

Castelgrande



700 pieces · 59 different parts

A brick-built souvenir model, compatible with standard bricks.

On its display stand: 26.2 × 27.2 cm, 15 cm tall.

Parts list and BrickLink Wanted List: see the project website.

ABOUT THE LANDMARK

Castelgrande

Castelgrande is the oldest and largest of Bellinzona's three castles: a fortress on a rock in the middle of the town, with two tall towers and long walls crowned by swallowtail merlons. With Montebello and Sasso Corbaro it guarded the valley on the roads to the Alpine passes.

On the rock in the centre of Bellinzona, above the Piazza Collegiata and the Piazzetta della Valle.

Rock	gneiss, about 40 metres above the old town
Torre Bianca	27 metres; 13th century, rebuilt 1485/86
Torre Nera	28 metres; early 14th century, raised in the 15th
Restoration	1982 to 2000, by Aurelio Galfetti
UNESCO	World Heritage Site since 2000, with Montebello and Sasso Corbaro



A SHORT HISTORY

Through the centuries

- 
- 4th millennium BC** ● First traces of people living on the rock.
 - 16 to 15 BC** ● Roman military camp; later a Roman fort.
 - 13th century** ● The Torre Bianca is built.
 - early 14th century** ● The Torre Nera is built.
 - 15th century** ● The Dukes of Milan expand the fortress against the Swiss Confederates.
 - 1485/86** ● The Torre Bianca is rebuilt.
 - 1982 to 2000** ● Restoration by Aurelio Galfetti, with a lift through the rock.
 - 2000** ● The three castles of Bellinzona become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

LOOK CLOSER

Built against the Swiss

In the 15th century Bellinzona belonged to the Duchy of Milan, and its castles and walls were built up to stop the Swiss Confederates from coming south. In the end the town became Swiss anyway, at the start of the 16th century.

Swallowtails

The forked merlons on the walls, shaped like a swallow's tail, are typical of northern Italian castles of the time and give Bellinzona's walls their outline.

A lift in the rock

Galfetti's restoration cut a lift shaft through the rock: from the little square at its foot you ride straight up into the castle.

FIND IT IN BELLINZONA



Address

Castelgrande, Salita al Castelgrande 18, 6500 Bellinzona

Getting there

About ten minutes on foot from Bellinzona station; take the lift from the Piazzetta della Valle or walk up the ramps.

Tip

Climb the Torre Bianca for the view over the walls to Montebello and Sasso Corbaro on the hillside opposite.

My visit

Castelgrande, Bellinzona

Date of my visit

I was there with

The weather was

What I remember most

Stick a photo or your ticket here

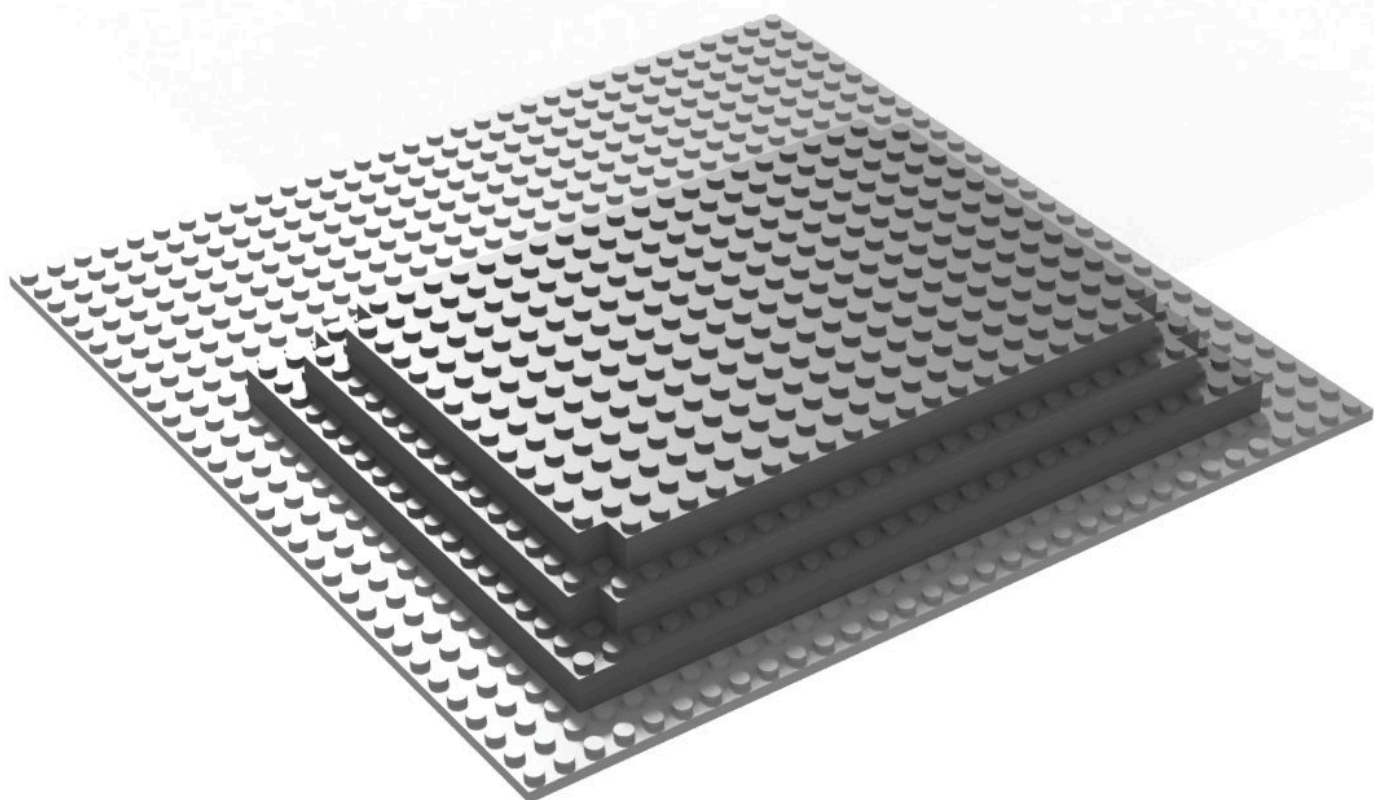
Built on

Building time

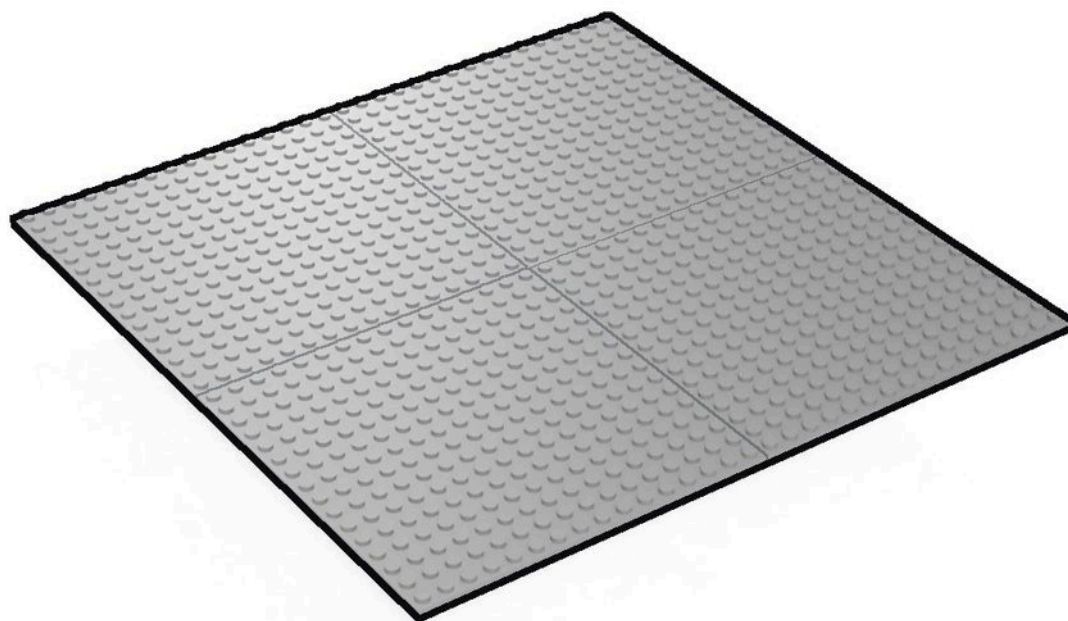
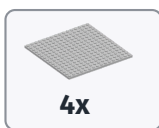
Chapter 1

The rock

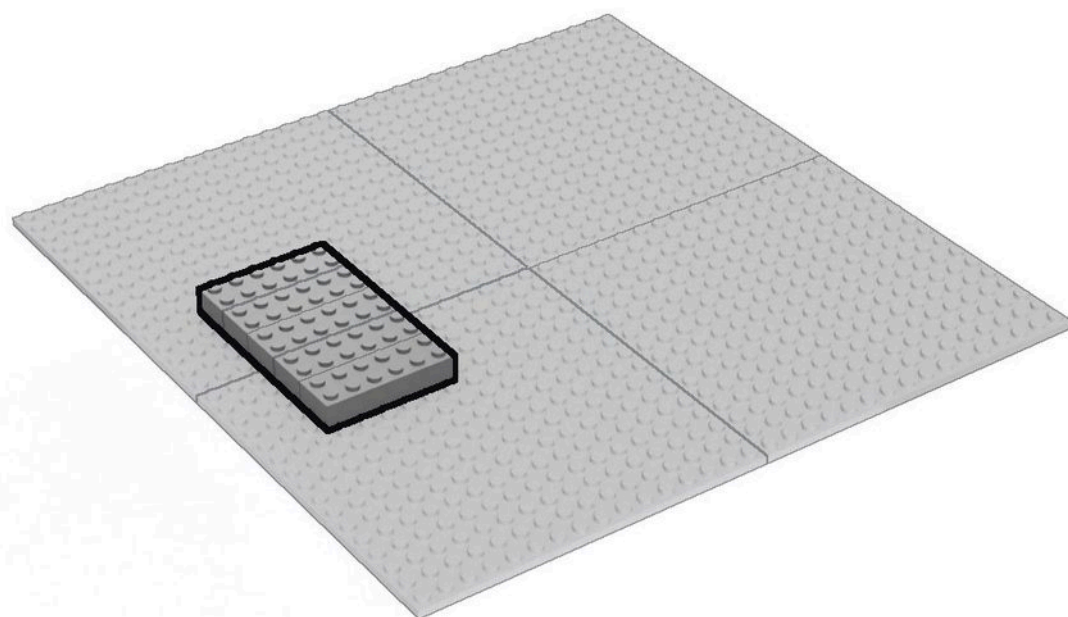
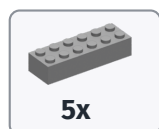
Steps 1–29



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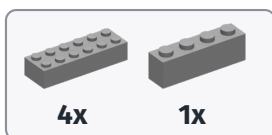


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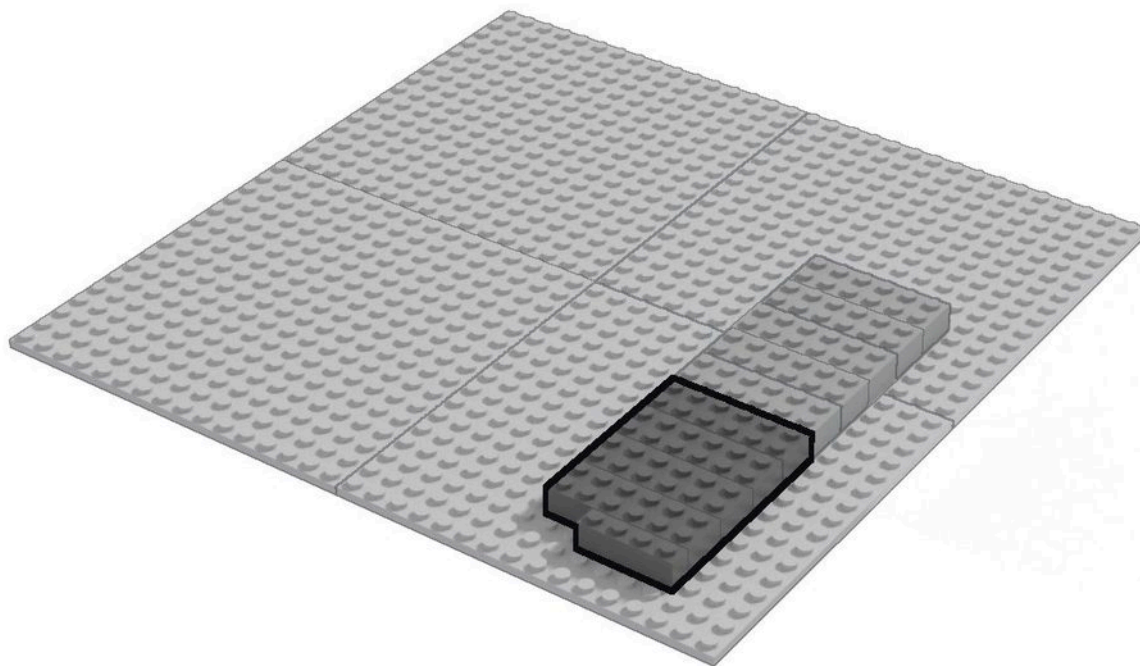


Chapter 1 · The rock

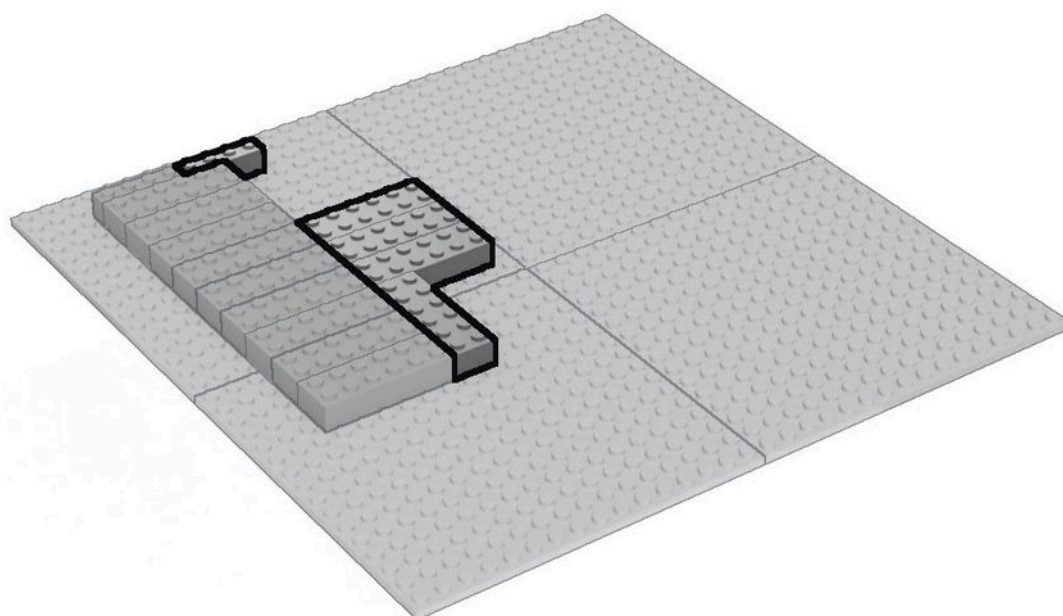
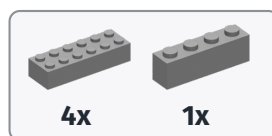
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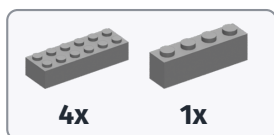


