

Great creators of the world: Kosmas Santosa

By HispaBrick Magazine®

Pictures by Kosmas Santosa

Sometimes a builder achieves fame based on years of work, by improving his/her technique, presentation, being increasingly involved in the community ..., other builders have a special talent and in no time their models are featured on major blogs and their name resonates throughout the community. Kosmas is a clear example of the latter. In just over a year, his quality and strong involvement in the community has given him a place among the great.

HispaBrick Magazine®: Name?

Kosmas Santosa: Kosmas Santosa, people call me Kos.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kosmassantosa/>

HBM: Age?

KS: 35.

HBM: Nationality?

KS: Indonesia.

HBM: What do you do normally?

KS: Graphic Designer at LeeLaaLoo.com.

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



KS: Early 2013, but I start frequently building MOC around mid 2013.

HBM: When did you start posting your models online?

KS: August 2013.

HBM: What is the last set you have purchased?

KS: Technic 9398 - 4x4 Crawler. I bought it in late August and it's my first Technic set. I really love the set and I hope someday I can build a technic MOC :)

HBM: What is your favorite commercial LEGO building theme?

KS: City and Star Wars™, I collect Modular Buildings, UCS Star Wars, and all walker vehicle set in Star Wars™, but I don't have enough space in my house, so now I only collect Modular Buildings and I have sold some of my Star Wars collection... hahaha

HBM: What is your favorite theme for building?

KS: Anything, mostly themes that I haven't tried to build yet. Since I'm still new in this LEGO building hobby, I have many themes that I want to build and haven't tried yet, so I still can't pick one that is my most favorite at this time :D

HBM: What do you find most difficult to recreate, everyday objects or scenes with minifigs?

KS: If I have the part materials needed, I feel that any theme has each difficulties, tricks, etc. But as far as I build, I feel that the bigger the build, the harder to build and that goes for any theme :)

HBM: What is your favorite LEGO element and why?

KS: Anything curved, like curved slopes or curved bricks, because I feel that those particular parts can make a LEGO build look like it isn't LEGO, and I'm happy if people said "I thought it wasn't LEGO", it's a compliment for me and for LEGO itself...hahaha :)



My extended family and non-AFOL friends think it's weird, so all I can say to them is you can buy particular LEGO sets and sell them again next year with a higher price, sometimes much, much higher. So it's kind like a mix up between hobby, playing, and investing at the same time, well they get the investing part, but the rest they still think it's weird for a man to play with kids toys...hahahaha :D

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

KS: Nop I don't draw or make sketches before I build, but I do look and save many pictures for my references before I build something, and the rest is all in my head. But I believe someday for sure I'll have to draw it when I don't have enough reference for the things I want to build, but for the time being I still haven't met the needs for that :)

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

KS: Hmm... "The Titanfall WW2" is the hardest I've build so far and I'm very satisfied and proud of the result, but the "Office Desk Photo Frame" is the build I love the most since that is my first build, and that's what made me start building again in the first place, to make a photo frame for my family, so it kind of has a sentimental reason for me and well it's my first MOC as an AFOL :) I have included the first version of that photo frame, it's so ridiculous simple and bad, and I only shot it with a cellphone, but well everything always has a start somewhere... hahahaha

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

KS: Plates with stud on top and bottom, so we can easily make a thin reversal stud that is a legal build within the official LEGO guideline :)

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

KS: Mostly days, and with several sessions. Each session would be 2-3 hours, but again depending on how big the build is, the bigger the build, the more sessions I need...hahahaha

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

KS: Luckily my wife and kids also love LEGO, and I got back from my dark ages when I bought a basic brick set for my son's birthday...hahahaha :D

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



KS: I don't use bootleg brands in my builds, and I don't often buy clone brand because of the quality and the second market prices is not good over here. But for me I like to see that LEGO is just a clay for my creation or a medium to make my imagination become reality which I can hold and touch with my own hands :)

Though I haven't had the chance to try it myself, I don't mind using an original part design (that LEGO® don't produce) from another brand that is compatible with LEGO. For sure I often design my own stickers, and often cut flexitube and I also have an ongoing custom minifig project that really does involve extreme cut jobs, paint, and the use of epoxy clay for the hair piece :)

I like to think of myself not as a LEGO user or customer, but as a LEGO designer, I'm sure LEGO makes their unreleased sets, new themes, new minifigures, by making their own new shapes, new parts, new hairpieces, new stickers, and using new colors. I believe that's what LEGO do and that's why we love it, which is always trying to improve and making new things, and that's the essence of the LEGO brand itself in my opinion. So I like to put myself in the same situation, which is creating new things without boundaries :)

But don't get me wrong, on the other hand I really respect the purist builder, which I think in many things they need to think harder since they don't use 'shortcuts' like their friends, the custom builders :)

HBM: A few months ago you started several projects focused on the community, like a YouTube channel with tips, tutorials, etc ... (kosbrick.com), a Facebook group focused on creating MOCS (bricksMOCcorner.com) and monthly building challenge. Why did you started these initiatives for the community? How do you see the AFOL community in your country?

