the Daily Bugle. What you may not know was that this model was a project by Erik Varszegi, one of the LEGO Master Builders that he did for fun. Here, he tells BrickJournal the story behind his comic book models and minifigures.

This was really my first (substantial) MOC, built years before I knew what a MOC was or meant or even before I knew there was a LEGO Fan community. I put it together when I started as a model builder for LEGO back in '95 and built it over a period of maybe 18 to 24 months. I'd take time during an odd lunch break here or there and sometimes after work to put it together. As to why I built it? It's really nothing more than a elaborate pencil holder. As a model builder trainee, my personal workspace was limited. I had my lift table and two rolling caddies that held all my sorting trays of LEGO brick but I needed something to store and organize my tools, glue bottles and paperwork.

Some of the other builders had built organizers out of brick. Most were simple affairs with a couple sliding drawers. I took it a step further and themed it around the custom figs another builder and I were putting together at the time.

That's the real story here in my opinion. We created dozens and dozens of custom minifigs from DC, Marvel and a few other super-hero types like Space Ghost and The Tick. You name the character and we had built it.



The Flash.



The Joker.



Iron Man Mark I.



Two-Face.



Dr. Octopus.



The Scorpion.



Ghost Rider.

## Building



Batman and Robin.



Villains: Penguin, Joker, and Lex Luthor.



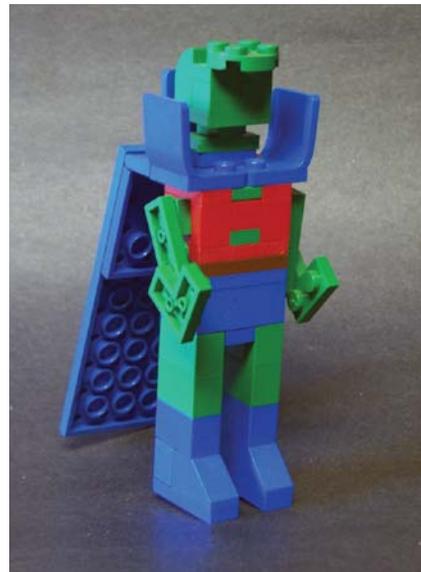
Reverse-Flash and Flash.



Justice League of America: Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Superman, Batman, Robin, and Aquaman.



Superman.



Martian Manhunter.

## Miniland Heroes

Article and Photography by Matt Armstrong  
(*Monsterbrick on Flickr*)

*AFOL Matt Armstrong lives in California, not too far from LEGOLAND California, and not too far from his inspirations. As Monsterbrick on Flickr, his models have gotten the attention of people worldwide for his expertise and variety. One of the many things he has done is miniland figures, including superheroes. Here, he talks about building the figures.*

I made the first superhero miniland figs while at LEGOLAND California some six years ago. I would often go to LEGOLAND just to build in the building area, as you could weigh your creation and then purchase it.

I have always been a big fan of superheroes. As a child some forty years ago, I remember wanting to know all the heroes' names as well as their secret identities.

Thor was the very first one I put together. I gained the inspiration after finding several blue and yellow plates stacked together. I looked at them and saw Thor's boot. After Thor, it was all about the Justice League of America and I did about 5 or 6 figs before leaving the park and returning home to fine tune, refine and make more. (You can't always find the exact brick you need at LL!)

Most of the Marvels were put together in my LEGO-room including the Fantastic Four. Sadly they did not survive the kitten onslaught of '09. With the Marvels I did not try for the miniland look but went for more articulation on each figure.