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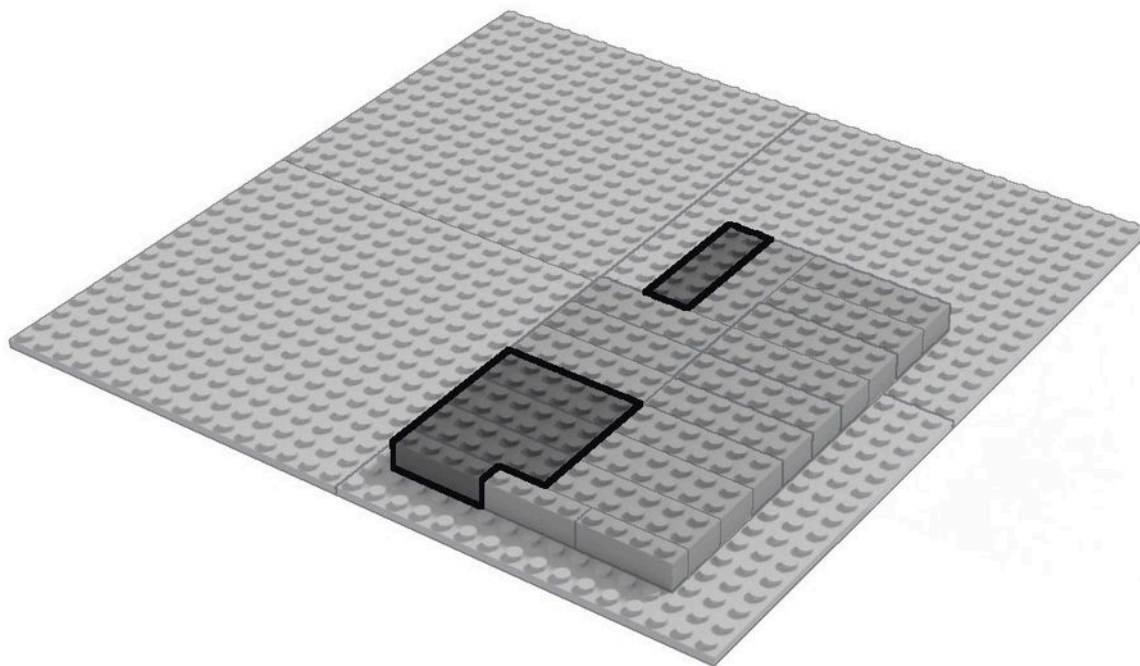


Chapter 1 • The rock

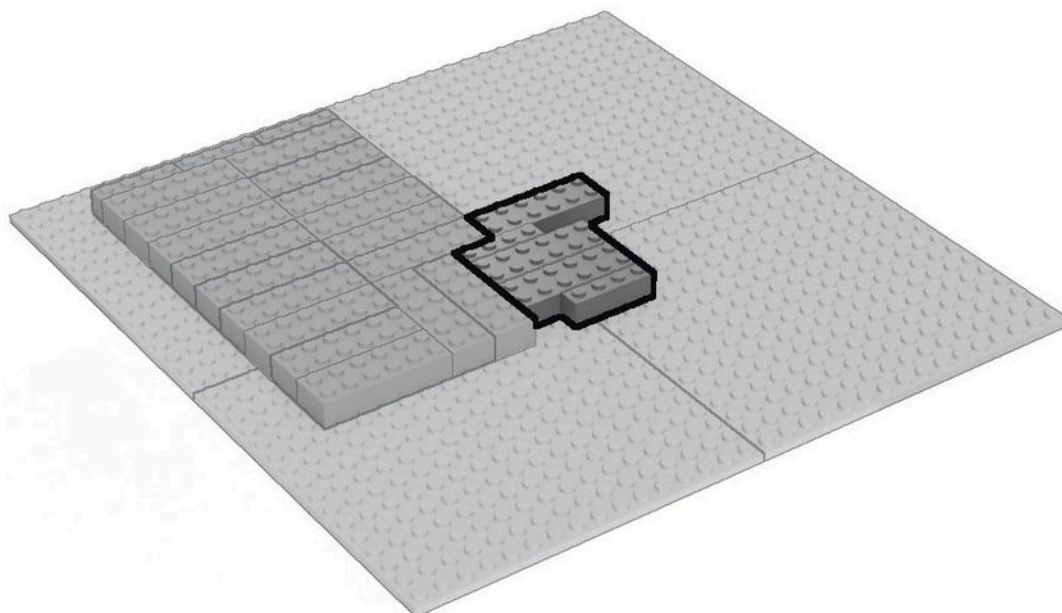
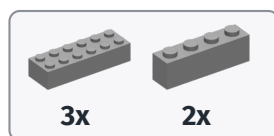
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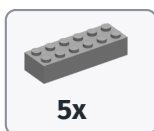


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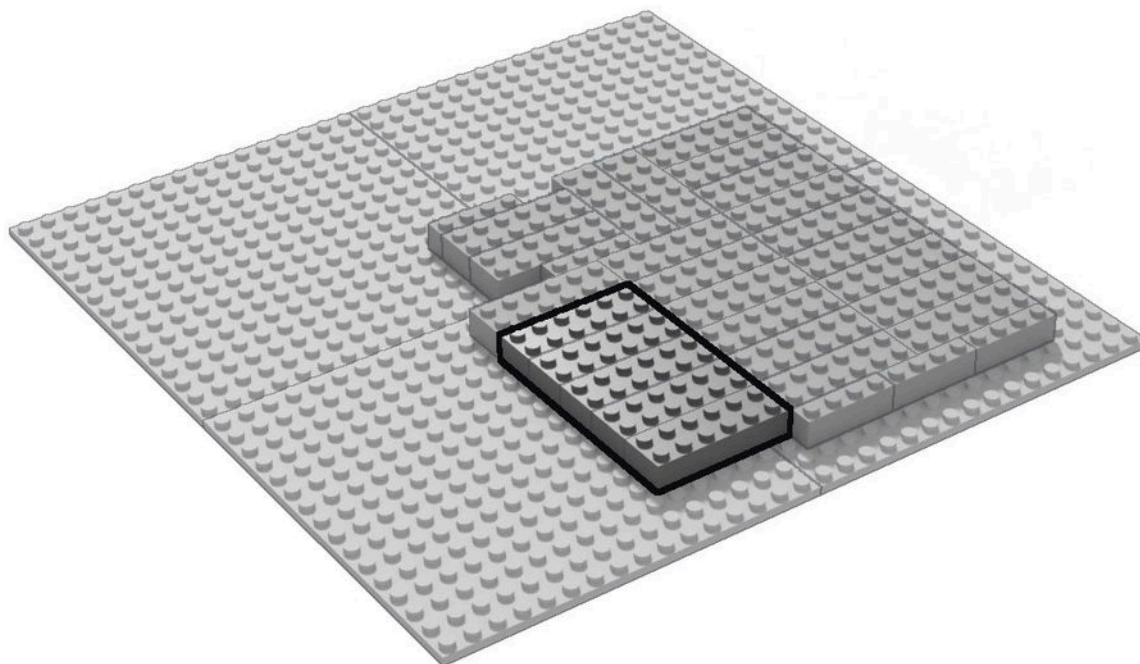


