

Great creators of the world: Peter Reid

Today we present you one of the leading exponents of Neo-Classic Space and a master detailing his MOCS.

By Hispabrick Magazine

Pictures by Peter Reid



Hispabrick Magazine: Name?

Peter Reid (Legoloverman)

HM: Age?

PR: 35

HM: Nationality?

PR: English

HM: What do you do normally?

PR: Postman

HM: When did you first start building with LEGO®?

PR: When I was around six or seven, I think.

HM: Your first set?

PR: It was a Town set (1592). Back then they still had brick built horses. Good times.

HM: And your last set?

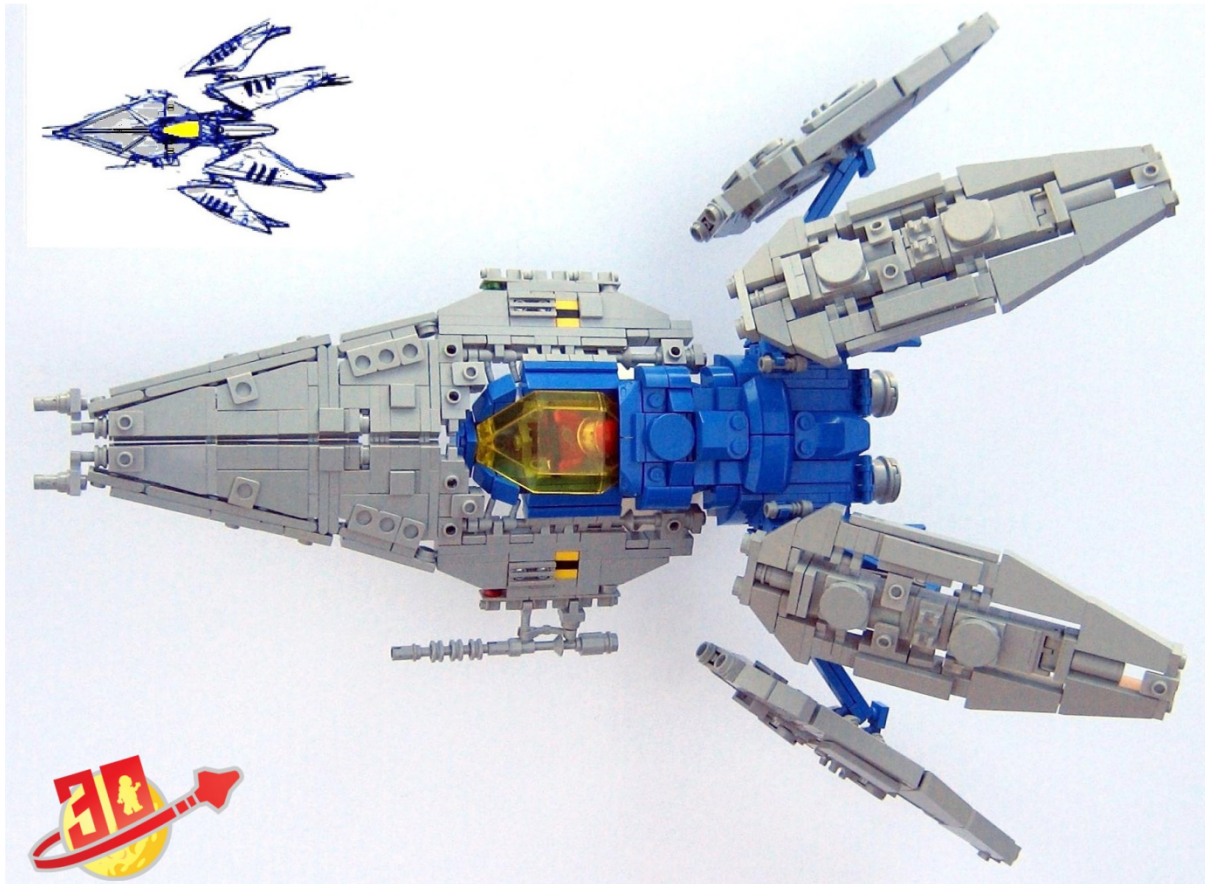
PR: The last set I got was Star Wars - Home One (7754). I really love the figs in that set. They have so much detail. The Mon Calamari heads are wonderful.

HM: ¿Your favorite commercial LEGO building theme?

PR: It would have to be Star Wars. I've been sucked into the minifig collecting mania. I've been buying the range since it started ten years ago and have a near complete set.

HM: ¿And your favorite non-official building theme?

PR: Neo-Classic Space, without a doubt. I have devoted a great deal of time and love to the classic grey, blue and trans-yellow era.



HM: What is your favorite LEGO® element and why?

