

Review: 70751 Ninjago Temple of Airjitzu

Set name: NINJAGO TEMPLE OF AIRJITZU

Set number: 70751

Parts: 2028

Minifigs: 12

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Images: LEGO® System A/S



I think that very few would have expected a Ninjago playset to this scale and grandeur. At first glance it appeared to me to be a set launched in the Creator Expert series, however despite my judgment and an age recommendation of 14+, the set has been released in the Ninjago theme.

The set features a three story pagoda with a food market and blacksmith shop to each side. Connecting the two shops is a bridge which is built above a suggested river. The main appeal of the set, in my

opinion, is the use of some very elaborate building techniques, some of which we have not seen before.

Minifigures

The set contains 12 minifigs. Master Wu, 6 warrior ninjas (Kai, Cole, Lloyd, Dry, Zanet y Nya), and 5 townsfolk. The latter minifigures made it difficult for me to gauge what time period the set takes place in. The master and warrior ninjas are dressed in a traditional manner, leading me to believe we are in the past;

however, the 5 townsfolk are dressed in more modern clothing and have modern accessories, for example a camera, making me think the 20th century.

As always, the quality of the minifigures is exceptional. Even though all the warriors are dressed in a similar fashion, each one has their own detail (both on the torso and leg printing) that sets them apart. The townsfolk are more standard, but even then, the quality of the printing is good.



The build

Let us begin with the two smaller shops located on each side of the large pagoda. Both shops are completely different in terms of style and both offer up some building techniques never before used in a LEGO® set. For a clear example, we will take a look at the food market's roof. While LEGO could have used plates or even slope pieces to achieve the curved roof look, they elected to use a new technique. Using garage door pieces attached to golden decoration at the top, the designers were able to create an almost perfect concave curve (a look that is often seen in Asian architecture).

The blacksmith shop is a more standard build that resembles the medieval market village style of architecture. Despite a more standard build, it still contains many lovable techniques and features. The use of brackets and cheese slopes allows for the



reproduction of exterior base molding. Another interesting exterior detail are the trees built using elephant trunks and dinosaur tails. Found on the inside is a fire to heat the metal, an anvil, tools, and a small work bench. It is an ideal space for any blacksmith.

Moving on to the centerpiece of the set, we will take a look at the pagoda. Built up on a small rock formation, the pagoda is accessed via a curved staircase found on either side of the building. When you build the rock formation a hole is left in the center. Inside the hole is one of the main features of the set, a shadow theater. Using a light brick and a small pulley system, shadows are projected onto a transparent plastic piece. The shadows can be rotated using a handle found on the side of the theater.

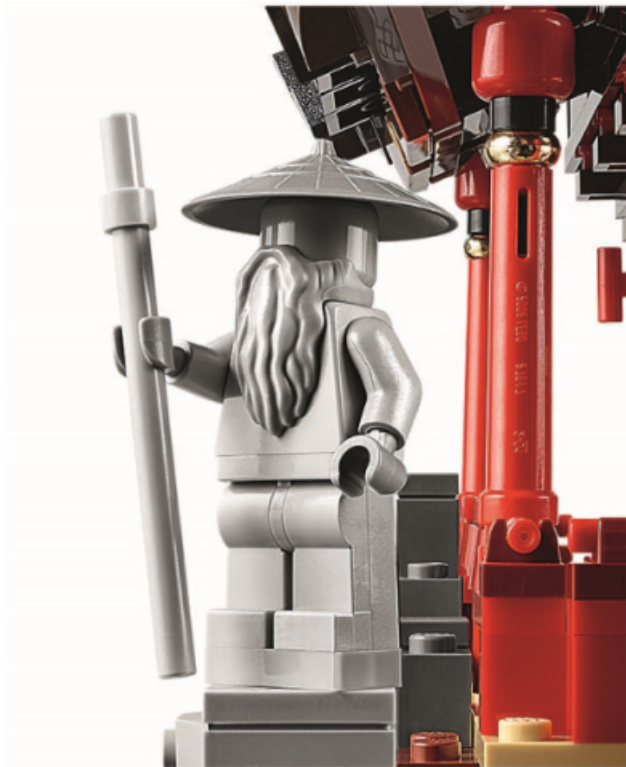


The bottom floor of the pagoda houses a meeting room. To access the main floor there are two "paper" doors which slide to the side to open. The doors open up to a small walkway on the outside where once more we see the curved stairs. In addition to the stairs, other

details like railings and gold topped columns can be found. Back inside we see some details like a rug and a tea kettle for the tea ceremony.

The two top floors of the pagoda are similar in design. The first directly above the entrance contains an armory. In it we find two katanas, a bow, and a straw dummy for combat practice. On the top floor there is a study containing a bookshelf and an easel with a painting on it. Above the upper floor there is a small loft area that houses a crate with the words "Cole's stuff hands off". To top off the pagoda, just above the ceiling, there is a typical crown that extends upward. This decoration is built with train wheels and technic ball joints.

In front of the pagoda there is a fountain with a statue of a sensei. Once the two shops are united with the pagoda, all that is then left to do is build the bridge which will sit in front of the statue uniting both of the shops. To achieve the Asian aesthetic, dinosaur tails and soft red hose pieces were used to create the characteristic curve.



Lastly there are some smaller accessories to build. These include a flying contraption for the ninjas and a firework cart. The flying contraption is interestingly designed in the same way as those found in the older Ninja sets from the late 90s. The firework cart on the other hand is a new design that uses stud shooter



pieces (typically found in Star Wars sets) to launch the colorful assortment of studs (used to represent, you guessed it, fireworks).

Conclusion

When I first saw the set I fell in love. My love for the oriental theme led me to want the set even more. And while I am not particularly interested in the Ninjago theme, I will admit that I acquired the two previously released temples from the line (2507 and 70728).

As I have said before, I think it is a set that lends itself well to the creator expert line in many ways (size, difficulty, building techniques ...). At no moment are you bored as there are no repetitive steps. As you build, your desire to see the finished product grows, and once it is finished it is absolutely stunning.

Do not be fooled by the Ninjago logo, I think the set will please any AFOL, Ninjago fan or non Ninjago fan alike.

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