



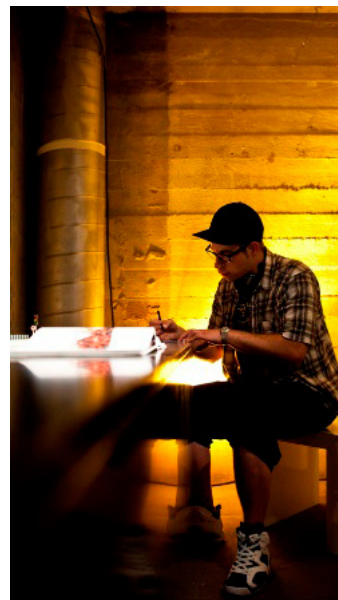
ORION PAX 2010

Great creators of the world: Alexander Schranz

A great creator known for mastering different disciplines of building with LEGO®. From minifig scale constructions to reproductions of everyday objects.

By Hispabrick Magazine

Pictures by Alexander Schranz



Hispabrick Magazine: Name?

Alexander Schranz aka Orion Pax

HM: Age?

AS: 30

HM: Nationality?

AS: German

HM: What do you do normally?

AS: Work for LEGO® as a freelancer

HM: When did you first start building with LEGO?

AS: When I was a kid and then after my dark ages when I was between 18 and 19

HM: Your first set?

AS: LEGO 4005 Tugboat

HM: And your last set?

AS: 10212 Imperial Shuttle

HM: Your favorite commercial LEGO building theme?

AS: I like Star Wars™ and Indiana Jones a lot.

HM: What is your favorite LEGO element and why?



AS: The 1x1 mini slope because it kind of gave me lots of inspiration when it came out.

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

AS: I would love to have more organic elements and then it would be nice to somehow finish old element groups instead of open up new groups all the time.

The same for colors. For example i'd like to see dark tan mini slopes and plates to finally use all the other dark tan parts for a model.

An inverted 1x1 mini slope and a 1x1 stud to build upside down techs.

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

AS: Between 40 and 50 I would say.

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

AS: Pretty supportive since I also work within my hobby.

HM: Throughout your gallery of photos we can see many MOCS about the Transformers world, there are characters that appear repeatedly. What do you find attractive about this theme? What advice would you give to get the right balance between the two facets of the model (robot and vehicle)?

AS: I guess it's kind of an old habit from my childhood.

I did not have that many Transformers when I was a kid even if I had pretty much LEGO.

So what I did when I was watching all that cartoons and nice movies that came out in the 80's I built them with LEGO.

I think that LEGO and Transformers fits together style wise because it's both very blocky and the colors are also an important design feature on both products.

When you for example take a closer look at Perceptor you can actually see that the parts and colors somehow were just there to build him that perfect in LEGO.

I don't think it's possible to build all of them that remarkable, but some characters will follow in my photo stream for sure....

One piece of advice to build them would be to make sure you got the right size compared to how much details you want to get in there. All my latest Tfs have pretty much the same scale and stability, which is also pretty tricky to figure out. They need to stand on their feet no matter the weight.

Lots of trial and error building is involved in doing these guys.

HM: Another theme you seem interested in is reproducing everyday objects. How do you choose what object will be the next to build?

AS: Actually I got inspired by the awesome famous ARVO brothers a long time ago.

It is a challenge to make LEGO look like something real. And I love challenges within LEGO ;)

Usually the parts decide what they want to be made into when they are running through my hands.

And sometimes a color decides a creation.

I guess it depends on the degree of inspiration you got from your LEGO.

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

AS: I have a brain CAD which I use all day long when I'm not building.

So I always think about building techs or parts I need to get to



finish this or that.

While I'm building I sometimes sketch stuff to get an impression.

I also use the trial and error method a lot in my models which is more time consuming but can give you really crazy results sometimes.

You'll never know what parts could come together ;)

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

AS: Depends on the size of the model and the time and effort I put into it.

Usually I carry around lots of ideas for months until the next outburst where I spend hours being inspired to build on that model until I finish it.

I hate not finishing stuff !

HM: In your gallery you have pictures of you with the Arvo brothers at an event in Munich. Some of your themes are very similar (everyday objects, superheroes,...) How was your meeting? (talking about LEGO, apart from beer)

AS: Oh yeah that was good times. I miss STARBUCK and APOLLO ;)

We got invited for an exhibition at the STROKE event by LEGO.

We spend four days in Munich building there with the kids and presenting our models to the people.

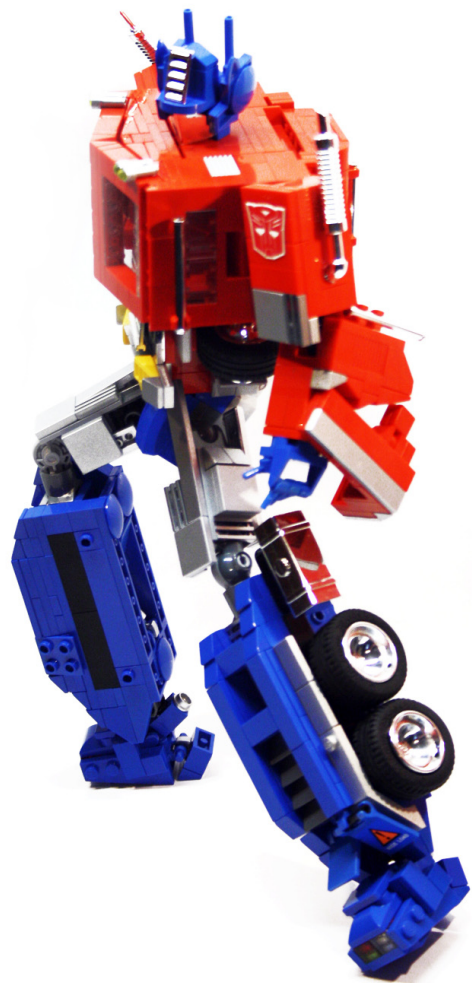
Apart from drinking beer for sure!

HM: What does your free-lance work for LEGO consist of? How does LEGO work with this type of creators? Do they propose projects or you can present your ideas freely?

AS: Since I'm working on the concepts for TLG I'm not allowed to tell anything. Sorry guys.

But I guess when you are interested in this topic there is plenty on the web to find.

I'm not the only AFOL working for them, right?





HM: If you had to choose one among all your creations, which one would you choose and why?

AS: Hmm... if it would be a theme I would immediately say TRANSFORMERS. And if it would be only one creation I had to pick while running out the burning flat it would probably be my latest built DELOREAN just because I love him.

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?

AS: I think it's necessary that TLG works together with the "Fans" or how I would call them "Professionals" because a skilled product designer does not eventually come with the knowledge and skills some of the fans come up with. The possibilities for LEGO are lines like Star Wars™ and other IP's. And within that for sure awesome models like the new 10212

Imperial Shuttle for example. I think the style we can see in the "new" LEGO is highly inspired by the AFOLs that work for LEGO. If old school or new school it only matters if it's cool, right?

HM: What do you think about the use of non-official parts (stickers, modified parts, non-LEGO elements,...)?

AS: When it serves the creations and creators need and it's not rule-bending within any contest or LEGO groups..... Actually I don't even care as long the creation looks cool it could even be glued cut bent flamed grilled nuked naked or send to moon and back ;) #



"PAX NYC Style" by Orion Pax