

to a smaller side of life

Blocks create more than buildings

On a typical summer day in quarantine, it could be difficult to find entertaining activities to fill the hours with. But Sam Saliba (12), John Schmidt (12), and Natalie Salt (11) had the spontaneous idea to spend their time with LEGO.

"I called John on a whim, and we were like, 'We're going to go build LEGO in the back of my minivan,'" Saliba said.

The group spent the day listening to music as they worked on building a model of the Avengers Quinjet with over 800 pieces. The group said they had an amazing time, and when everything was assembled, their labor and teamwork was worth it.

"We all worked on separate parts of the thing, and then when it finally joined together, it was beautiful," Salt said.

Throughout the day, feelings of nostalgia became prominent.

"It's kind of brought back childhood memories," Saliba said.

Schmidt's favorite LEGO memory goes all the way back to 6th grade where he participated in First LEGO League (FLL), which is an annual competition that combines LEGO and robotics.

"Oh I won FLL, out of the entire state of Colorado," Schmidt said.

Other memories also surfaced of enjoying LEGO with family members growing up.

Saliba used LEGO as a way to connect with his father going all the way back to when he was a toddler playing with DUPLO, a toddler safe version of the infamous toy.

"For me it was my dad trying to convince me (LEGO) was better than DUPLO," Saliba said.

Abigail Shanahan (12) and her father also often assembled LEGO sets together.

"Me and my dad sometimes work on them together, he'll find

the pieces, and I'll put them together," Shanahan said.

Some people may struggle to understand the appeal of building LEGO, but for Shanahan, LEGO is just a way to channel creativity and simply assemble things.

"I found it really, really cool how you could build these giant things from just these little plastic pieces and how you could pretty much do anything you could think of. How it was just so creative and imaginative," Shanahan said.

The process of LEGO is meticulous and delicate. As a result, it can be pretty infuriating at times. However, the satisfaction of finally finishing a project was unparalleled.

"I get frustrated because something doesn't seem to work quite right, or doesn't seem to fit together exactly how I want it to, but then at the end, it's really fulfilling to finally be able to finish it," Shanahan said.

Several LEGO users also use Minecraft as a platform for imaginative construction. But when it comes down to it, being able to actually hold and physically manipulate the project made LEGO all the more alluring.

"They're like a structured actual tangible thing. You know, Minecraft is just a program," Salt said.

LEGO enthusiasts, Salt, Saliba, and Schmidt have found their way to the tech program in theatre as yet another way to construct and design.

"Now we've gone from LEGO to thousands of dollars in equipment and we get to kind of put it together," Saliba said.

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FAVORITE types of LEGO

A survey of 224 people via Instagram

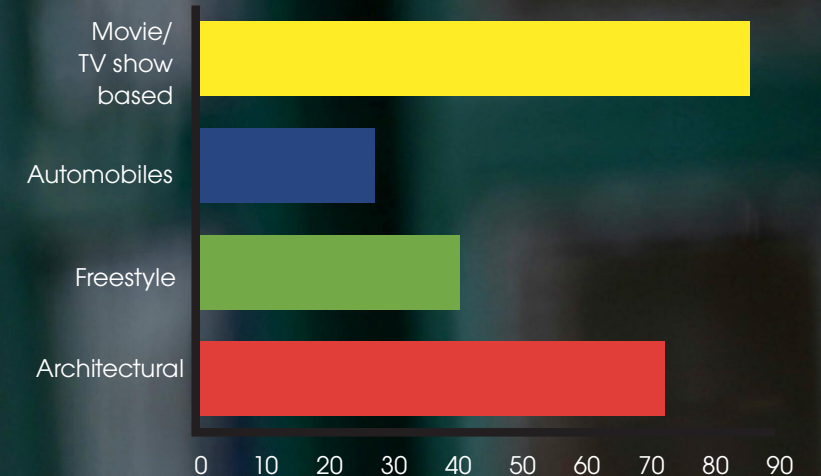


photo by hannah rowton

LEGO lover

Abigail Shanahan shares her love for LEGO

Abigail Shanahan (12) has had a love for LEGO since her childhood; a love that stemmed from international travel.

"We had moved to Norway when I was seven, and over holidays we wouldn't be able to come back to the U.S., so we would go to other countries and such. Then, one year we went to Denmark to visit Legoland," Shanahan said.

Since then, Shanahan's love only grew for the little figures and her favorite set was the Grand Emporium set released in 2010.

"(The tiles) are especially ornate...It also has these little figures in the window where you can go 'window shopping,'" Shanahan said.

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