## Building

### Minifig Customization 101:

# Sculpting Custom Hair From Clay

by Jared K. Burks

*A figure with a finished hairpiece:  
Honky from the Clown  
Commandos.*



This article is going to discuss hair — not your hair, your minifigure's hair. The second most defining characteristic of any custom minifigure is typically what is on the minifigure's head. Having an accurate hairpiece is critical. LEGO® has recently done a great job giving us new hairpieces, many of which can be easily modified into several different styles. This sort of modification was previously covered in an earlier article. Color alteration of LEGO elements has also been covered in the magazine. So suppose LEGO doesn't make the hairpiece in the correct color for your custom figure. So what do you do

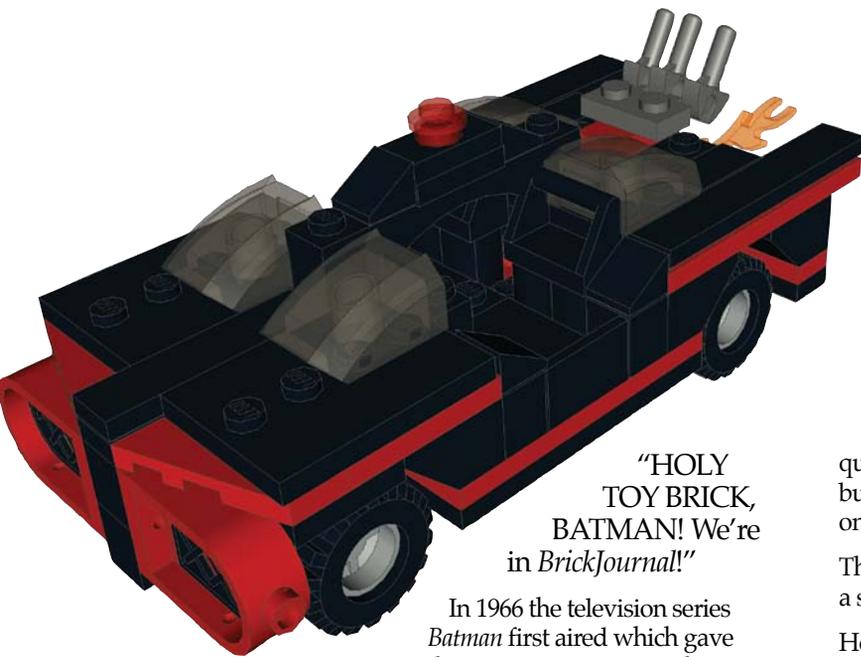
when you can't modify or recolor a hairpiece? Break out your clay! Time to sculpt a hairpiece; this is typically a little different from sculpting other elements due to the size and level of detail.

Tips and tricks to make custom hair elements are presented here, but the best piece of advice I can offer is to sculpt. Practice improves any skill, and if you aren't happy with your first attempt try again. I typically sculpt a part two to three times, learning from each attempt. Is each attempt a success, no, but each is a learning experience.

## The Basics

### Types of Media (Polymer Clay versus Epoxy Putty)

There are several types of clay ranging from the earthen clay dug from the ground to completely synthetic, most are not appropriate for this type of application. The major type used for making custom hairpieces is polymer clay, however, some use Epoxy putty (MagicSculp) which is similar to clay. Polymer clays will not harden till cured by low heat; epoxy putties cure by chemical means limiting your sculpting time to typically less than 24 hours. Choosing one over the other is ultimately up to your preference, however there are some basic arguments for both. It boils down to extended sculpting time versus durability. The clay will not cure till heated and the epoxy putty will be more hard wearing. If you are not going to mold and cast your part and/or you are a fast sculptor I recommend the epoxy putties, if not polymer clays.



“HOLY TOY BRICK, BATMAN! We’re in *BrickJournal!*”

In 1966 the television series *Batman* first aired which gave birth to two iconic parts of the Batman mythos: Robin’s famous exclamation, “Holy (insert relevant word here) Batman!” and a fresh new take on the Batmobile. A modification of a Ford Futura concept car, with its red and black color scheme, convertible design, dual windshields, and rocket engine on the back, it

# You Can Build It

## Batmobile

Design by Carson Sangala  
Instructions by Joe Meno

quickly became an icon of the show. Today we’re going to build one of those two parts of the show (can you guess which one?).

The model presented an interesting challenge trying to make it a seven-stud wide car rather than six-stud width.

However, with its proper balance of simplicity and tricky connection points, it turned out rather nicely.