Chapter 1 · The rock

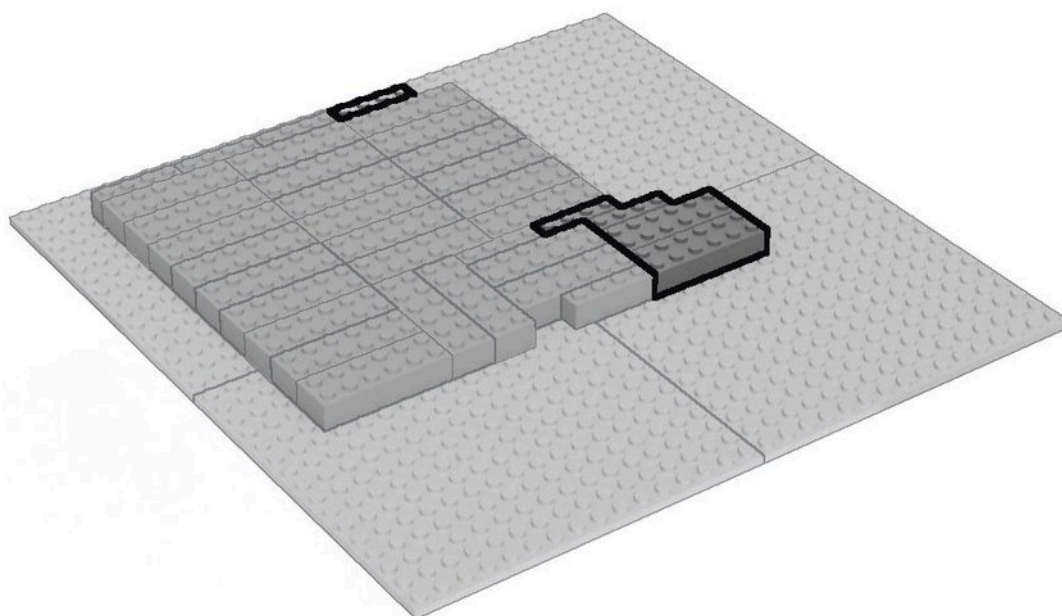
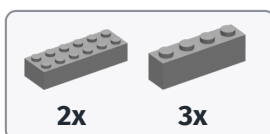
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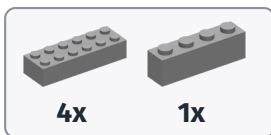
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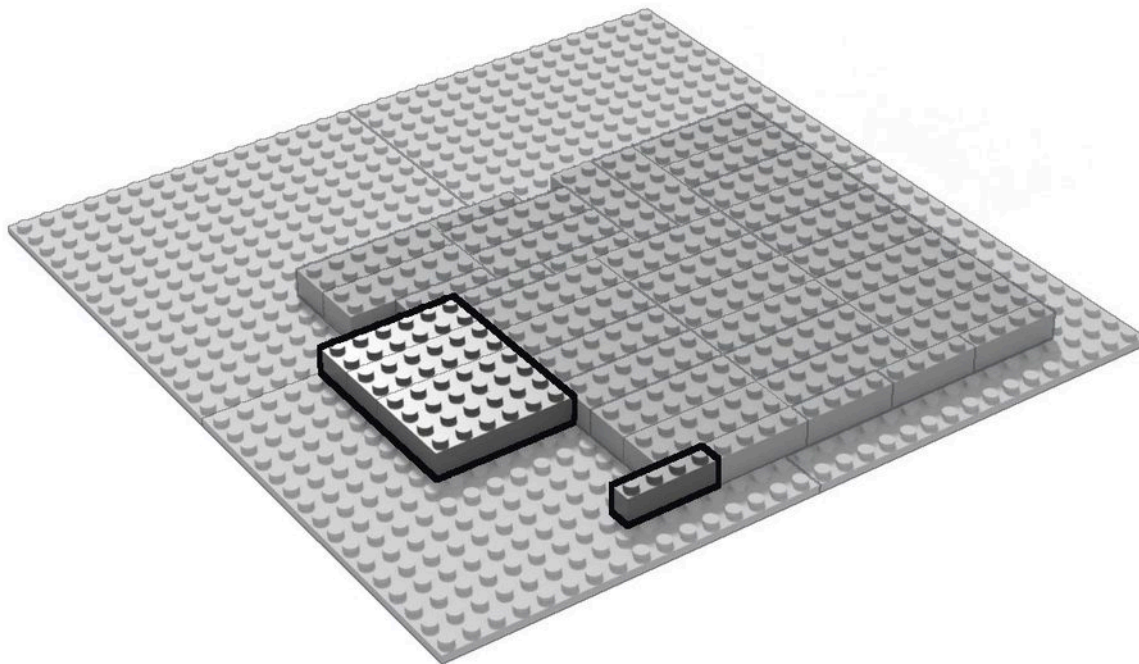
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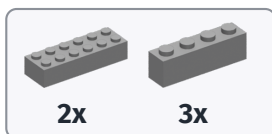
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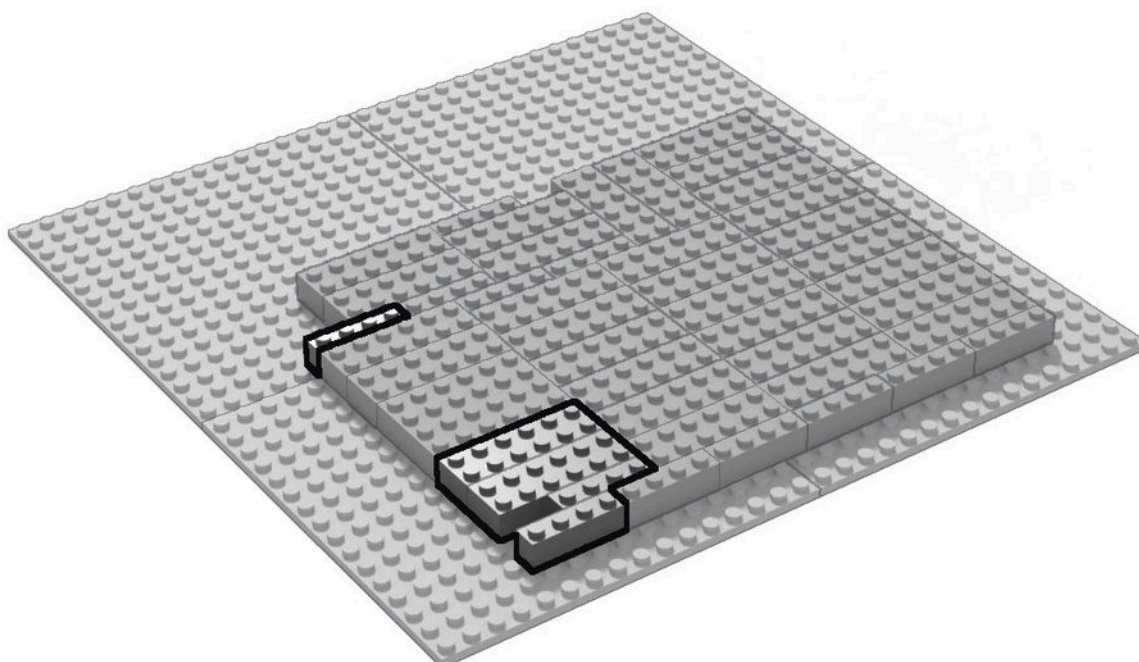
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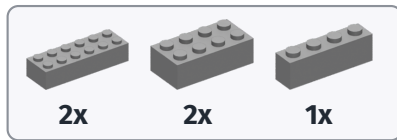
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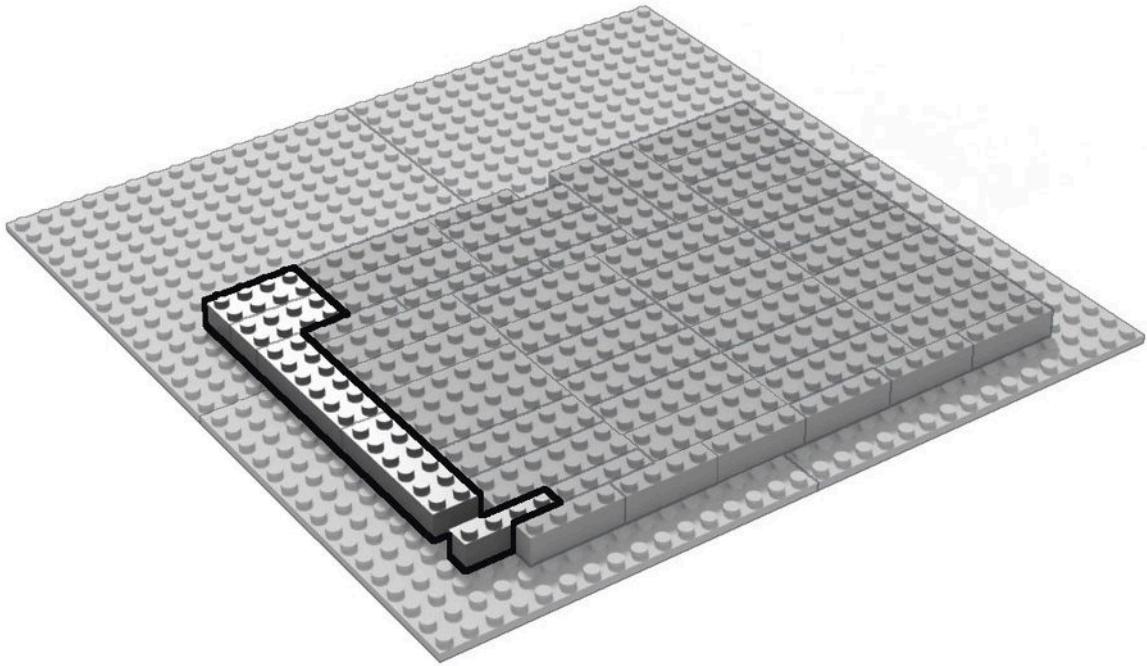
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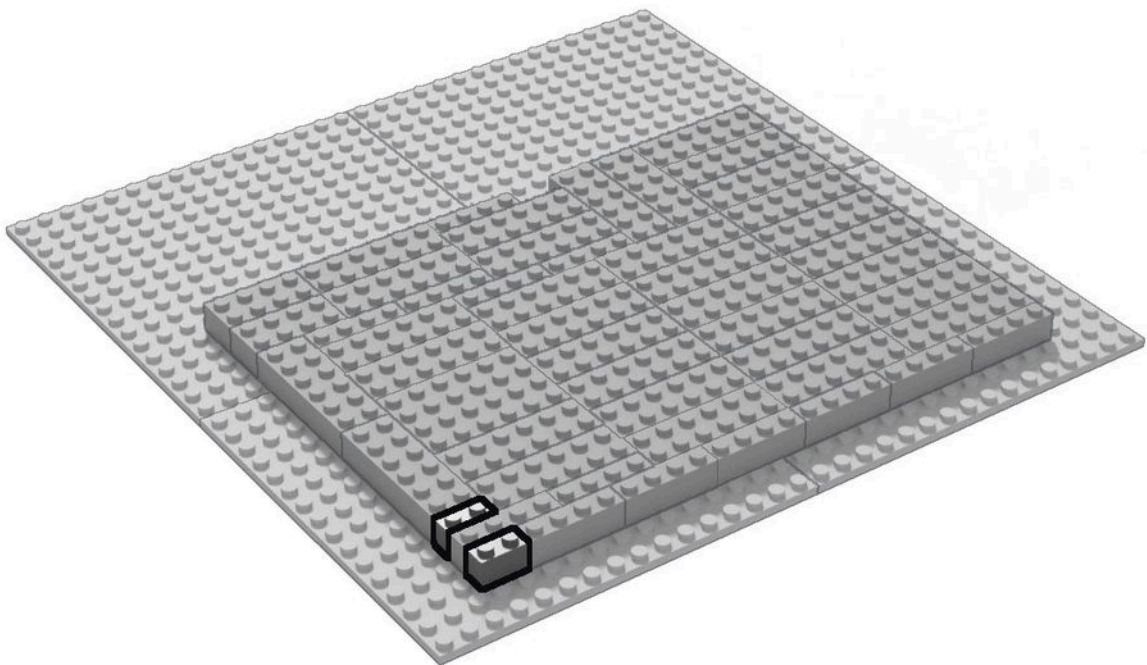
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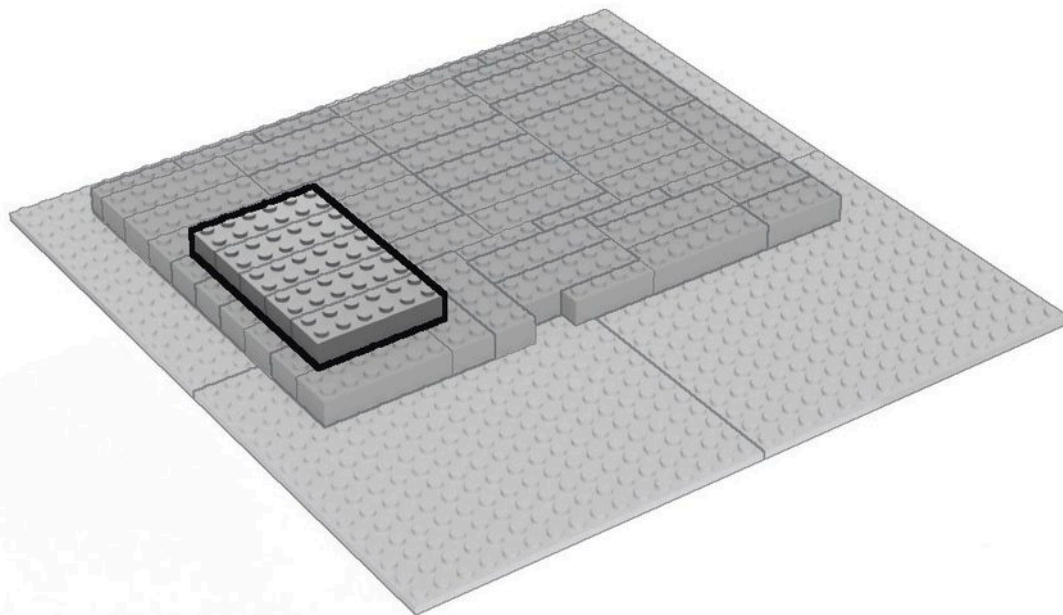
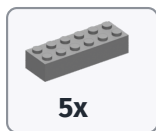
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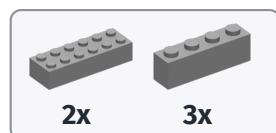
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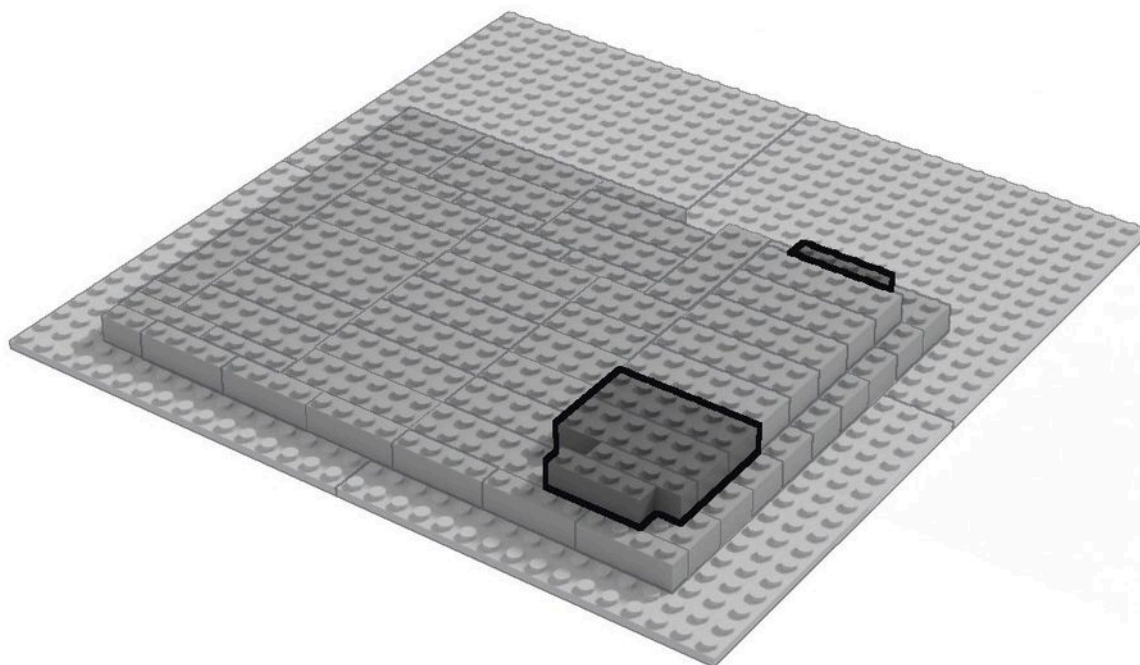
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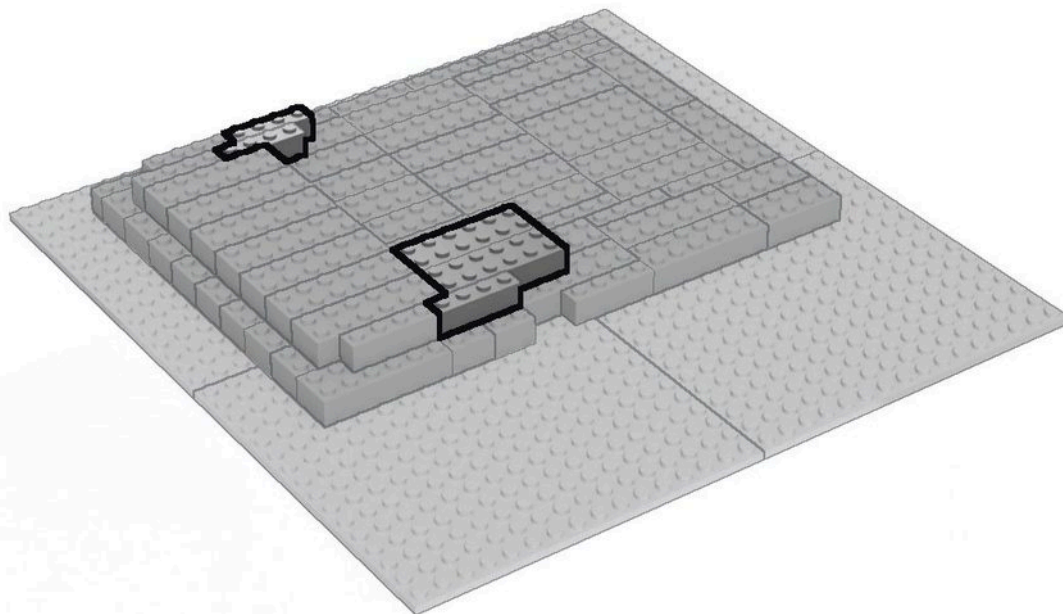
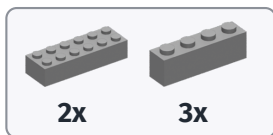
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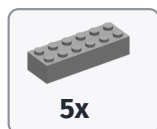
