





## Great creators of the world: Jumpei Mitsui

*In this issue we go to Japan to bring you a creator who is not afraid of pharaonic projects. Many know him for his reproduction of the Yamato, we present you the rest of his work.*

*By Hispabrick Magazine*

*Pictures by Jumpei Mitsui*

**Hispabrick Magazine:** Name?

Jumpei Mitsui

**HM:** Age?

**JM:** 23

**HM:** Nationality?

**JM:** Japanese

**HM:** What do you do normally?

**JM:** I'm a graduate student at the University of Tokyo. I major in material engineering.

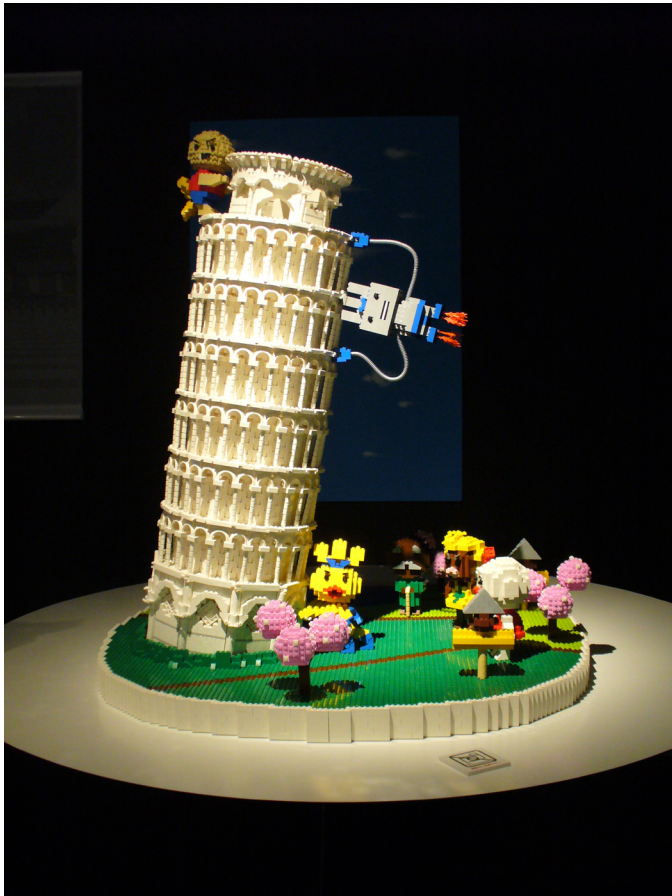
**HM:** When did you first start building with LEGO®?

**JM:** I saw a homemade video which showed I had started building with LEGO since 4 years old. I always played with my elder brother when I was a child.

**HM:** Your first set?

**JM:** 6285 'Black Seas Barracuda', I think.

**HM:** And your last set?



**JM:** 7595 'Army Men on Patrol'. I bought dozens of this set for minifigs. I want to take black-and-white photographs of them with my WWII works.

**HM:** ¿Your favorite commercial LEGO® building theme?

**JM:** Creator and Star Wars. Both of them have many versatile bricks.

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

**JM:** Military.

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

**JM:** I love head light brick (1x1 brick with 1 stud on side) because it's very useful to make details. The point is that it has a length of 1/2 plate.

**HM:** Which part would you like LEGO to produce?



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**JM:** Nothing. I really enjoy playing with restricted bricks. I prefer basic bricks to special parts as well.

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

**JM:** Although I don't have enough time to build because I'm busy with my study these days, I sometimes make quality time by cutting down sleep. I recently built a MOC for a TV program for 30 hours in a row. I forgot to sleep at that time.

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

**JM:** Although my parents always claim there's no more room for stocking LEGO bricks, they are proud of my activity. And my friends look forward to watching my new work.

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

**JM:** I always draw only two sketches to figure out the exact shape of an object, from front and side view. That's enough for a normal model. When I make a huge one, I draw some more sketches for details.