Join us next issue for more models — same brick time, same *BrickJournal!* 

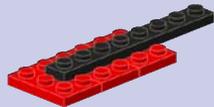
### Parts List (Parts can be ordered through [Bricklink.com](http://Bricklink.com) by searching by part number and color)

Qty	Part	Description	Color
1	2420.dat	Plate 2 x 2 Corner	Black
1	2431p08.dat	Tile 1 x 4 with “-3-” Pattern	Black
2	2432.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with Handle	Black
1	2540.dat	Plate 1 x 2 with Handle	Dark Bluish Gray
6	3005.dat	Brick 1 x 1	Black
2	3020.dat	Plate 2 x 4	Black
3	3021.dat	Plate 2 x 3	Black
9	3021.dat	Plate 2 x 3	Red
2	3022.dat	Plate 2 x 2	Black
5	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2	Black
2	3023.dat	Plate 1 x 2	Red
1	3062b.dat	Brick 1 x 1 Round with Hollow Stud	Black
1	3062b.dat	Brick 1 x 1 Round with Hollow Stud	Light Bluish Gray
2	3068bp81.dat	Tile 2 x 2 with Black “1” Pattern	Black
2	3069b.dat	Tile 1 x 2 with Groove	Black
1	3070bp04.dat	Tile 1 x 1 with Black “4” Pattern	Black
1	3455.dat	Arch 1 x 6	Black
1	3460.dat	Plate 1 x 8	Black
1	3622.dat	Brick 1 x 3	Black
1	3622p02.dat	Brick 1 x 3 with Control Panel Pattern	Black
1	3623.dat	Plate 1 x 3	Black
6	3660.dat	Slope Brick 45 2 x 2 Inverted	Black
4	3666.dat	Plate 1 x 6	Red
5	3710.dat	Plate 1 x 4	Black
5	3794a.dat	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Centre Stud	Black

Qty	Part	Description	Color
2	3794a.dat	Plate 1 x 2 without Groove with 1 Centre Stud	Red
2	3795.dat	Plate 2 x 6	Black
2	4070.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Headlight	Black
1	4073.dat	Plate 1 x 1 Round	Black
2	4865a.dat	Panel 1 x 2 x 1 with Square Corners	Black
4	6014.dat	Wheel Hub 11.2 x 10.4	Light Bluish Gray
1	6126.dat	Minifig Flame	Trans Neon Orange
1	6141.dat	Plate 1 x 1 Round	Trans Red
2	6157.dat	Plate 2 x 2 with Wheels Holder Wide	Black
1	6188.dat	Cone 1 x 1	Light Bluish Gray
2	6636.dat	Tile 1 x 6	Black
2	30044.dat	Window 1 x 2 x 2.667 with Rounded Top	Red
2	30046.dat	Window 1 x 2 x 2.667 Pane Lattice Diamond with Rounded Top	Black
2	30136.dat	Brick 1 x 2 Log	Black
4	30602.dat	Slope Brick Curved Top 2 x 2 x 1	Trans Black
1	43722.dat	Wing 2 x 3 Right	Red
1	43723.dat	Wing 2 x 3 Left	Red
1	47905.dat	Brick 1 x 1 with Studs on Two Opposite Sides	Black
3	48729.dat	Bar 1.5L with Clip	Dark Bluish Gray
8	50746.dat	Slope Brick 31 1 x 1 x 2/3	Black
4	60700.dat	Tyre 12/ 40 x 11 Wide	Black
2	88646.dat	Tile 3 x 4 with Four Studs	Black