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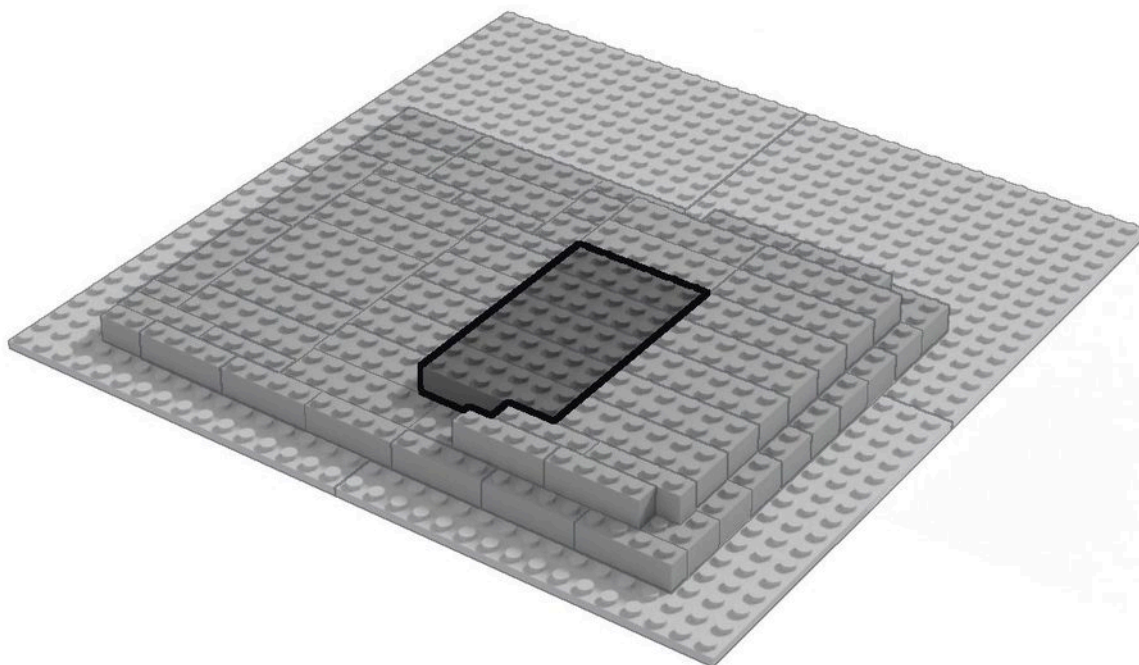
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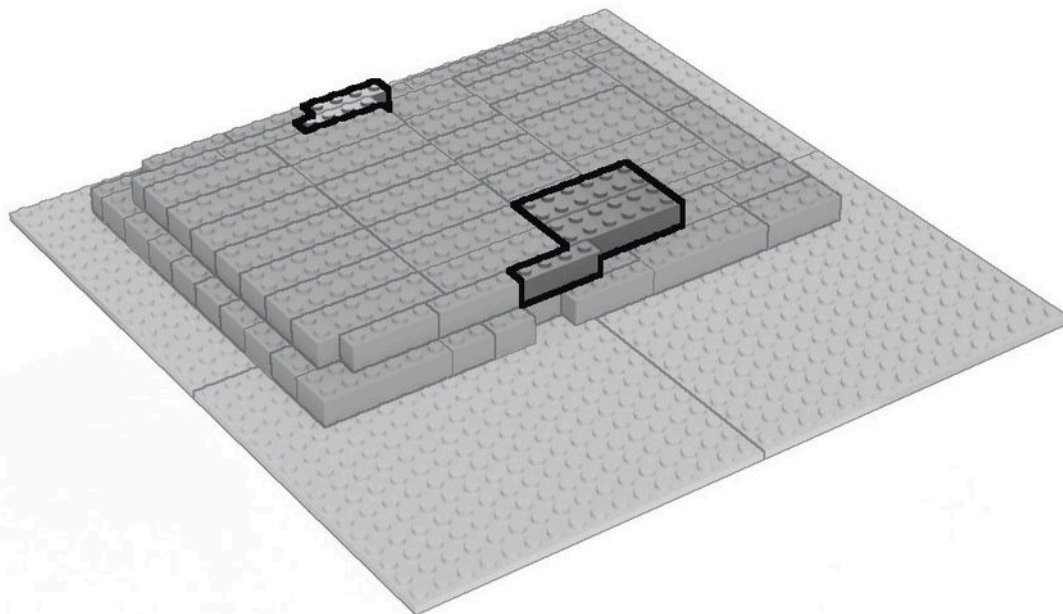
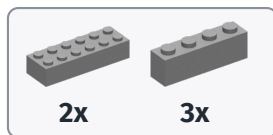
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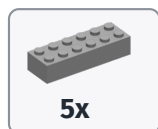
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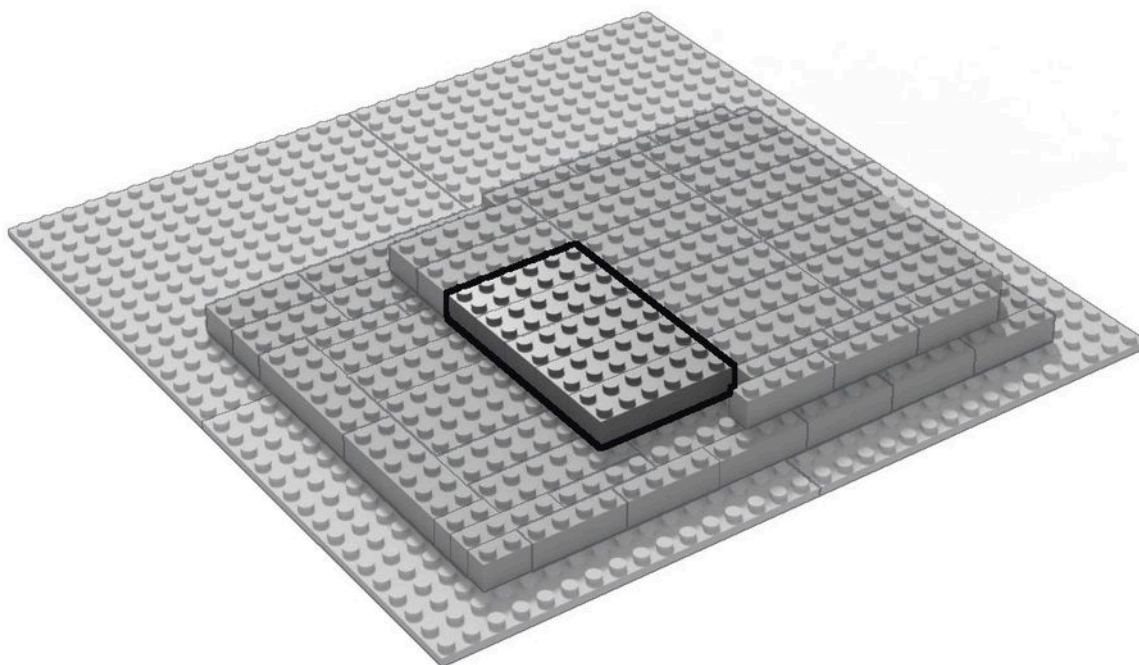
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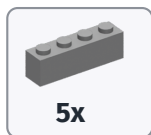
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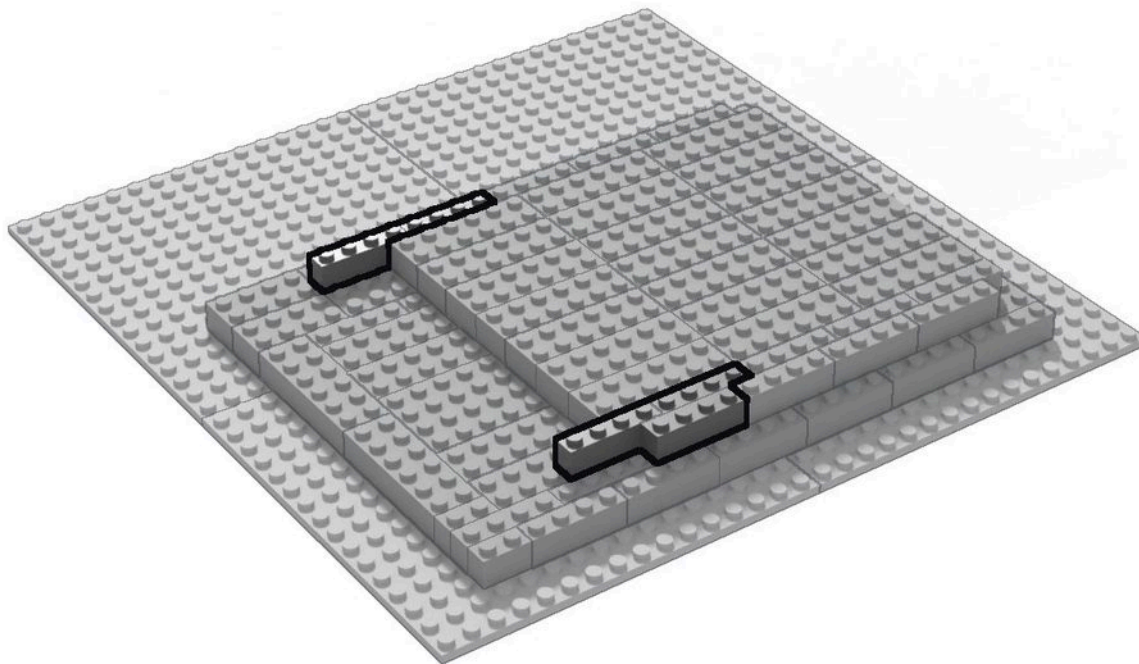
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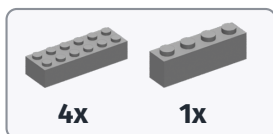
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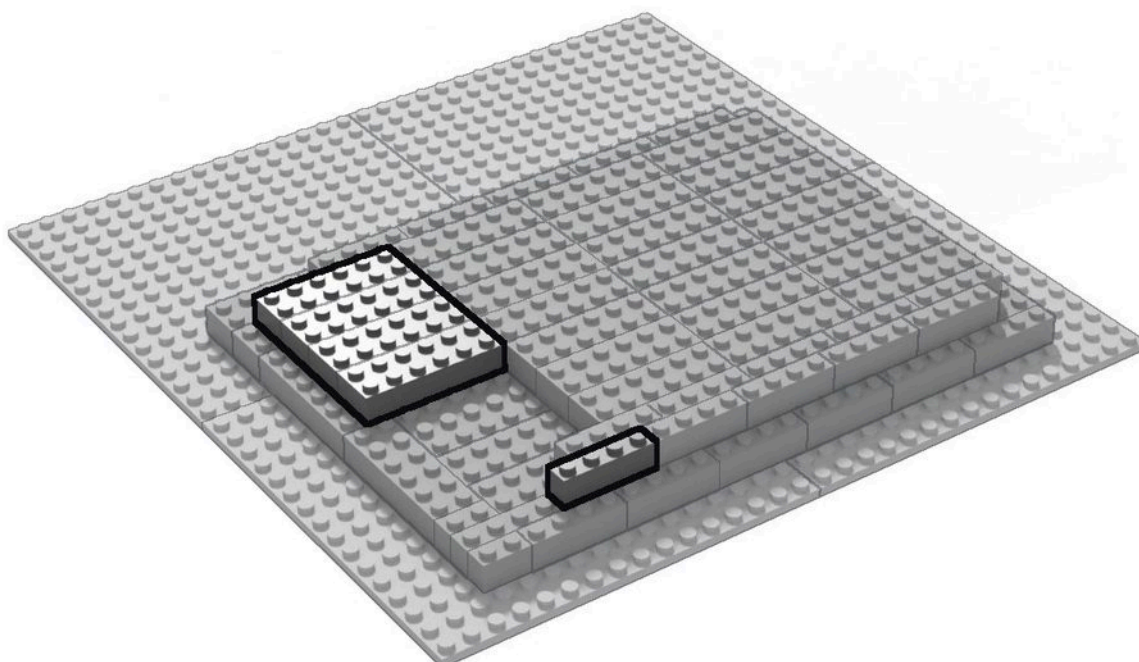
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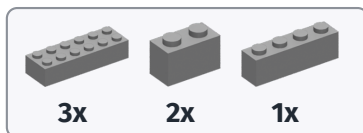
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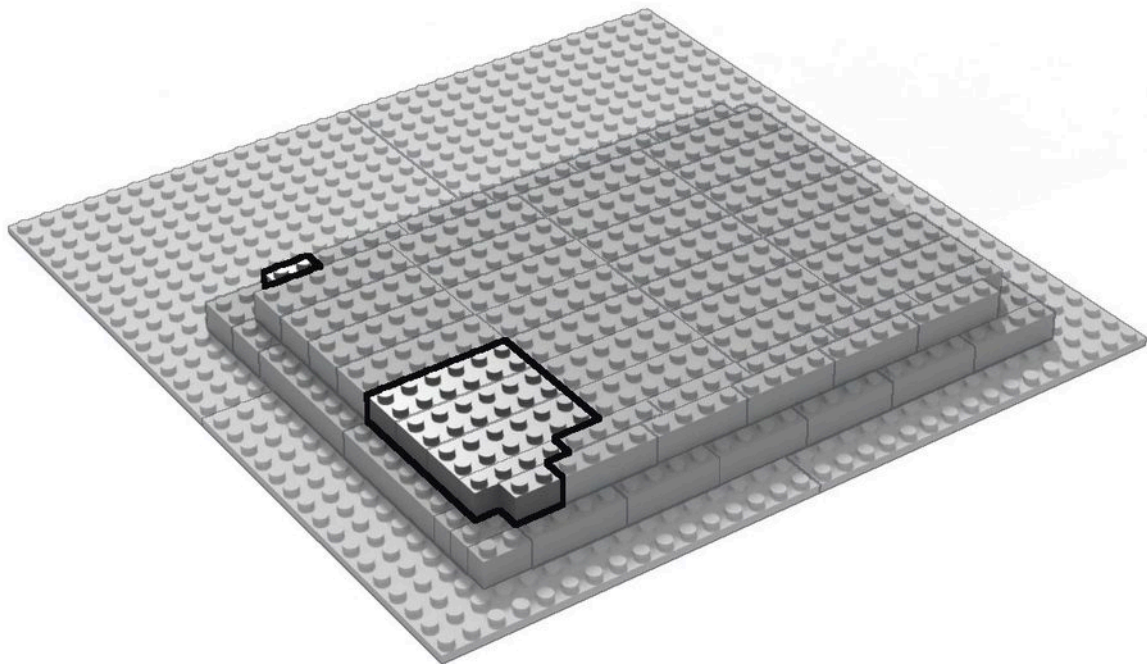
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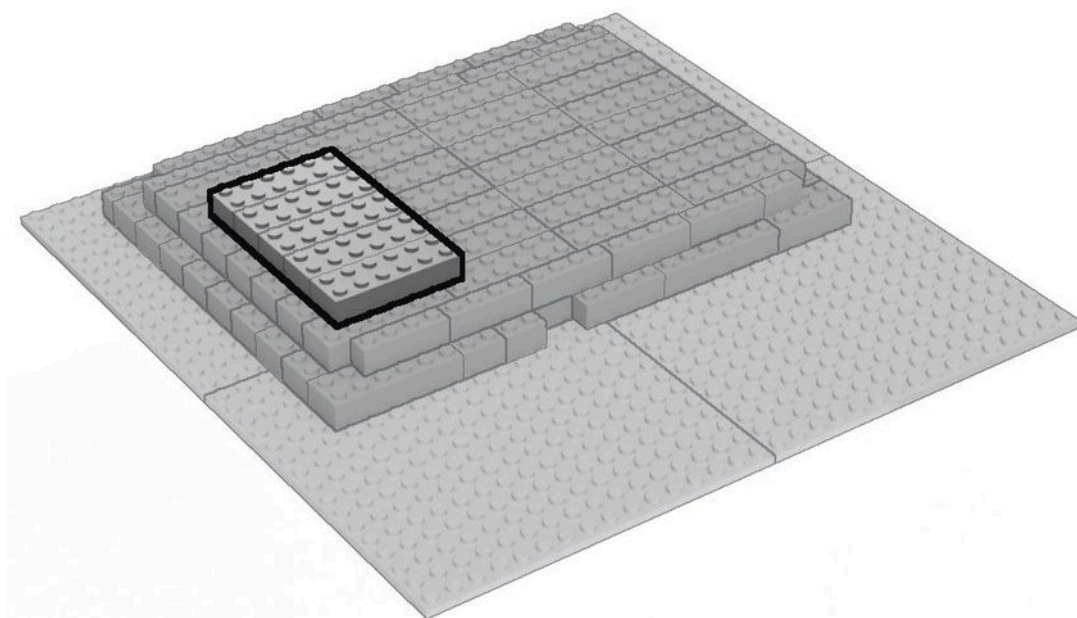
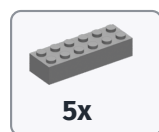
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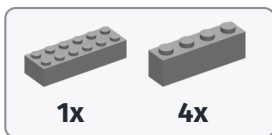
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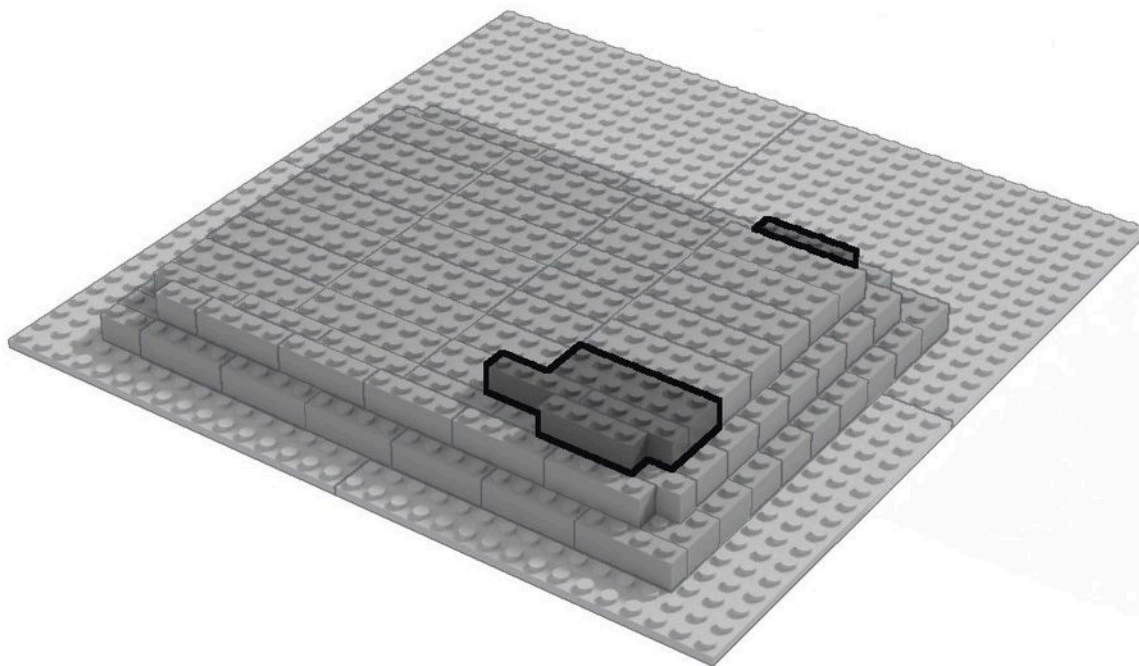
