

# The Year of the Snake

*By Schneider Cheung*

Hello, I'm Schneider Cheung from Hong Kong. SCHFIO or Schfio\_factory is my name, too.

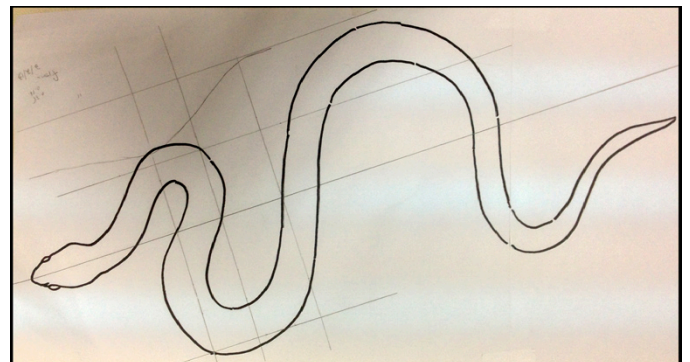
I love building everything with LEGO®. Amongst those types of creations, I love sculptural building the most. I build sculptures with LEGO studs facing outwards. It is the SNOT technique. The basis of my technique comes from the Lowell Sphere. At the very beginning, I tried to manipulate this sphere, either elongate or shorten it when sculpting, like making a pottery creation. So I needed to formulate spheres of different sizes.



However, it's a different picture now. In this article, I will try to make a general introduction / description of how I make a LEGO sculpture with SNOT technique. I've made a life-sized sculpture of a snake with LEGO pieces. I've made it because this year, 2013, is the Lunar Year of Snake. First, I needed to collect some information about snakes. I bought books, searched for photos, even video from internet. I also visited a zoo to see how a real snake move as well.



Next, I made a sketch of the snake I prepared to create.





This sketch should be approximately the size of my creation. Whenever, I need to do some big sculpture, I use a photocopier to magnify my sketch. It's because I'm not good at drawing big things.

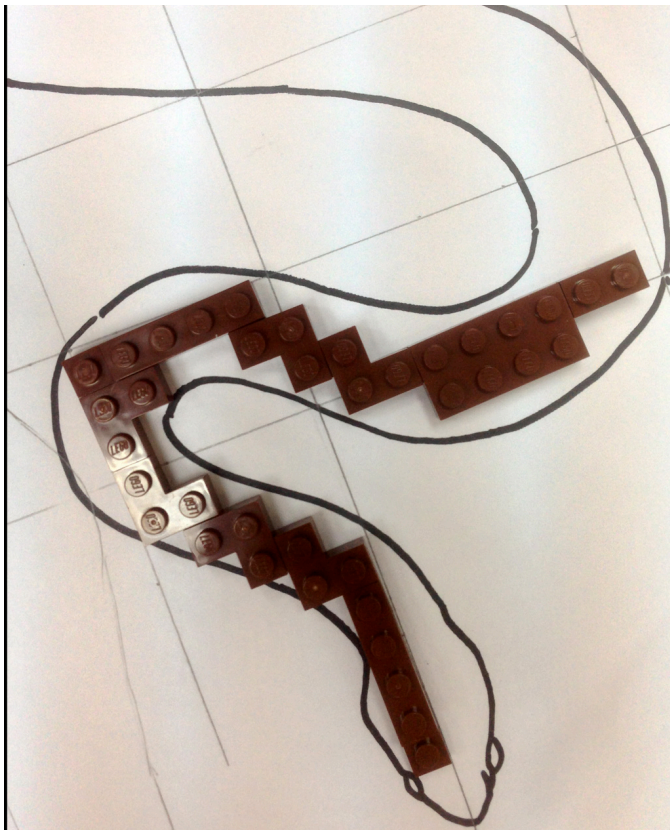
On my sketch, I drew some axis so as to make an accurate curvature with these axis.

I tried to imagine the final appearance of the snake in 3D at this moment .

As you know, a natural real snake rarely curl its body in 2D dimension/direction. The curvature of its body is somehow similar to the spiral structure of a DNA. Therefore I needed to estimate the latitude at which the head will raise, and prepared to make some 3D curvature at the head and neck of the snake. Once the sketch, draft and calculation were completed, I started to build it with LEGO® bricks. I used almost 85% of LEGO plates.

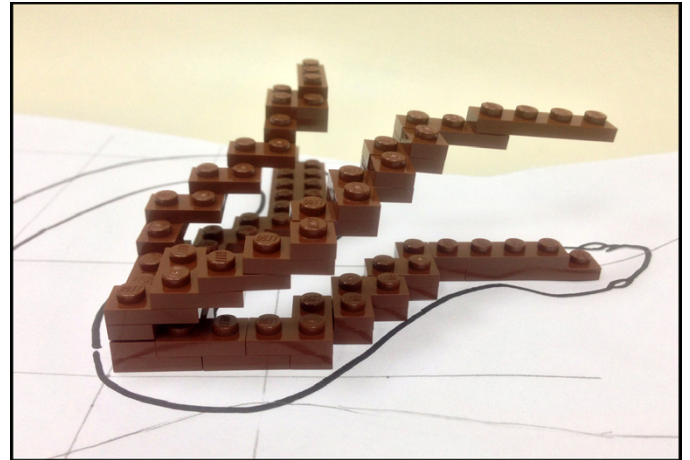


I roughly build the skeleton at the start.



After that, the stud-out process begins. Whenever the creation is not urgent to be used, I build a prototype with a single color tone.

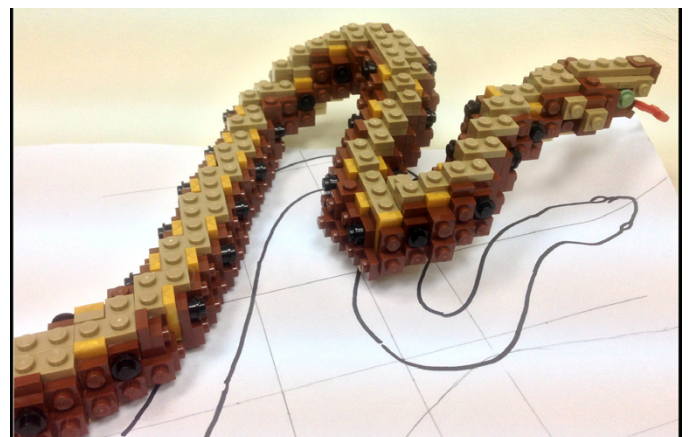
Afterwards color or pattern will be added. Otherwise, it will make my brain overloaded in dealing with the shape and pattern simultaneously.



Oh, the shape of my snake is already prepared!



The most difficult step starts now! It's the making of patterns.





I needed two snakes of different species this time. Finally, they came out!



Since the creation is specially made for the greeting of the Lunar/ Chinese New Year, I needed to prepare another item which uniquely appears in the Chinese New Year. I chose the golden Chinese New Year Ingots (a special form of Nugget).



The Golden Chinese New Year Ingot represents wealth. The same process starts again!





Finally, I prepare the photography of my creation. I look for an environment suitable for the photography I have in mind. The environment will be the background of the photo. A good environment adds a special chemistry to the creation. This is the final appearance of my MOC!

I hope all of you have a Prosperous Snake Year! Enjoy!







Have you ever seen my previous creations? Here are some of them!







*Schfio\_factory 2011*