1

3x  
1x



2

1x



3

1

1x

2

2x



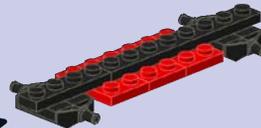
4

1

1x

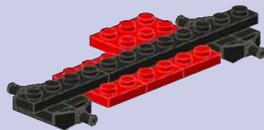
2

2x



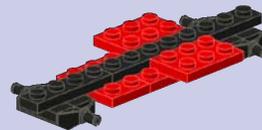
5

1x



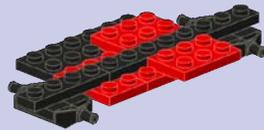
6

1x



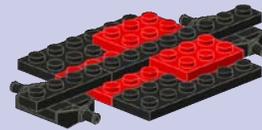
7

1x



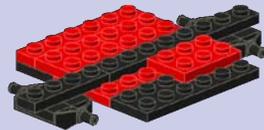
8

1x



9

1x  
1x



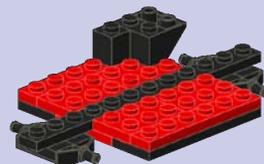
10

1x  
1x



11

1x 1x



12

1x 1x



## Not Quite LEGO

It's time for another edition of "Not Quite LEGO" —the column that takes a look at some of the other toys out there that are "not quite LEGO." No, we're not talking about MegaBlocs, but about other toys that are sometimes similar to LEGO, or may be of interest to LEGO fans in general!



Spider-Man's Rogues Gallery: (from left) Kraven the Hunter, Diablo, Dr. Octopus, Mysterio, and Sandman. Top: Vulture.

## Bring on the Bad Guys!

Article and Photography by Greg Hyland

Art Asylum's Minimates figures are a line of popular block figures that a lot of LEGO fans might know about (or because I wrote about them in a previous *BrickJournal*). They've done figures for a big range of characters, including *Battlestar Galactica*, *Terminator*, *Halo*, *Universal Monsters*, *Back to the Future* and the hit Madonna movie *Desperately Seeking Susan* (What, really? No, really). But their most popular line has been for *Marvel Super Heroes*, which is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> Direct Market wave and over 15 Toys R Us exclusive waves.

One of the things that superhero action figure collectors complain about is often the lack of villains for a line. But I'd argue that problem doesn't exist with the Marvel Minimates line. While multiple versions of popular heroes, like Spider-Man and Wolverine are plentiful, so are villains—often sold in two-packs with the hero.

With almost ten years of Marvel Minimates made, it would take up too much space to list all villains made, but I'd like to showcase some of the more iconic villains. Also, with the new LEGO Marvel Super Heroes sets, it's an interesting look at figures that could show up as minifigures!

### Spider-Man

Along with Batman, I'd say that Spider-Man has the most interesting "Rogue's Gallery" of all superheroes. Spider-Man villains Venom, Carnage, and Green Goblin date back to Minimates' first wave (officially, they are all part of "Wave 2," however the first three "waves" were all released at the same time).

