

A “kid in a candy shop” doesn’t begin to describe the feeling of stepping into the treasure trove tucked away on Willamette street, Eugene known as Brick Builders. What appears to be an unassuming Eugene tchotchke shop, Brick Builders is a portal to a wonderland of childhood nostalgia. The aisles of the shop consist of floor-to-ceiling Lego figures, fully assembled and including, but not limited to viking ships, iconic movie scenes, and multiple renditions of the millennium falcon. Behind the troughs of loose pieces and hundreds of pop-culture minifigures lined up like toy soldiers stands an eight-foot tall wall of rare Lego sets in mint condition. Not quite a toy store or a resale shop, Brick Builders, Eugene is a destination spot for young creatives, collectors and kids at heart.

Legos were a favorite of Ammon Henrikson, owner of Brick Builders, in his childhood. It wasn’t until 20 years later, after becoming a father, that Henrikson rekindled his love for legos and decided to open the shop. Henrikson smiles as he recalls helping his kid with a class project and being swept into the excitement of Lego: “I started doing some projects with them and thought: oh this is really fun. I really miss doing this”. While classmates brought tissue-box dioramas into class the next day, Henrikson’s child went to school with a detailed scene of the Oregon Trail, complete with to-scale rivers, mountain ranges, and a herd of buffalo. In rediscovering his passion for Lego, Henrikson noticed an opportunity to bring his collection to life through Brick Builders.

In addition to the incredible selection, Brick Builders offers classes and camps which will start back up in the spring and summer. Surrounded by a sea of pieces, Otter, a longtime employee and Lego enthusiast, is working on a commissioned replica of a family home. He compares six different kinds of yellow semi-circles, “We look at this photo and we see lego parts”, he chuckles. He explains the strive for ‘hyper accuracy’, a virtue which is evident in the meticulous curve of the staircase and the lemon tree in the front yard. The house will be finished within the month, a thoughtful gift and one of many tokens of Brick Builders’ magic. Brick Builders is a wonderland to discover and get lost in, with inspiration to be found in each visit.