KS: Back when I started playing with LEGO again last year, the majority of FOLs here are collectors and seller, though I don't have anything against that, since I'm also a collector and seller besides a builder, but back then the culture and habit here in Indonesia was more towards competing who has the most sets, the most minifig armies, the rarest set, the most loot and the most expensive set, so the bar is money not creativity, and it turns out it's a classic problem that happens in many countries, specially in Asia.

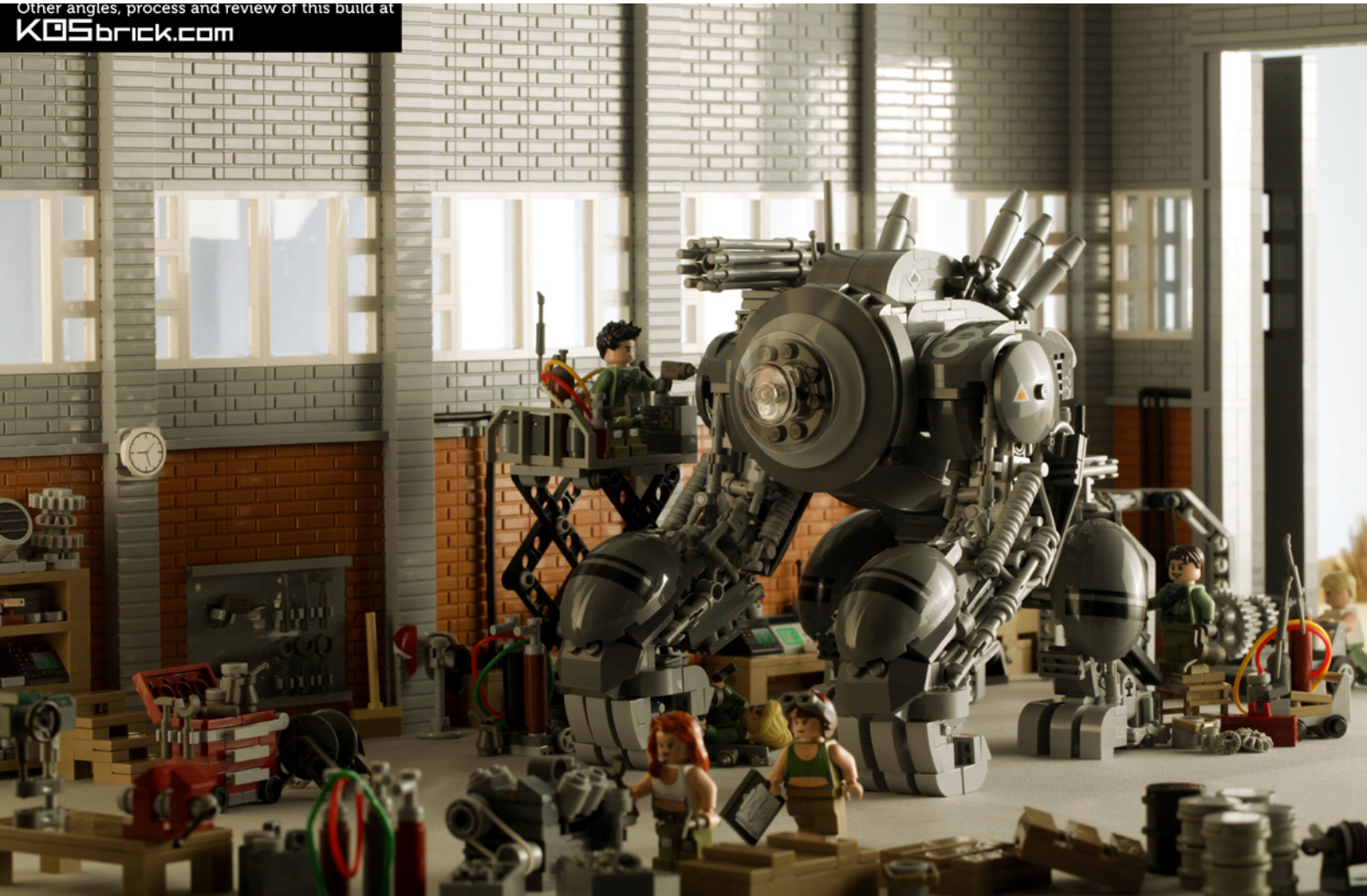
On the other hand, I believe for my country to thrive in the international LEGO community, we need to start paying attention and caring for builders and promoting creativity, since all LEGO competition both official and unofficial are about creativity, and I haven't seen a LEGO competition (yet) about who has the most sets or minifigs, or who has the rarest sets, or a competition about who have the most expensive set, but that's just my two cents :)