PR: The 1x1 brick modified with 4 studs – part number 4733 - is a definite favourite. There are so many connection points to build from in a small space – I've had lots of cool models grow out from those bricks.

HM: Which part would you like LEGO to produce?

PR: There are so many gaps in the parts library. I'd really love more of the small, intricate parts. I find working with 3.18 wands and clips to be a fascinating part of LEGO building, and I'd love to see that family of elements extended, to include more clips and different lengths of wand.

HM: How many hours do you spend building with LEGO?

PR: Sadly not enough, these days. I am working weekends because of my job, and it keeps me away from the bricks. If I can manage a couple of hours building in a weekend, that's pretty good.

HM: What does your family/friends think about this hobby?

PR: I am very fortunate. My mum was extremely supportive during those awkward teenage years, and

never pressured me to put away my toys for good. My friends are cool about it, too.

HM: Do you draw or pre-designs before you start building?

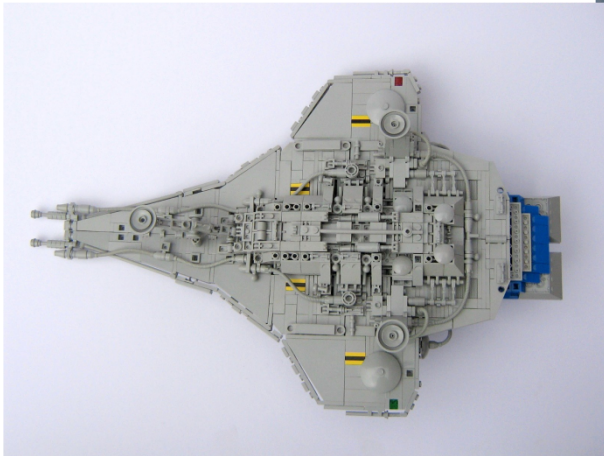
PR: Very rarely. I have worked from sketches before, though. LL-989 Wildfire was built from a sketch by Nnenn (one of my favourite builders). It was a good way for us to collaborate.

HM: How long does take you to get from the idea to the finished model?

PR: It varies. For a small piece, perhaps four hours. I am not a fast builder, and I carefully consider each move during the build process. Everything has to be perfect for me to build successfully. No disruptions, calm state of mind...and the bricks must flow, of course! Sometimes projects fail because I just can't find what I'm looking for, even though I know I have a box full of them somewhere.

It took over a year to get from initial concept to finishing my tribute to the Galaxy Explorer, LL-497. I took it very slowly during the build, because the original LL928 is an iconic ship and I didn't want to lose sight of the vision, or make any mistakes.

HM: You build both in micro scale and minifig scale.



Which scale is most comfortable for you and why?

PR: I think my best work has been in minifig scale, but I'm really getting a lot of enjoyment out of microscale right now.

It opens up a whole new world when you don't have to worry about fitting pilots inside cockpits.

Building in different scales makes you consider elements in new ways, and can lead to some very interesting results.

HM: Your constructions often have a certain amount of greeble which gives them a very realistic look. What advice would you give someone who would like to start using this technique?

PR: First, you need to get hold of the really useful pieces. I've been collecting LEGO® for a long time, and I've spent a fortune and amassed some excellent supplies for doing greebles. My models are fairly parts intensive – I like to maximise detail wherever possible.

I also rework many of my models until I am satisfied everything looks perfect. For me, LEGO is not about instant gratification. Building is a painful, frustrating process. If construction is too easy, I don't feel like I've put the effort in.

I try to finish my Neo-Classic Space models to a point where I can't make them any better. It takes a long time and it's difficult - but the results can be awesome.

