



Firas M Abu-Jaber

Cars Paradise

*Text & pictures by Firas M Abu-Jaber
Introduction by car_mp*

Because the profession of my father I grew up surrounded by cars and, therefore, car magazines. And in those magazines is where I found the supercars, with amazing performances, aggressive lines and prohibitive prices that I dreamed one day I could drive. Most of those wonders of technology have been recreated with LEGO® more than once, but one of my favorite builders, for the variety and fidelity of his models, is Firas M Abu-Jaber. And since I discovered him in the Internet have been a faithful follower of their cars. So I decided to contact him and ask him to tell us something of the man behind the cars. These are his words.

As a lot of you already know, my name is Firas M. Abu-Jaber, and yes it's my real name. I'm originally from Jordan , I'm from Abu-Jaber family; one of the Christian families here in Jordan . I like cars, sports specially body building, LEGO (obviously).

I'm an adult fan of LEGO and I'm proud of it. LEGO for me is more than just a child's toy, it's more like a kind of art, and I'm obsessed with it. Also I consider it the best toy for children as it improves the creativity inside them.

I've been playing with my little lovely bricks since I was around 3; as my Mom always tell me, I started my journey with LEGO with those huge bricks called Duplo, then when I became around 5, my parents got me my first LEGO Space set, it was from the M-Tron product line, I got a lot of LEGO sets when I was a little kid because my parents were traveling so much around the world, they used to get me LEGO sets from the duty-free zones in the airports, but when they finally came to live in Jordan, they didn't bring me sets as they used to do, because of the expensive prices here in Jordan; taxes and fees here are very high.

I was a huge LEGO Space fan when I was a child, I used to get a lot of M-Tron and space police sets at the time. Then LEGO released the new Model-Team line; I became a big LEGO car and truck fan. I remember my first real-life LEGO car I built was the Lincoln Town-Car, Limousine version. I put it together depending on pieces from the 5590 LEGO set; the helicopter transporter, it was the best thing I built in my eyes at the time.

After that I fall in a long dark-ages when I went to the high school, that dark age was because of two reasons, the responsibilities of study and secondly because not a lot of people here in my country accept the idea of playing with LEGO® for an adult, including my parents.

After a long dark-age, I return to my lovely hobby, LEGO. That was in June/2008! That's after my little nephew asked me to build a LEGO bus to put her little LEGO guys (Mini-figs) in it. When my Mom saw it at the time, she was very impressed and told me that I should post it somewhere on the internet so people around the net could see it. I listened to her advice and start Googling around the web about LEGO sites. That's when I discovered that huge online LEGO community. I'm often impressed by the amazing work all around Flickr and MOCpages and other LEGO sites and blogs.

First creation after the dark ages:
<http://mocpages.com/moc.php/59810>

As for the sets, my jaws dropped to the floor when I first saw the Ferrari FXX set; I find it really amazing as I'm a big fan of Ferrari and Supercars in general. It has to be my favorite set of all times. I got three boxes of that set at that time, that's why all my cars were red at first. And yes; it was the first set I got after the dark ages.

About my favorite themes that I usually build in; obviously it's large scale vehicles, though I sometimes build out of that zone. I love building LEGO creatures, as the two snakes I built to go with my Dodge Viper and Shelby GT500 Super Snake. I also love LEGO buildings, like the building I made to showcase my Lamborghini cars in (it's one of my favorite own creations), also I love LEGO planes; like those John Lamarak always build, I intend to build one as soon as I can. But, I prefer cars all the time.

Back a little bit to my history with LEGO, when I was a LEGO Space fan, I also was a scale model fan; I used to collect Diecast models back then, so now after I return to LEGO



again, I combine the love of LEGO and scale models by building my favorite cars with my lovely bricks, that's why I'm mainly a car builder.

I usually prefer to build in 1:17 scale, around the same scale of the official Ferrari FXX set, though I build in all scales; 10 wide, 14, 16 even minifig scale, and of course I always consider the size of the standard LEGO wheels.

As for the building process, as I mentioned above, I always try to build my favorite real life cars with LEGO. The process of any project for me is simpler than any one could expect. I just sit down and put the pieces together, no planning, no drawings, no LDDs, I just browse the web and download as many pictures as available of the car I want to build, take a deep look at the real car from all the angles, study those curves and try to translate them into LEGO bricks in my head, and finally put the model together. I usually start with the front end of the





model, then the doors and the back, last thing is the roof and the interior, engine...etc, it usually takes me between 2 weeks to a month to build the model, but some MOCs took me a lot of time, such as the Transformable Barricade which took me around 3 months . Yes, it's that simple.

For the pieces; I usually and mainly get my bricks from LEGO® sets available on toy stores around me, I tried to order bricks online a couple of times; but it was too expensive, as I mentioned above, fees and taxes are too much in my country. So it's a pain for me to get the pieces, specially that I'm the kind of builder who loves to keep his creations in one piece.

Let's talk a bit about my personal favorite creation; I have a lot of favorites out of my models, the Murcielago, the Ford GT, the Camaro (car mode), the Shelby Super-Snake, the Zonda (new favorite). But the top favorite has to be the Ford GT, as I consider it the most accurate car I've built. Though, I have a big part in my heart for the Shelby GT500 Super-Snake; as it's like my icon which got me to be well known in the community and which was the first MOC to be featured at the great LEGO blog, the Brothers Brick. Also it has been featured on the LAML LEGO talk podcast site as one of the best creations of the year 2008 in the Sculptures category:

<http://radio.laml.org/lamlradio-72-2008-in-review/>

I was so happy at the time, but I couldn't express my feelings when I saw my LEGO models have been features on a lot of non-LEGO related sites, including:

Topgear:

<http://www.topgear.com/uk/car-news/lego-maniac-2009-05-26/>
Jalopnik:

<http://jalopnik.com/#!5263707/lego-maniac-inspires-us-with-amazingly-detailed-lego-cars>

Automotto: 10 coolest LEGO cars

<http://www.automotto.com/entry/10-coolest-lego-car-creations/>
Autoblog:

<http://www.autoblog.com/2009/05/25/childhood-redeemed-lego-artist-creates-jaw-dropping-four-wheeler/>

0-60mag:

<http://www.0-60mag.com/0-60Legacy/2009/05/lego-smorgasbord/>

And of course LUGNuts blog:

<http://lugnuts-cars.blogspot.com/2008/11/model-team-re-imagined.html>

And much more.

It's really great to see a lot of people appreciate your work, specially when they come from the non-LEGO communities, as a lot of you guys here experienced the same lovely feeling in this great community!

For my future projects, nothing special in my mind now, just I'm planning to build a Ferrari since I don't have any in my collection, red classic Ferrari would be nice I think in my collection.

#