So that's one of the reason why me and some of my friends initiated something that can help promote creation and creativity with LEGO, especially for FOL (Fans of LEGO) in my country Indonesia. We started the Facebook group www.bricksMOCcorner.com in December 2013, not to be a LUG of some sort, but to function as a melting pot for anyone anywhere who loves building MOCs. The main objective is to promote creation with LEGO without any quality standard, with a positive attitude, encouraging and supporting each other, and simply just for sharing, having fun, and making new friends, both locally or internationally, since the group itself is a bilingual group (Indonesian-English). In short, we made this



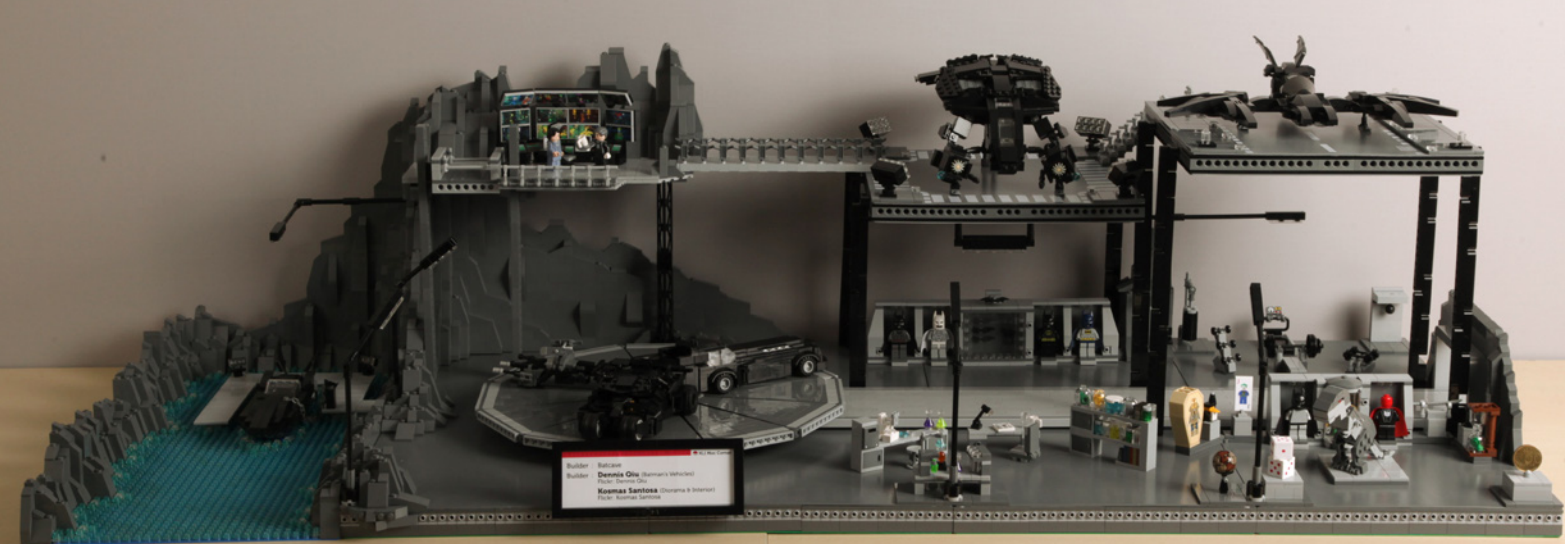


Other angles, process and review of this build at KOSbrick.com



KOSbrick.com





FB group for new and beginner builders like us, so we can support and encourage each other :) Btw you (readers) are very welcome to join too if you want :)

The result is an encouraging surprise even to myself that even though we're not even a year old, many Indonesian silent builders and new builders have come up and we're really happy about that. Though slowly, the number of builders rises and LEGO® creations become a culture and habit in my country by regularly building and sharing our MOC builds there.

That's why we're really happy with the established monthly building challenge such are M.A.K.toberfest and NnoVVember, in which me and some of my fellow builders have participated and it really inspired us to build regularly. That's where the idea comes from to keep the momentum by continuing to make the monthly building challenge that already existed in the Flickr LEGO community, to keep us busy throughout the year. So we make FOODcember, HARDnuary, FlonApril, MAYnifigure, JuneBot, VehiJuly, and Aughitecture, but we also try to

participate in more established monthly building challenge such as Febrovery, Marchikoma, SHIPtember, Ma.Ktoberfest, and NnoVVember :)

Well for www.KOSbrick.com itself, it's my personal project, it's also to promote creation and creativity with LEGO for everyone and everywhere, specially for FOL in Indonesia :) I think it can be really useful and helpful for people, especially those who have never made their own creation besides sets, to try and start building something that is not a set. At least they will feel the excitement of hunting the parts needed, and experience the fun of making a bit of modification here and there. Maybe because of the part limitation or maybe because they feel they could make it better, and I hope it can open up their creativity by seeing and experiencing LEGO :)

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