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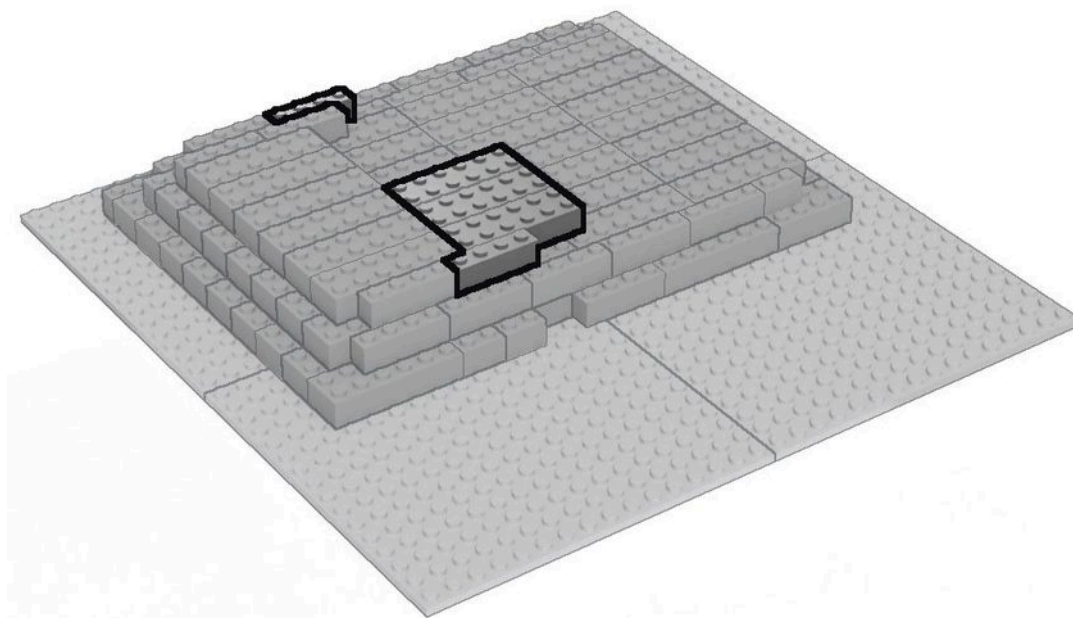
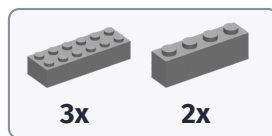
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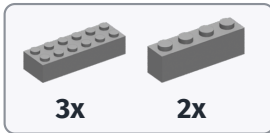
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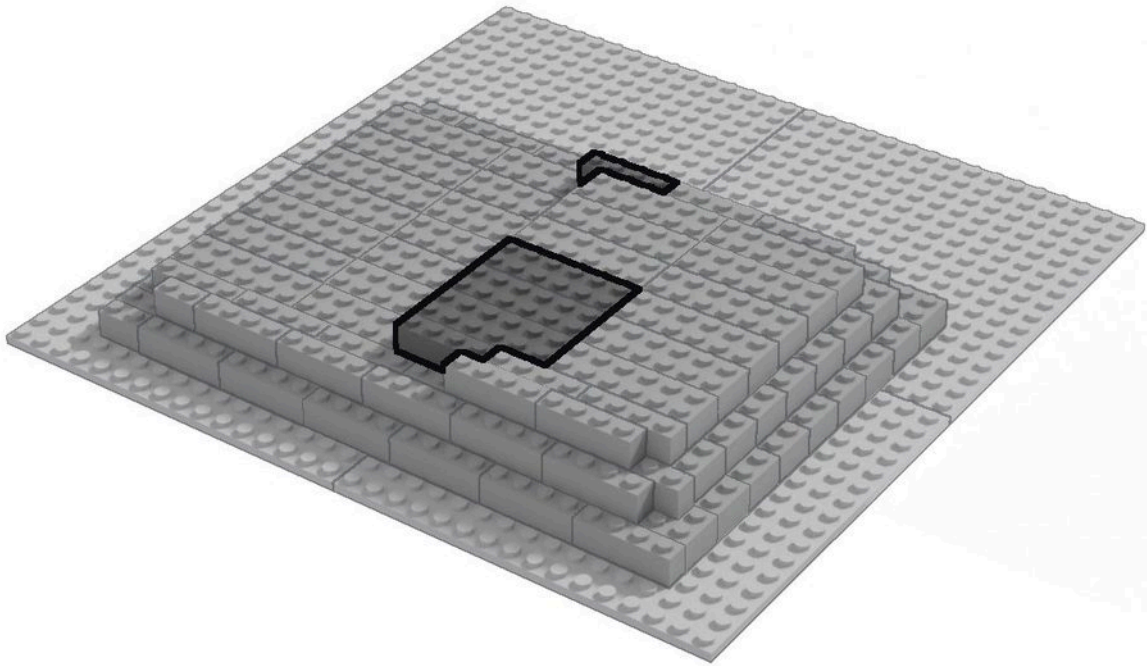
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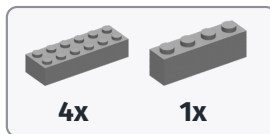
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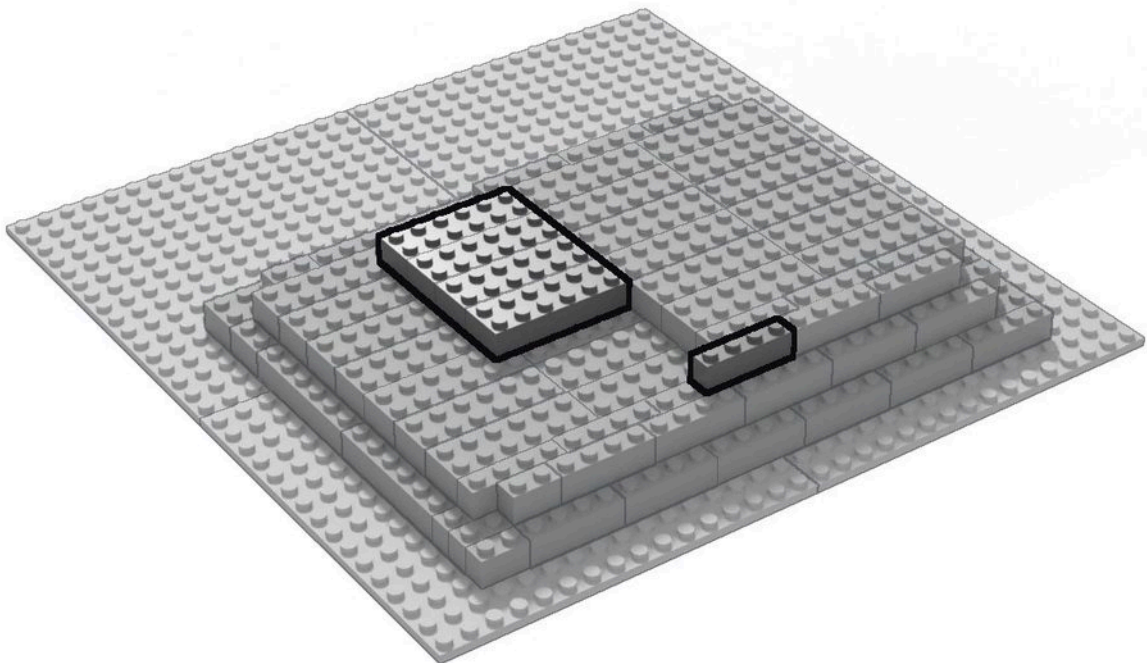
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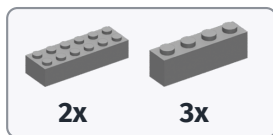
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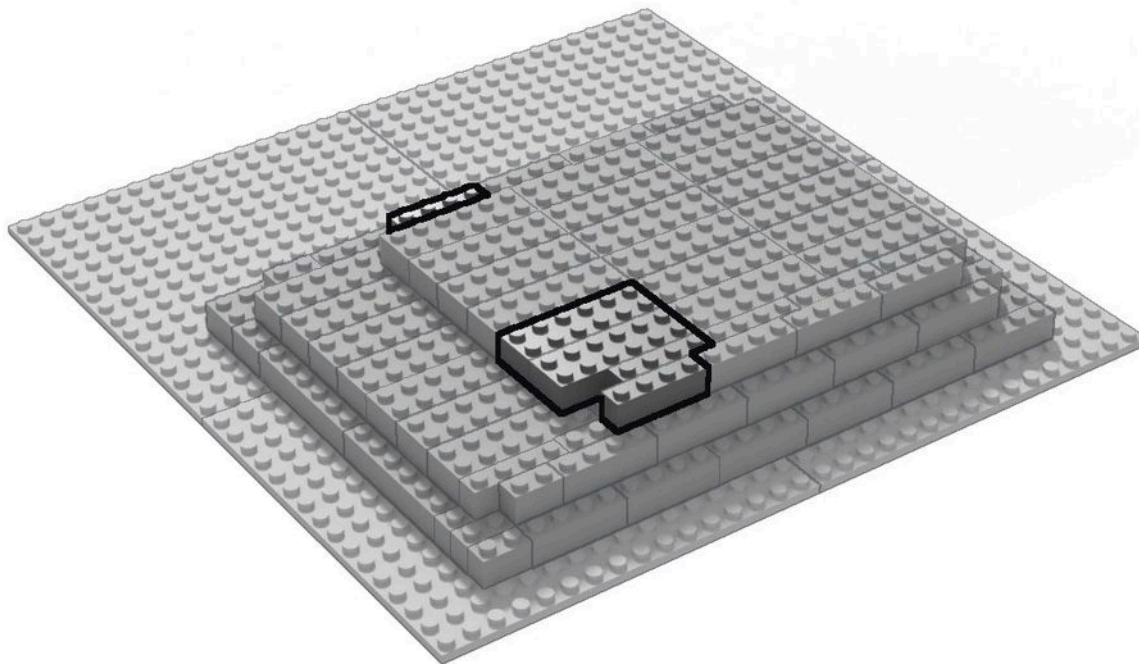
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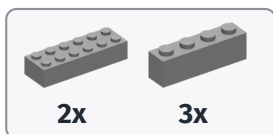
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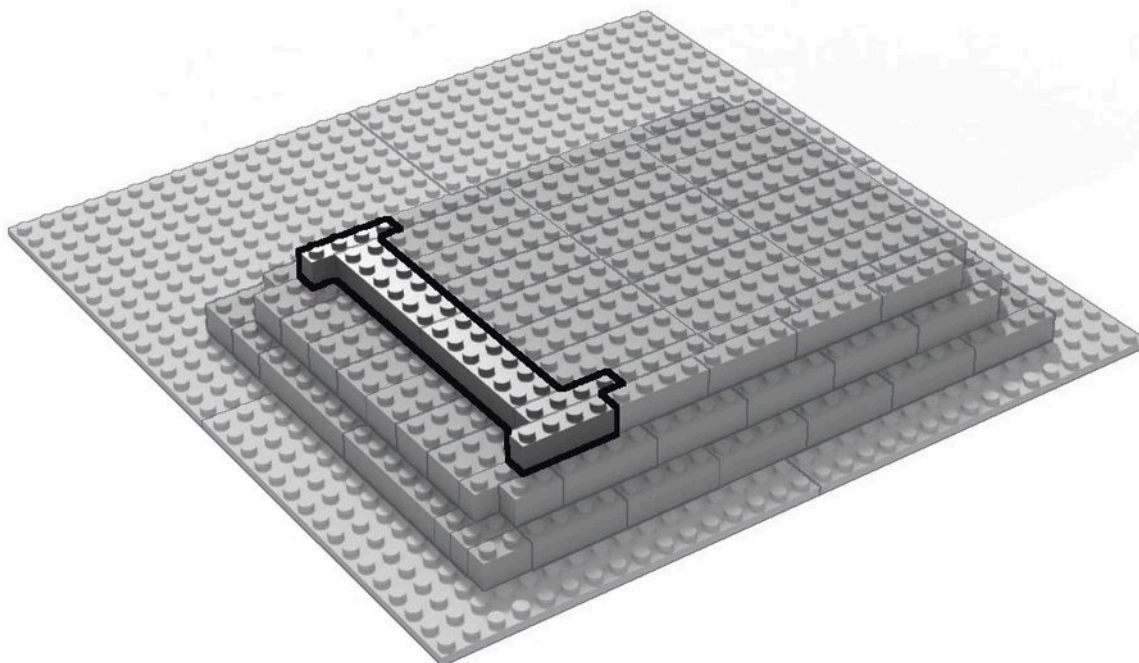
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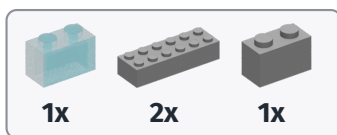
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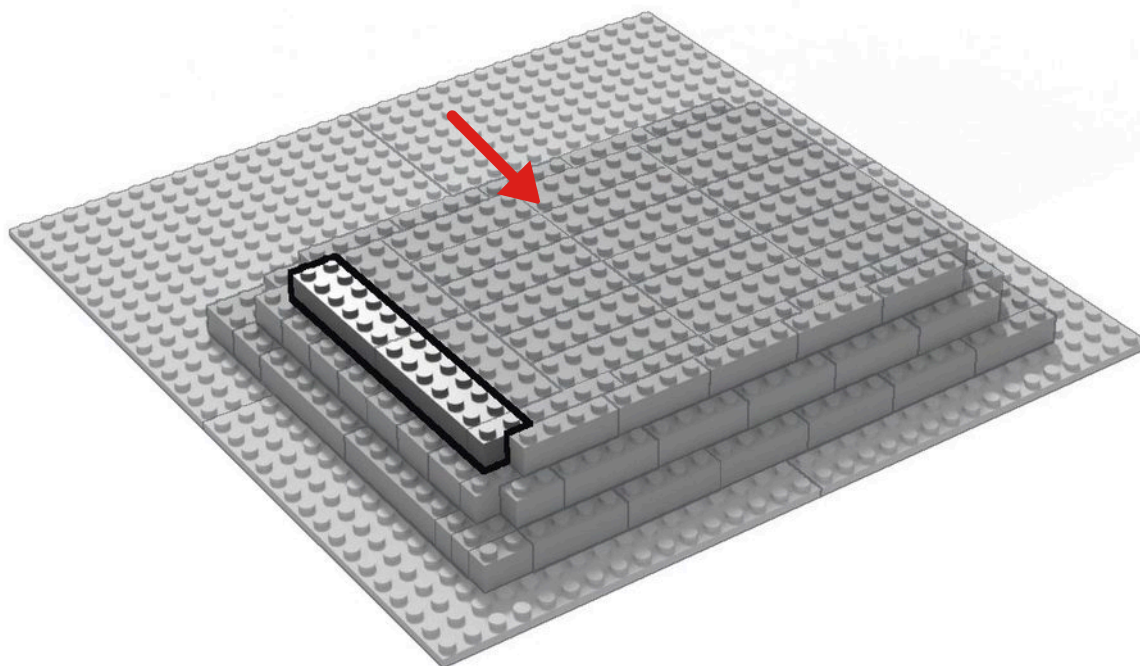
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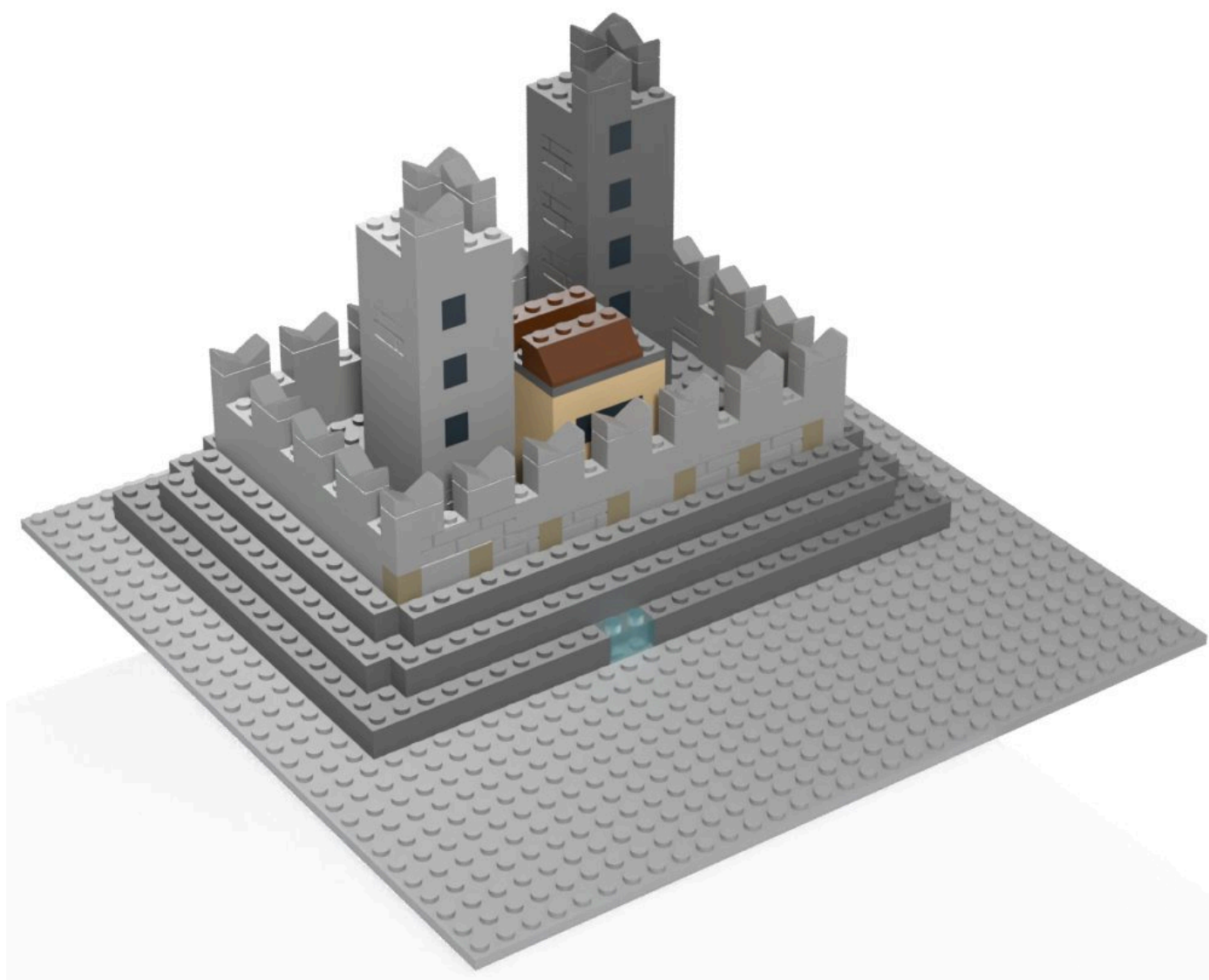
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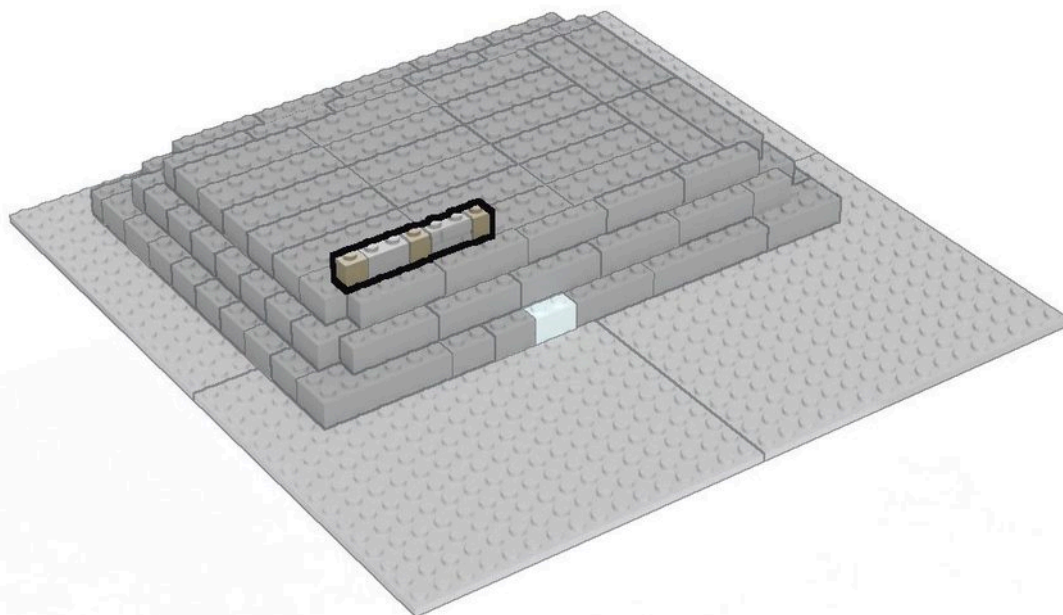
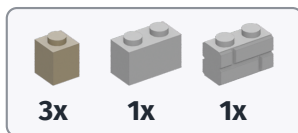
Chapter 2