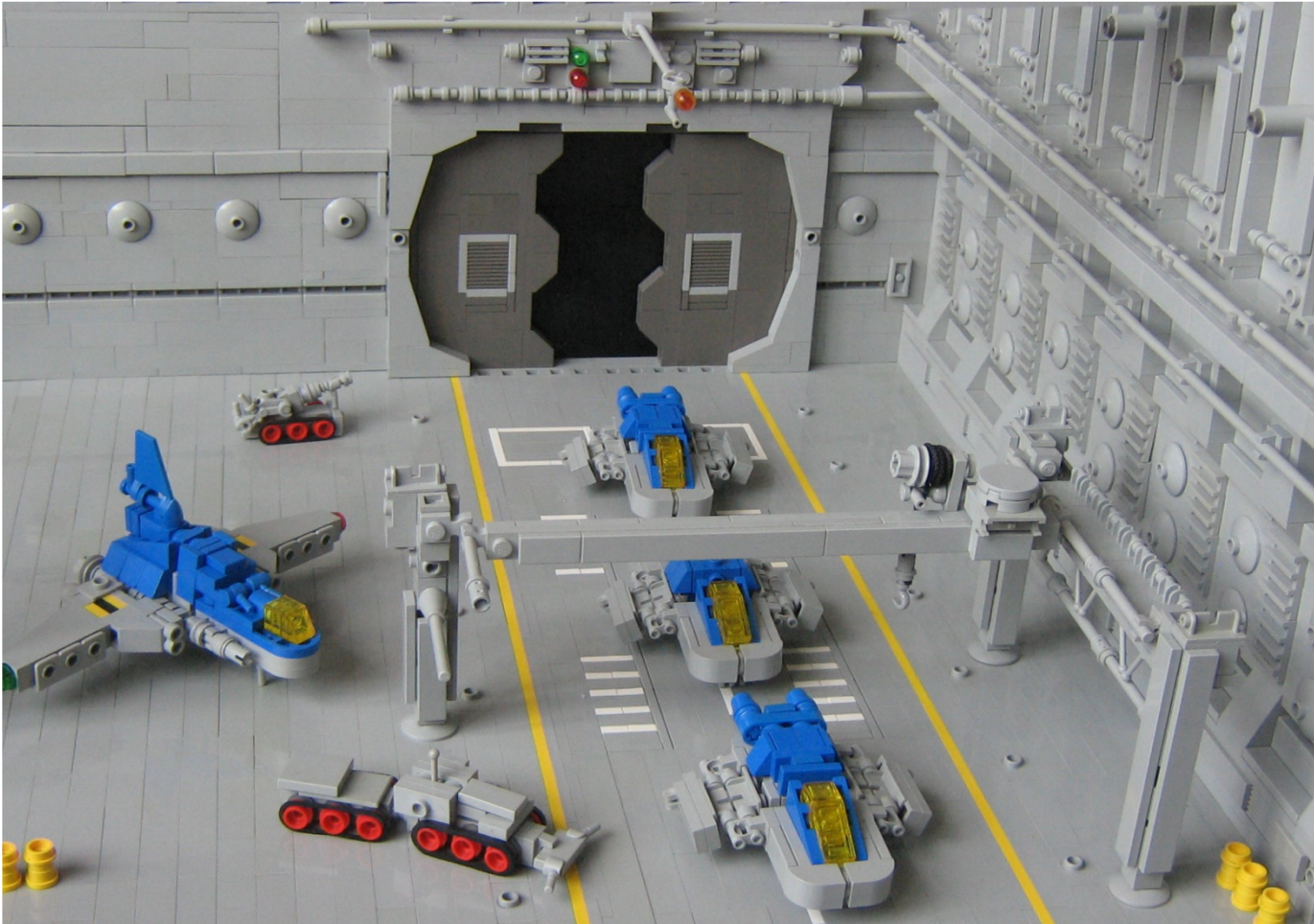
HM: Why do you think the space themes of the last couple of years haven't been as successful as Classic Space?

PR: The original LEGO Space range was a tough act to follow. The 80s and early 90s set designers did a marvellous job shaping my childhood. I loved Futuron and Blacktron, and managed to stay true to Space LEGO through to the late 90s. I still have a soft spot for less popular ranges like Spyrius (they had a cool colour scheme).

HM: What do you think of the new Space Police line?

PR: I'm very impressed. I am friends with two of the designers of Space Police III - Mark Stafford and Adam Grabowski. They have produced some strong designs, and I think it will revitalise space for a new generation. I love the little nods to classic themes put in by the designers. There is a new Blacktron alien minifig due out in 2010, and his torso design is a work of genius.

HM: Aside from space ships and vehicles, what other things do you like building?





PR: I like building robots, of course. I am also into background wall and floor design (which uses vast quantities of brick but gives such cool results.

I also enjoy collaborating with my fiancé, the lovely Yvonne Doyle (also an AFOL). She mostly builds town stuff, and I occasionally contribute ideas or models for those projects. We each have our particular LEGO® interests, but we do build together, which is always fun.

I've build in the post-apocalyptic theme (I've only made a single diorama so far – but I have plans for a sequel some day).

HM: The increase of AFOLs and lines like Star Wars create new possibilities not imagined before by LEGO. What do you think about the old school LEGO and the new LEGO?

PR: LEGO had a strong product range in the 1980s. I base a lot of my models on those old ideas from the Space range. I'm not against change, though – the

evolution of the product through the years is fascinating. Star Wars has brought new life to hobby, and has brought many AFOLs into the community. It has also given us new parts which are eternally useful, such as lightsaber handles and cool weapons.

I've been very impressed with the Star Wars minifigs recently. They've really taken the detail to the next level, which is something I appreciate. We are modelmakers, and any option for greater realism is something to be embraced.

I look forward to seeing the new directions LEGO take their products in future years.

HM: Thank you very much Peter.

PR: You're welcome. ■