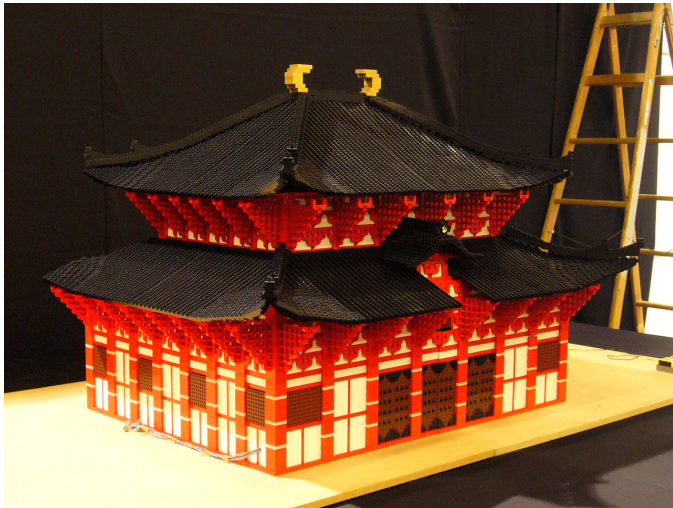
**HM:** How long does take you to get from the idea to the finished model?



**JM:** It depends on its size. Some of them only take one day from the idea to the finished model if I have enough parts to complete. On the other hand, my longest project took more than 6 years to complete. It required much time to find bricks from my stock and check Bricklink for buying new bricks, and of course, it required time to build after a process of trial and error.

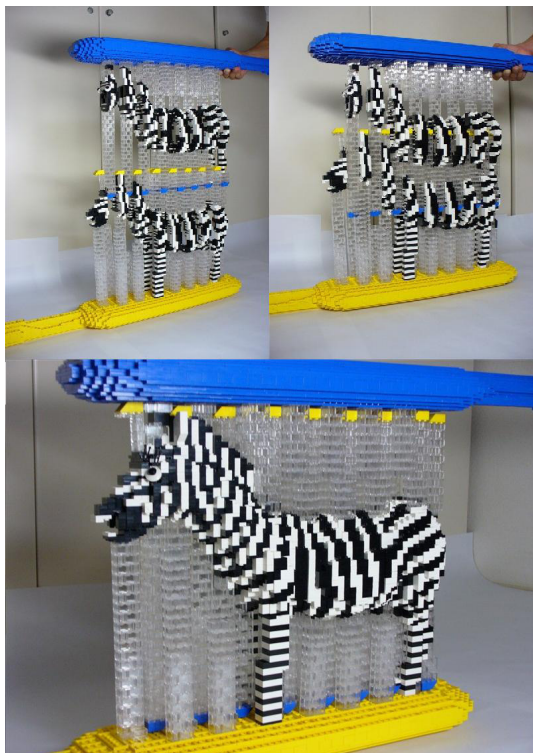
**HM:** The increase of AFOLs and lines like Star Wars create new possibilities not imagined before by LEGO. What do you think about the old school LEGO and the new LEGO?

**JM:** I like new lines provided by LEGO these days. However,



some of them focus too much on minifigs and lose their charm. I hope LEGO® will continue to focus on building bricks.

**HM:** While the icons of Japanese culture are widely known and reproduced by AFOLS around the world, Japanese builders are not so much. Tell us a little about the AFOL world in Japan and if you believe that these cultural differences also influence the subjects of your MOCS.



**JM:** Japanese AFOLS tend to build small works because houses in Japan are really smaller than those of other countries. Thus they prefer to build small works like robots which appear in Japanese animation rather than Japanese building like a temple.

And it's a pity that some good works made by Japanese builders are shared only in the small Japanese community. Some of them won't use English. Although their works are really nice, they lose a chance to show their nice works to people all over the world.

**HM:** Many of your projects are large constructions. How do you maintain the enthusiasm and constancy over such long



projects?

**JM:** I start building from a detail, then I try to make them look nice when I insert it into a large construction. So I can focus on considering how to make a detail.

Since I usually proceed with more than two projects, I can choose what I want to try now. That's why I can build many large constructions without letup.



**HM:** What was the origin of a project as big as the Yamato? If you can, give us some figures about the project, like the number of pieces, time spent ...Did you feel at the verge of quitting at some point while you were building it? What was the most difficult point of the construction?

**JM:** It has been a dream to build the Yamato with LEGO bricks since I was a child. More than 200,000 bricks are used for this project and it took 6 years and 4 months to complete. I love Battleship Yamato, that's enough for me to continue the project for years.

The most difficult point of the construction was creating curves at the bow. I used thousands of small plates in the same way as a sculpture. Although I couldn't create accurate curves, I broke it completely three times. Finally I could get perfect curves at the bow.

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