Walls and towers

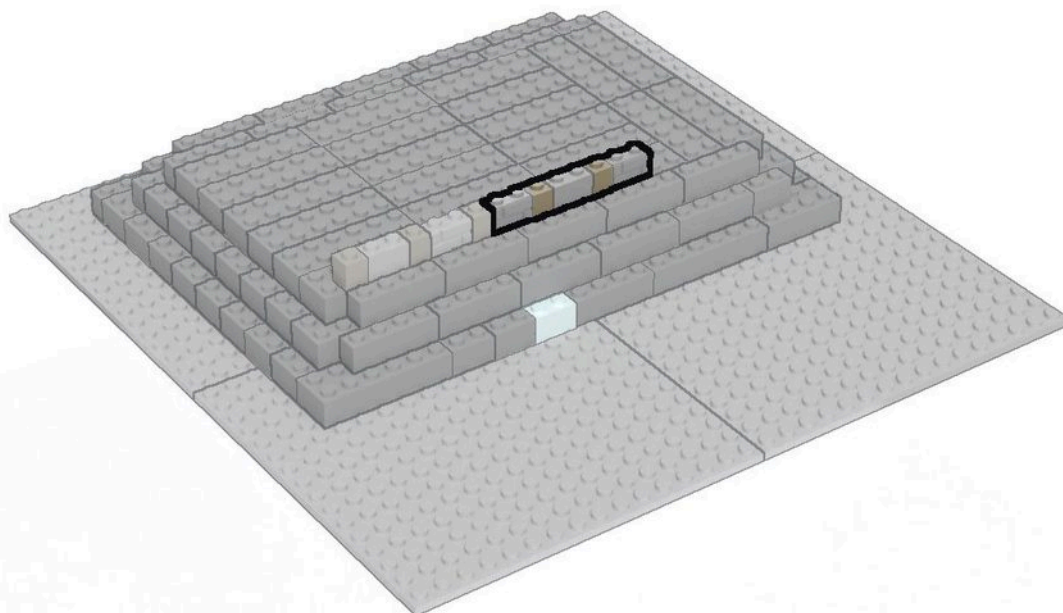
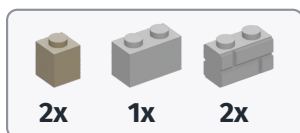
Steps 30–77



