

# Norton74 brick design

2018-2019 official guest @



# H USE

Home of the Brick™

## Masterpiece Gallery



**Creators of the World**  
Andrea Lattanzio

**B**ack in 2012, the Italian AFOL Andrea Lattanzio (aka Norton74) contributed an article in HBM013 presenting his amazing collection of large-scale “Swedish Giant” trucks. Given the current issue’s topic of the world of the road, we thought we’d check back in with Andrea to get to know him a little more and see what he has been building since.

**HBM:** It is great to have an interview with such a passionate and talented LEGO builder! Before guiding us through your spectacular LEGO universe, could you tell us a bit about yourself?

**N74:** First of all, thank you for this opportunity. For me it is always a pleasure, and an honor, to share my passion with AFOLs and enthusiasts. I hope the interview will be interesting and can help you to better understand the secrets behind my MOCs and the creative process.

My name is Andrea Lattanzio, aka Norton74 in the AFOL community, I’m 47 and I live in Milan, Italy. I’m the Corporate Fundraiser for an important Italian Non Profit Organization.

**HBM:** What is LEGO to you?

**N74:** To me LEGO is a medium for expressing my creativity and ideas. It’s like playing music or painting a picture; building can sometimes be considered as an art form. Over the past decade LEGO has meant a lot to me and it’s definitely part

of my life now. Thanks to the AFOL community I have had the chance to get in touch with many awesome people from all over the world, some of whom I can now call friends. That’s great!

**HBM:** How much time do you spend building with LEGO?

**N74:** I usually build for 2 or 3 hours in the evening and sometimes a few hours on weekends. Unfortunately my free time is very limited and I have to optimize it. On average, a MOC takes about a month of work, and I mean from the design to the photo shoot, which is a very important part of the whole process. I can’t build every day and it depends a lot on my daily commitments. There are times when I build more MOCs in a few days, and then entire weeks when I don’t touch a brick.

**HBM:** What do your family and friends think about your hobby?

**N74:** All my friends and family support my passion but none of them are fans of LEGO, so I have to balance my private life and AFOL life properly.

**HBM:** What inspires you to create your layouts and MOCs?

**N74:** The process of building starts with “love at first sight” – let me explain. I can do my best in creating a LEGO MOC if I love the real subject. For example, I remember last year I saw the picture of

an A-Frame Cabin in a coffee-table book and I was totally inspired by that view. I immediately said “Yes, this is my next MOC”. And that is what happened. I probably couldn’t build something I don’t really like. Once I’ve identified the subject I start searching for pictures, blueprints and technical schematics (especially for the vehicles). Luckily, on the web you can find practically all you need for building: both information and bricks. I usually build by night because during the day I work and I have to take care of my family. At times it’s hard building at night. I think my design follows two directions: details and clean design. My mottos are “God is in the details” and “Less is more” (both mottos are from the German-born architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe 1886-1969). I try to have a personal style, which means for me a smooth design that is rich in details. Even though I love classic LEGO, I prefer not to show the studs. The models seem more realistic this way.

**HBM:** What are the most important goals you have achieved in recent years?

**N74:** The biggest goals I have achieved in my building career were displaying my creations at the LEGO House Masterpiece Gallery (2018/2019) and being named LEGO Builder of the Year by The Brothers Brick (2019), which were both really good memories.





**HBM:** What is your favorite commercial LEGO building theme?

**N74:** The Classic Castle theme has a special place in my heart, as I have many good memories of the yellow castle from set 375. It was my first big set and my parents gave it to me for my 6th birthday (May 4th 1980). Take a look at the photos and you will understand. Back in the eighties I was also fond of the 12V train theme. I had the chance to get a bunch of them and they are still in my collection. The Model Team series and now the Creator Expert line-up have influenced and inspired me, especially a few years ago when I built my garages which boosted my reputation in the LEGO community all over the world.

**HBM:** What is your favorite LEGO element?

**N74:** From the beginning I have always liked smooth surfaces which is why I have a predilection for tiles. I think tile elements allow you to build creations which don't look like they are made of LEGO – it's almost magic.

**HBM:** You have specialized in creating all kinds of MOCS based around vehicles and everything

related to the classic motor. Where does this passion come from?

**N74:** I'm a so-called car guy, and I especially like classic cars and motorbikes. It's a passion I've had since I was a kid and it came naturally to me to build workshops and hot rods with LEGO bricks. To be honest I've been switching subjects lately, and now I prefer to build nature-themed MOCS rather than car-themed builds.

**HBM:** What MOC are you most proud of?

**N74:** To be honest, over the last few years I have built a lot of MOCS that I am proud of and it's hard to pick just one. Probably my series of rural houses that I have built in the last couple of years are my favorite ones now (my A-Frame Cabin which reached 10,000 supporters on LEGO Ideas is part of this series).

I really like the subjects, color palette, techniques, parts usage, atmosphere, and the photography involved in these MOCS. They perfectly represent my style as developed over my ten-year career as a builder. I also can't forget my Volkswagen Garage as this was the MOC which

helped me become noticed in the LEGO community and boosted my reputation worldwide. I'm also proud of my scooter workshop.

**HBM:** What other theme do you like to build in?

**N74:** As I said before, in the past few years I have built in various genres, and I have recently dedicated myself to building nature-themed MOCS. But I've also built space vehicles, house interiors, 1950s buildings, and more.

**HBM:** Do you have any suggestions for new MOC builders?

**N74:** Follow your passion, enjoy yourself, and build what you like. Last but not least, start with little MOCS that you're sure to complete, otherwise the building experience could be frustrating.

**HBM:** Are you currently working on any MOCS or other LEGO-related projects?

**N74:** Yes, of course. One MOC is ready and waiting to be photographed. I'm also working on another, but I need more time to finish it. But I never say what I'm building until the MOC is finished and showcased on my social pages.

