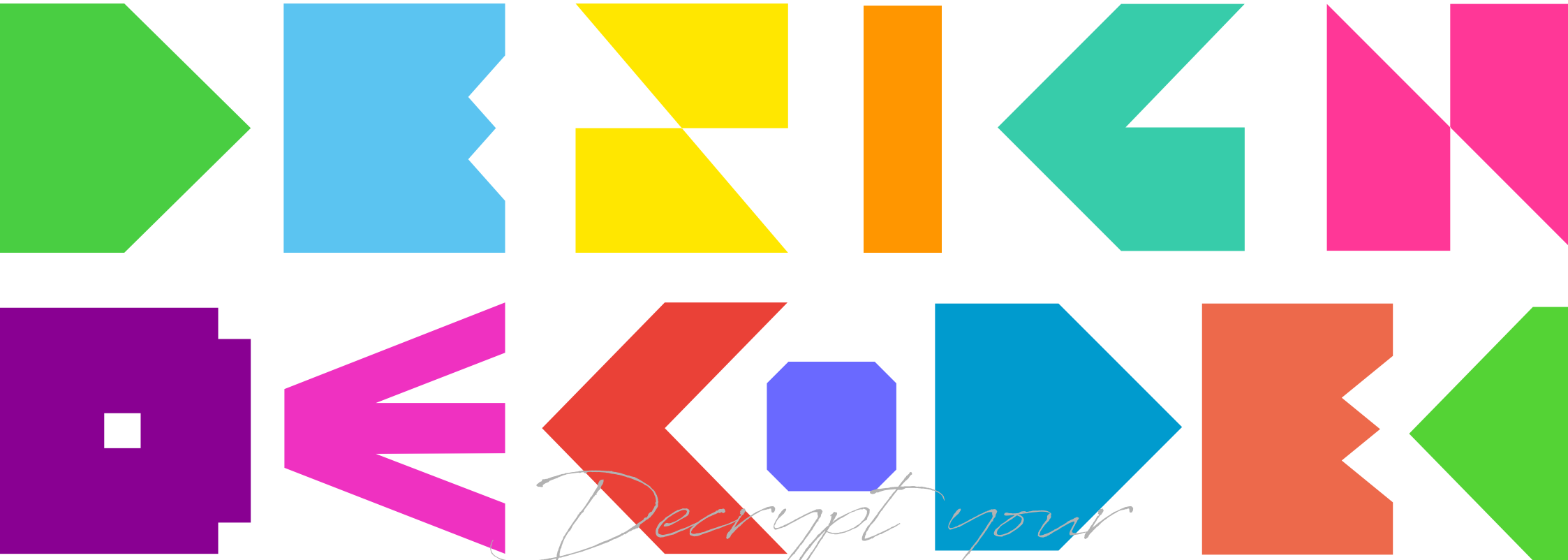


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Izza Karim Imagination

AUTISM



*"I'm different.
Not less"*

- Dr. Temple Grandin

IMAGINATION artwork is a photo image of Batmobile made from toy building bricks, one of many toy building masterpieces created by Anas bin Sharel, aged 10 who has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at the age of 5. It was inspired by Anas's observation of Batmobile from a series of Batman films from 1989 until 2012 including the Award-winning 2017 The Batman Lego Movie. Batmobile is a fictional armored tactical assault car driven by superhero Batman to fight against crime. The Batmobile has appeared in every comic book, television, film, and video game and has since become part of popular culture. To date, Anas has built 5 versions of Batmobile including other Batman fictional vehicles such as Batjet, Batplane, Batwing & Batpod solely from his observations and memory of the films.

Each and every person diagnosed with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. As for Anas, learning and speaking have been a challenging journey. However, Anas is gifted with a wonderful imagination and creative thinking, by channelling his observation into a masterpiece.

Toy building brick is a big part of learning for Anas. His observation through his favourite films and superhero characters has been transformed into his toy building bricks masterpieces. Without manuals or instructions, he creatively built his creations by observing his subject matters of interest. Upon completion of each of his creations,

Anas would excitedly 'show and tell' to his parents. This has proven to boost his self-esteem and confidence in expressing his feelings by connecting and communicating through toy building bricks.

The LEGO Foundation itself stated that they believe the most powerful tool for children to make sense of the world is through play. LEGO Foundation includes a programme called Brick-by-Brick, learning through play concept created for young people involving LEGO, who need extra support in developing social communication, such as children diagnosed with autism spectrum. The Brick Club Parent, a club formed by parents in Lego Foundation, supported LEGO's approach to learn through play by suggesting creating a group or club for children with spectrum as a platform for them to express their social-emotion and interests.

Building toy bricks has proven to improve various skills and plays an important and fundamental role in young children's development. Backed by the members of Brick Club, playing with toy building bricks enhances a child's social skills, a sense of belonging, and pride. This is also supported by @FunSensoryPlay where learning through play improves skills in observation, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving, patterns, hand-eye coordination, memory, sorting, counting, listening, communication, and social-emotional. Anas has been discharged from Occupational Therapy in 2020, which

confirms Anas's social and sensory skills have improved from his extensive activities of learning through play.

Dr. Temple Grandin, a well-known Autism spokesperson, believes that children and adults with autism must be given high, reasonable expectations regardless of their diagnosis. Dr. Grandin says on her website that those with autism need to be slowly and carefully stretched to learn work, life, and social skills, therefore they are able to reach their full potential. A famous quote by Dr. Grandin, "I'm different, not less" is a clear statement in supporting her acknowledgement in advocating and appreciating "differently-abled brains."

This artwork is meant to express recognition of Autism in overcoming their challenges by learning through play and to promote and recognize toy building bricks as an important supporting tool for learning and strengthening their skills and abilities.



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