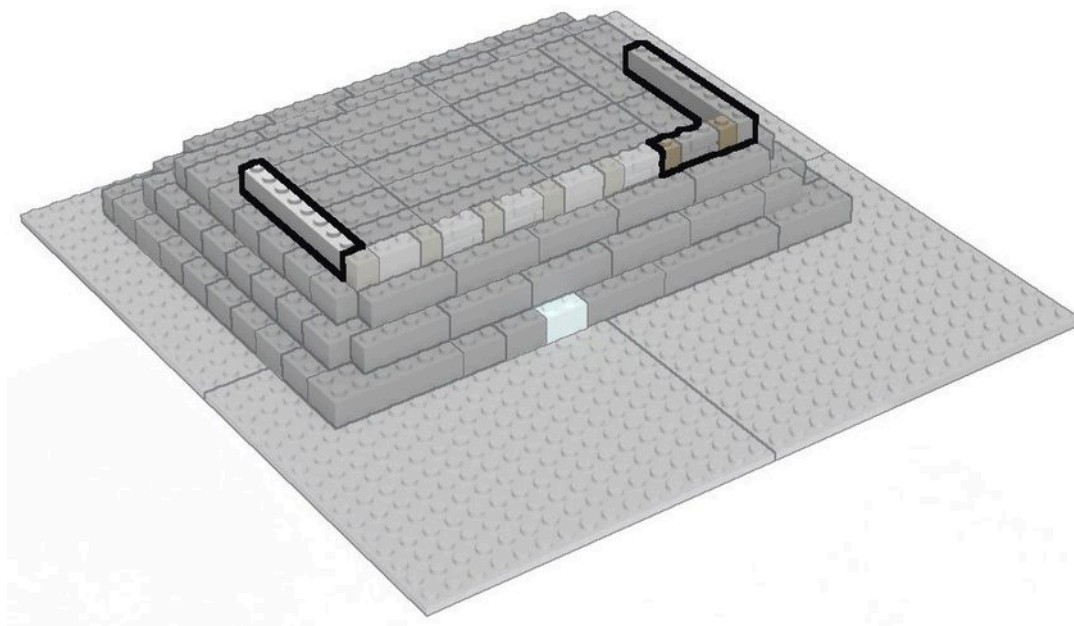
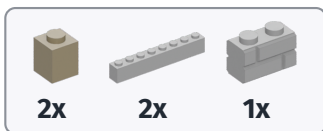
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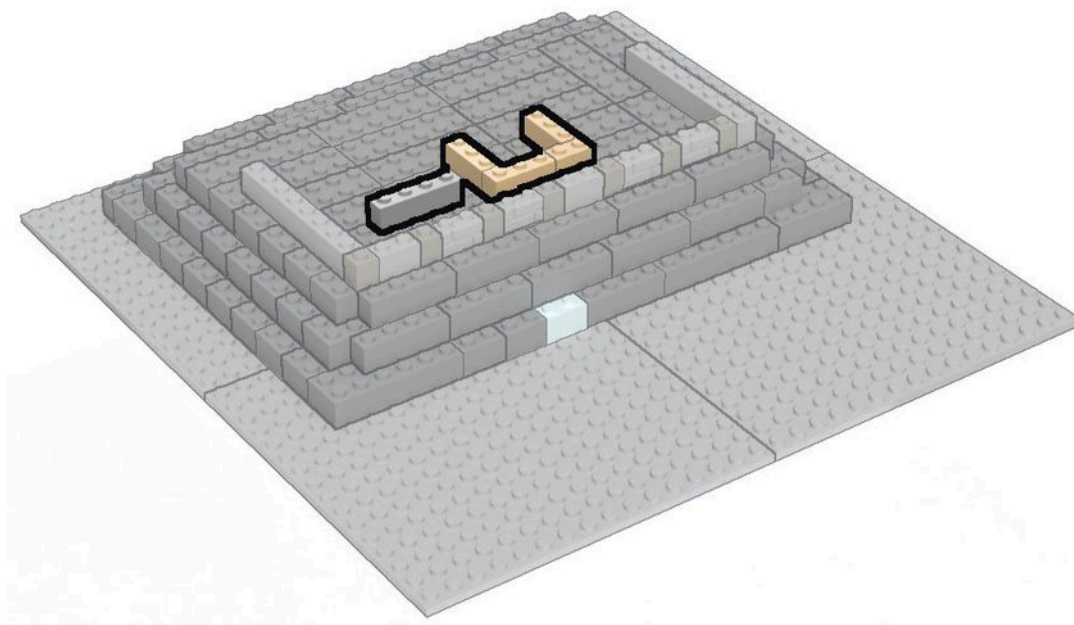
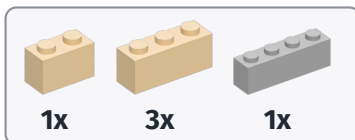
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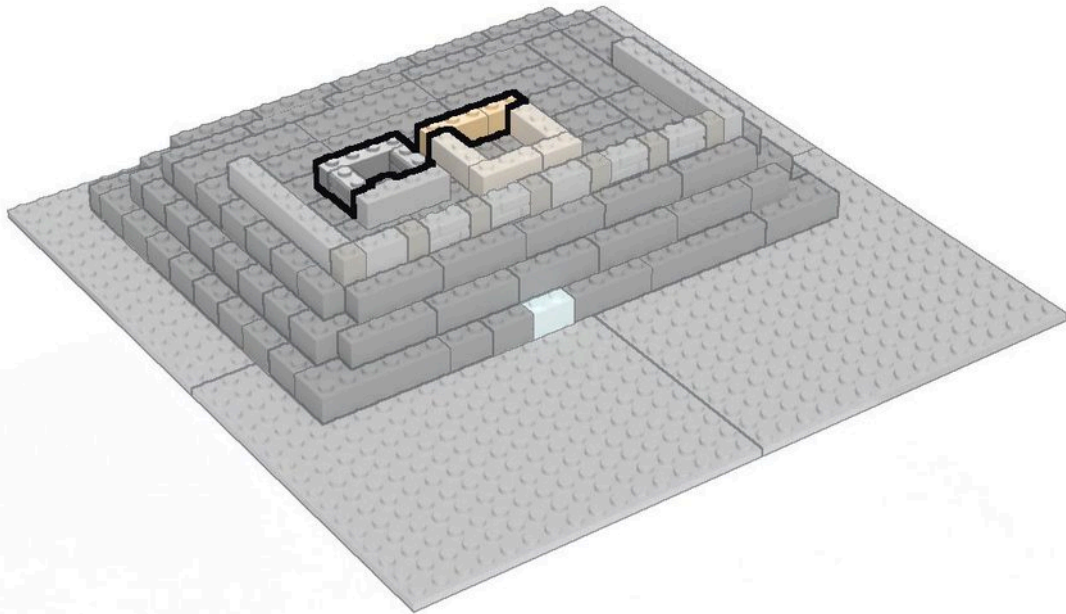
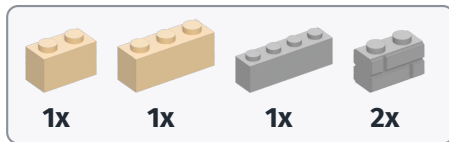
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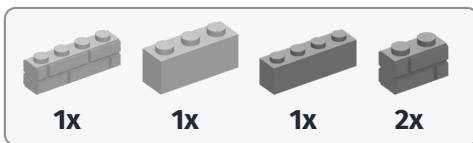
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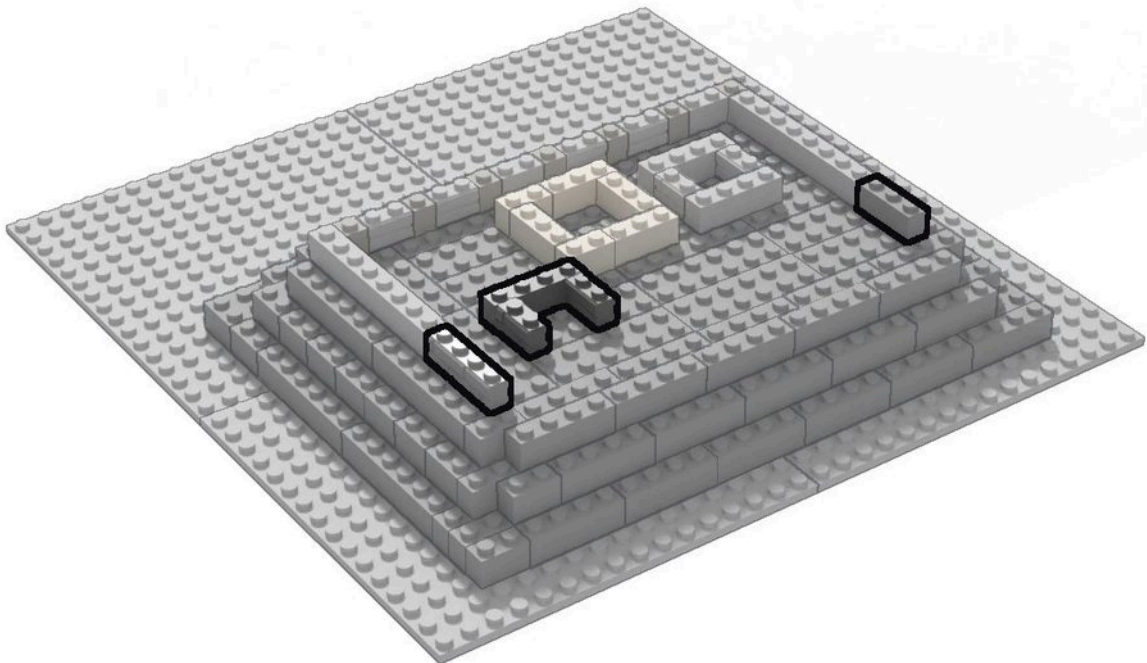
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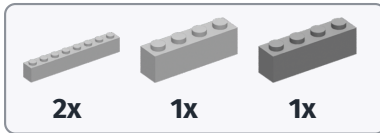
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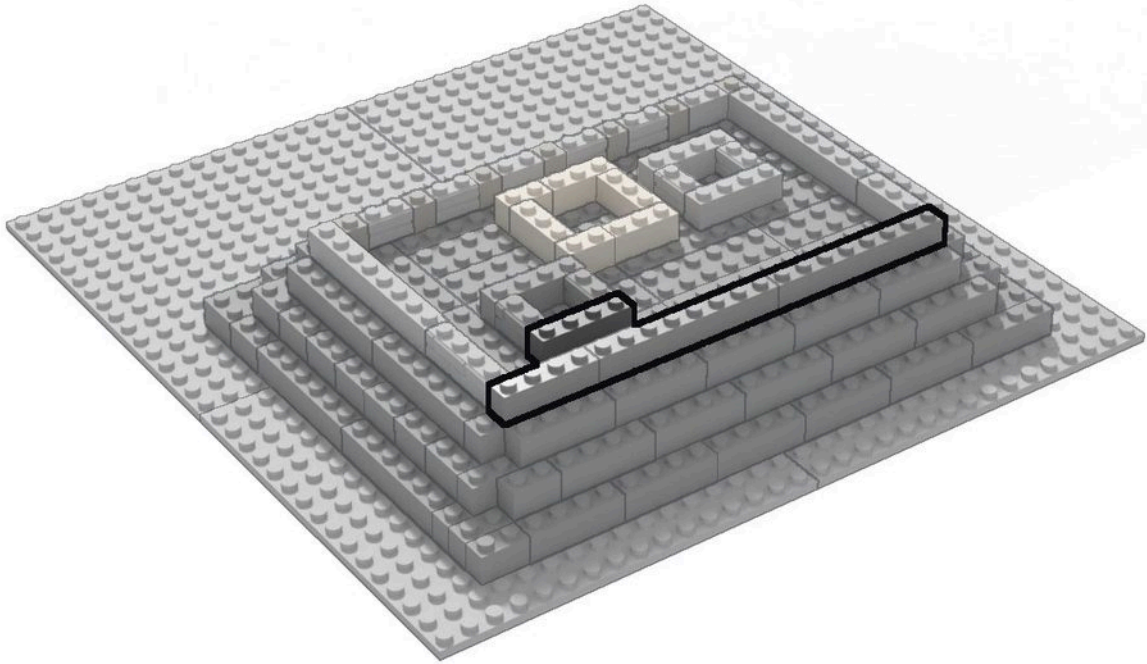
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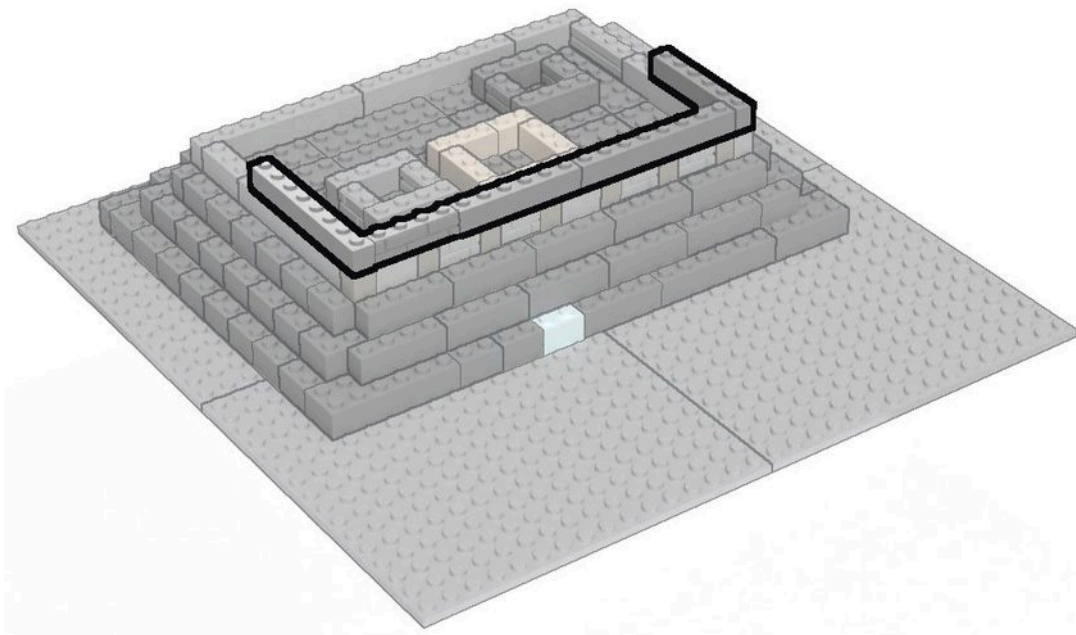
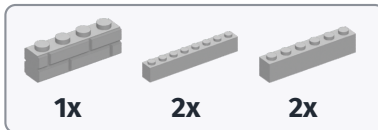
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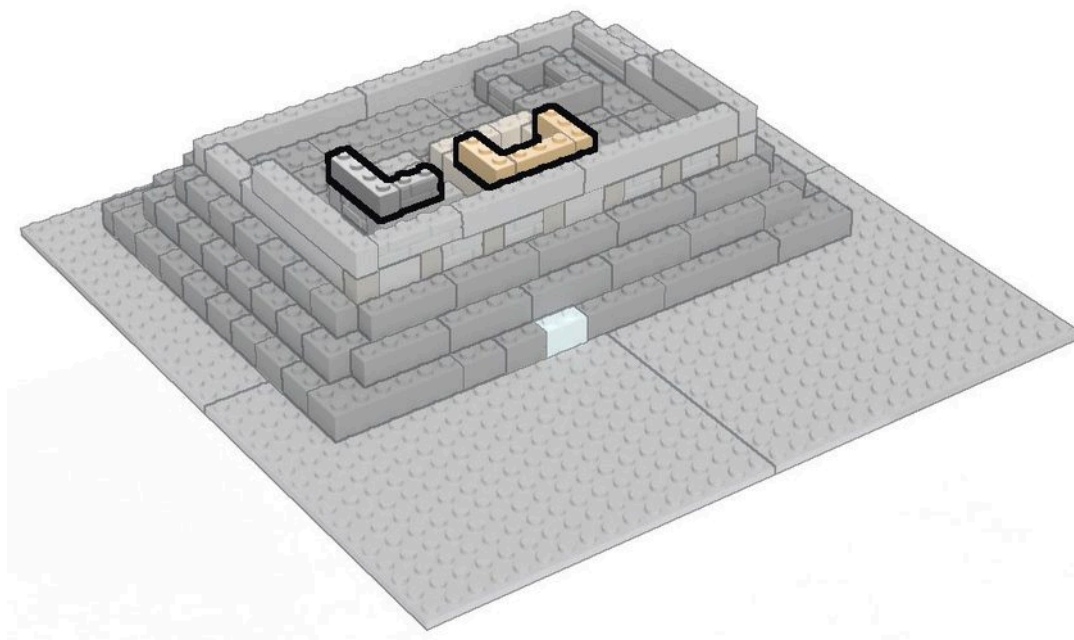
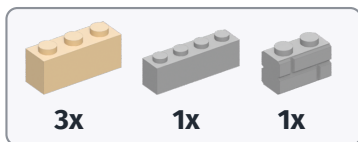
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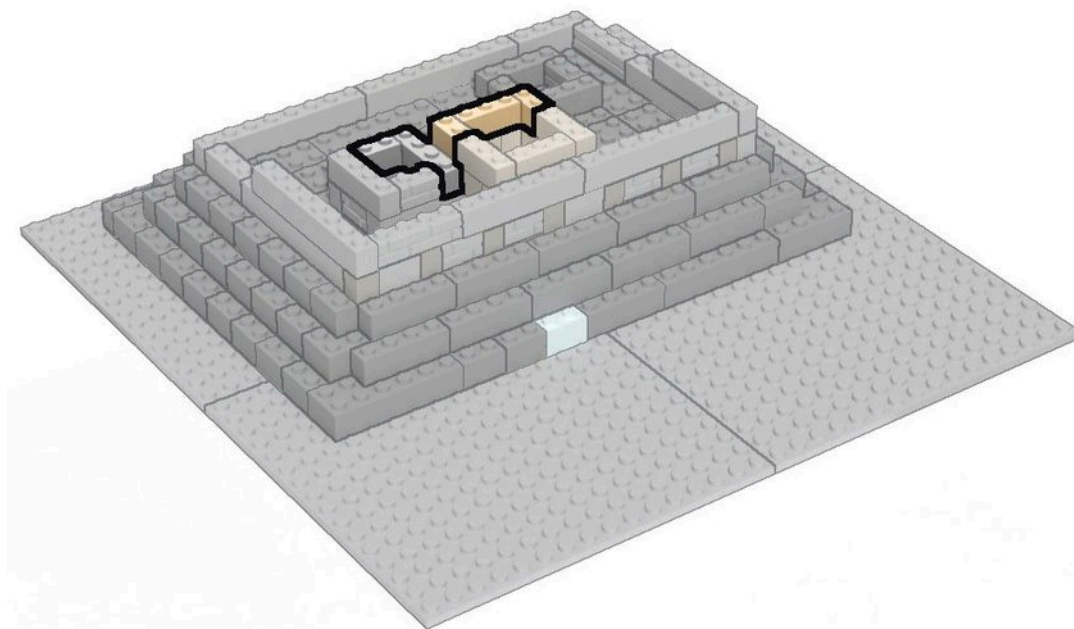
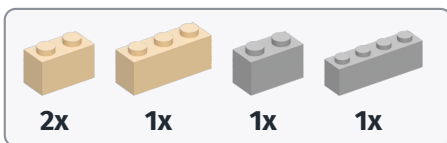
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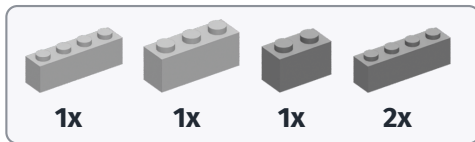
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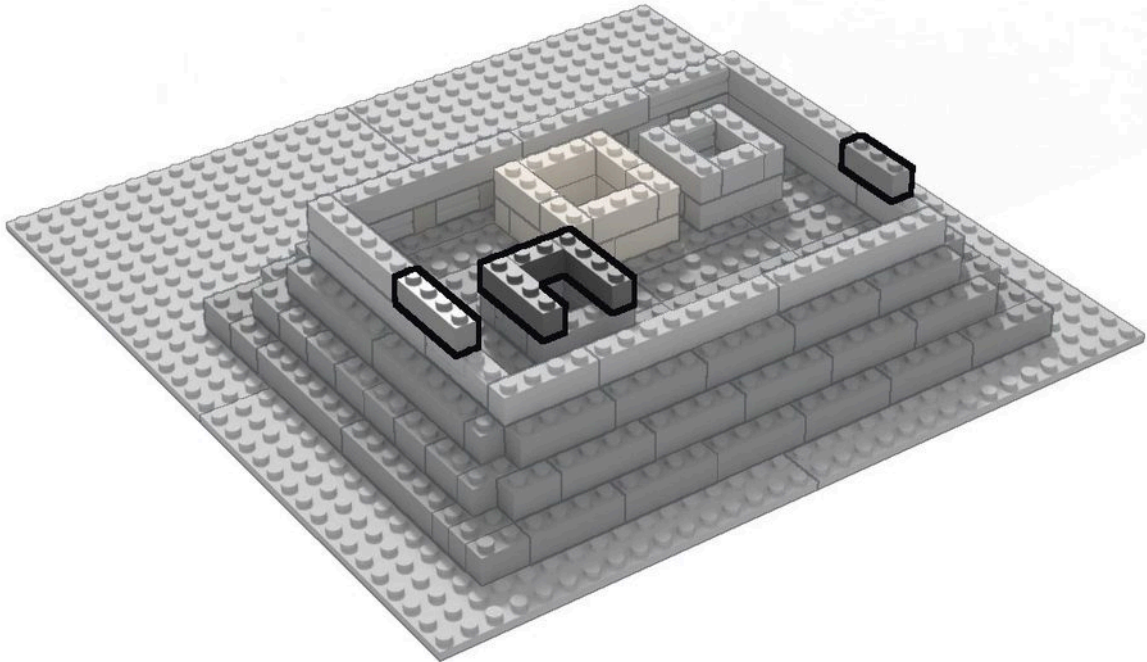
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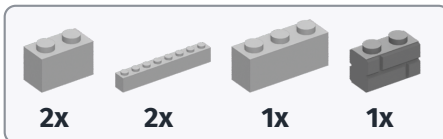
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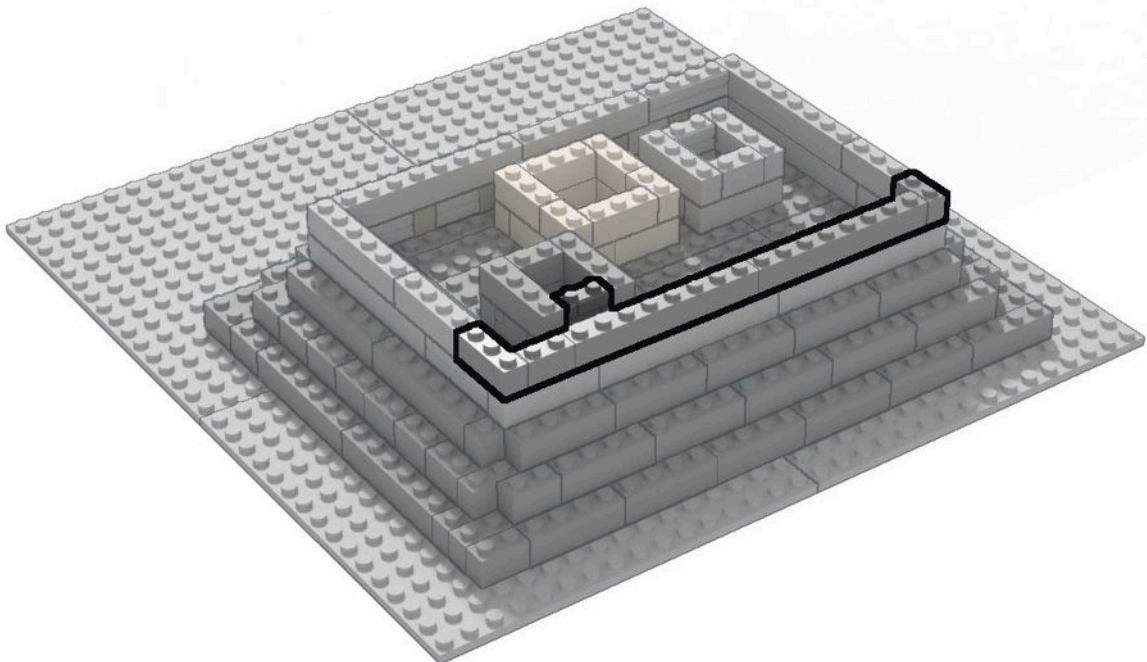
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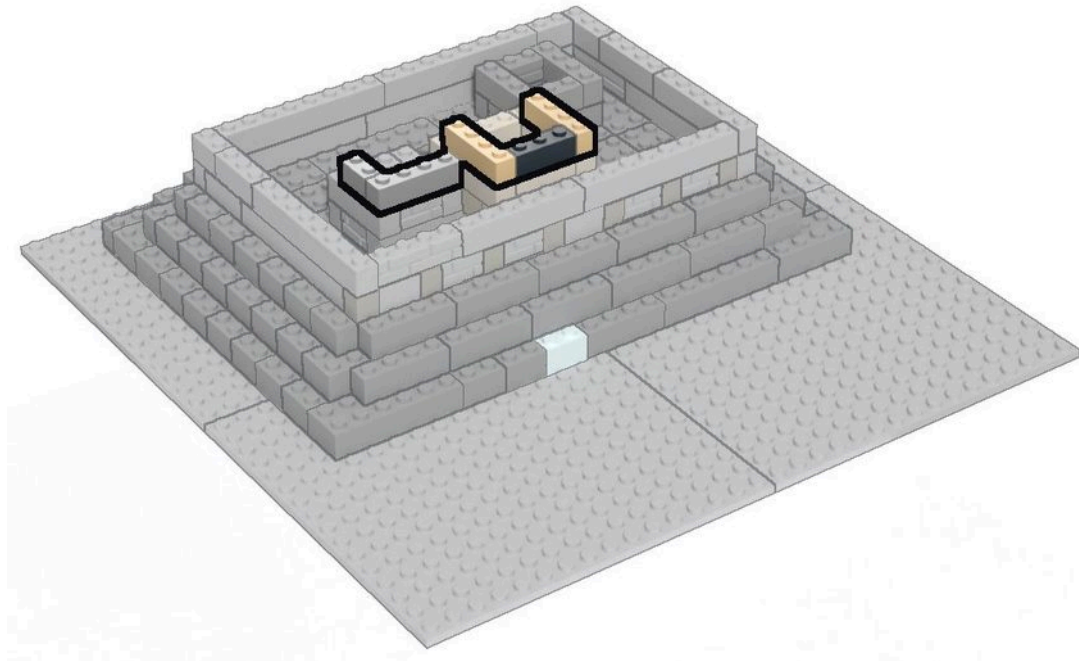
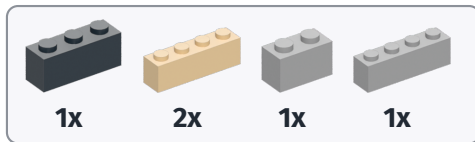
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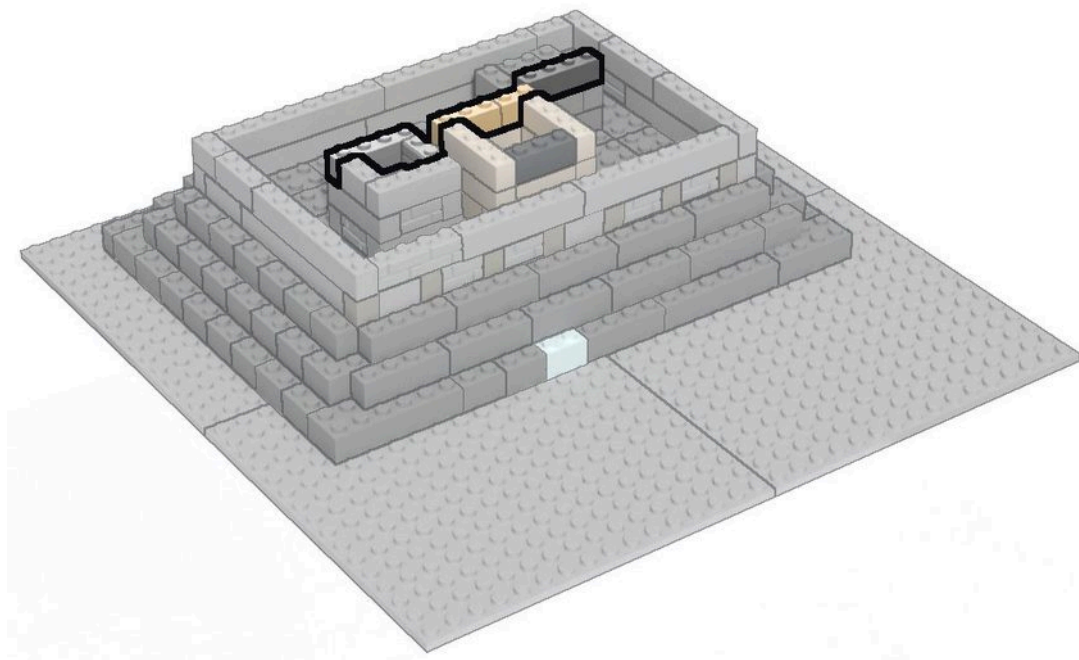
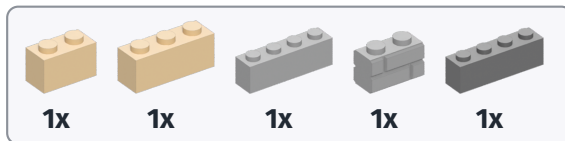
turn the model around