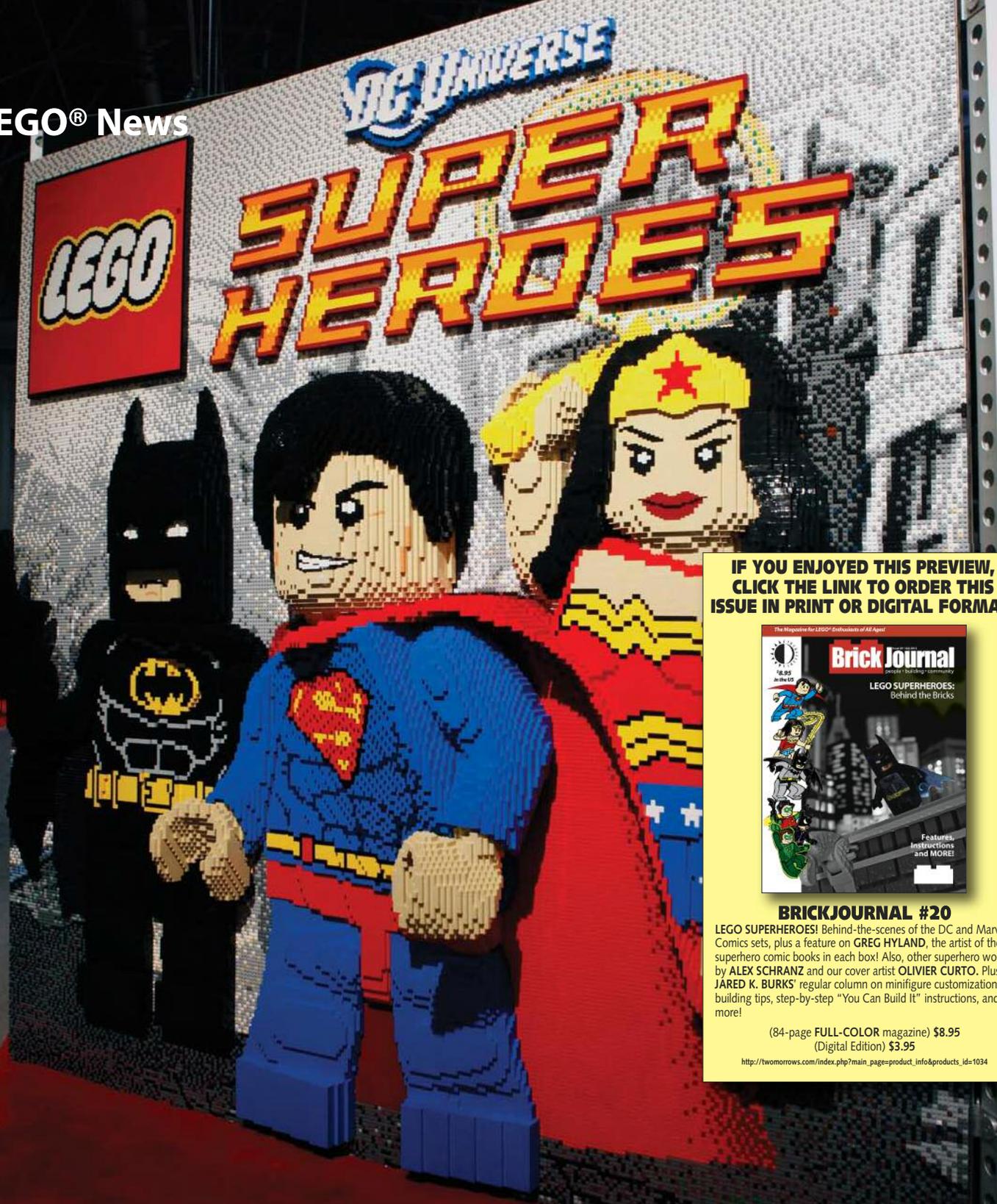
As someone that likes the line for its ability to assemble "teams," I like the fact that the team of Spider-Man's greatest



If you count individual Avengers characters that have their own villains, the Captain America has Red Skull (both Silver Age and Modern versions), Arnim Zola, and Crossbones. Iron Man has Crimson Dynamo, Titanium Man, Spymaster, and the Mandarin (both Silver Age and Modern versions). Thor has Loki (three versions of him, including one based on Walter Simonson designs). Hulk has the Abomination, the Leader, and Absorbing Man.

It would be nice to see an Avengers villain like Baron Zemo and the Super Adaptoid made (he should be easy to make, as he could be made from reused parts!).





**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS PREVIEW, CLICK THE LINK TO ORDER THIS ISSUE IN PRINT OR DIGITAL FORMAT!**

**BRICKJOURNAL #20**

**LEGO SUPERHEROES!** Behind-the-scenes of the DC and Marvel Comics sets, plus a feature on **GREG HYLAND**, the artist of the superhero comic books in each box! Also, other superhero work by **ALEX SCHRANZ** and our cover artist **OLIVIER CURTO**. Plus, **JARED K. BURKS'** regular column on minifigure customization, building tips, step-by-step "You Can Build It" instructions, and more!

(84-page FULL-COLOR magazine) **\$8.95**  
 (Digital Edition) **\$3.95**

[http://twomorrows.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=1034](http://twomorrows.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=1034)

# Superheroes Assembled!

Article by Joe Meno

Photography provided by the LEGO Group

*At New York Toy Fair 2012, the LEGO Group displayed a mural and a minifigure to celebrate their new Superheroes theme. BrickJournal spoke briefly with the people who worked on these creations: Pete Donner worked on the mural and Mark Roe worked on the Hulk.*

**BrickJournal: When did you first starting planning out/ designing the models?**

We first started planning out and designing the models in early 2012, so it was a several month process from conception to design, development and the actual physical build process.