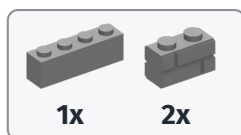
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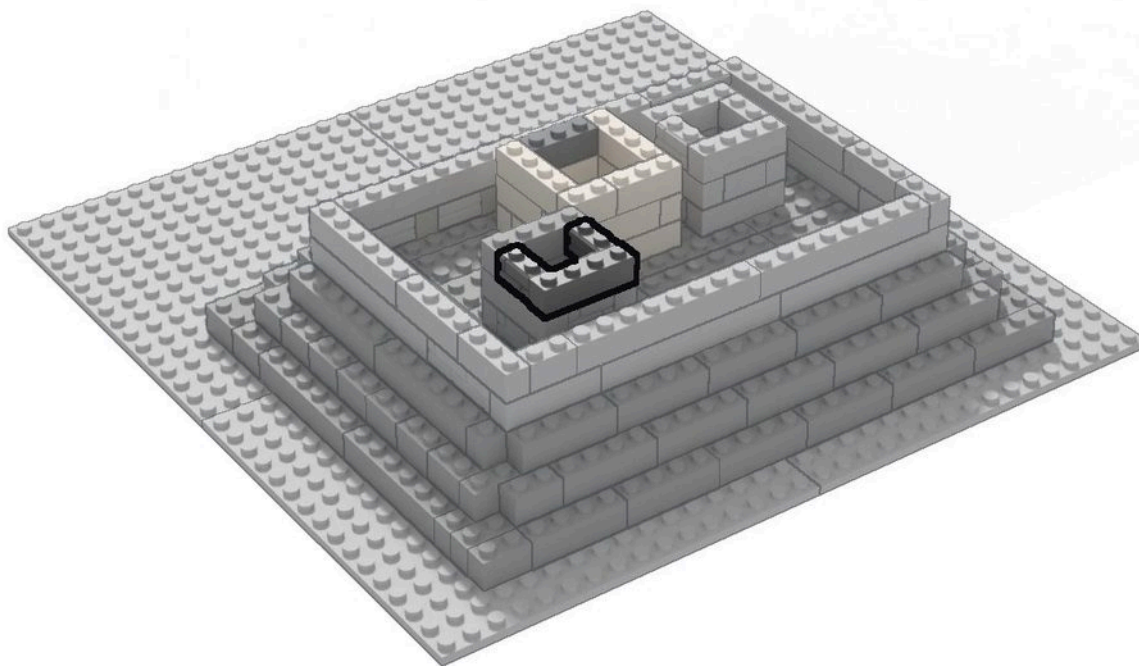
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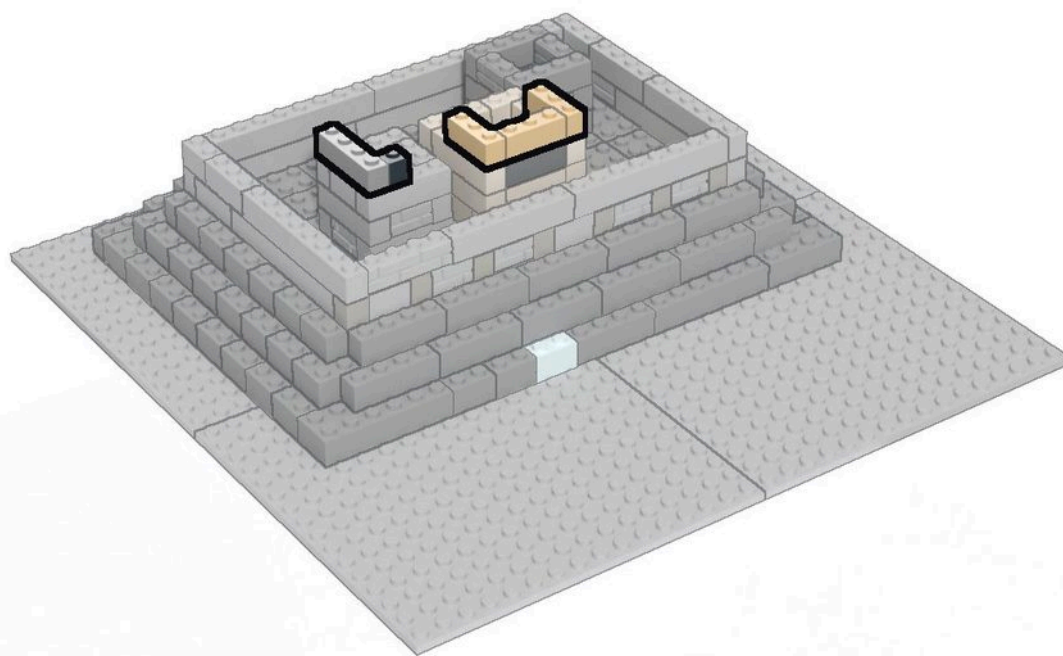
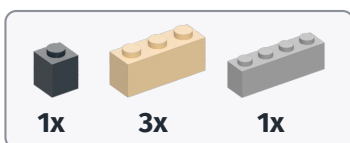
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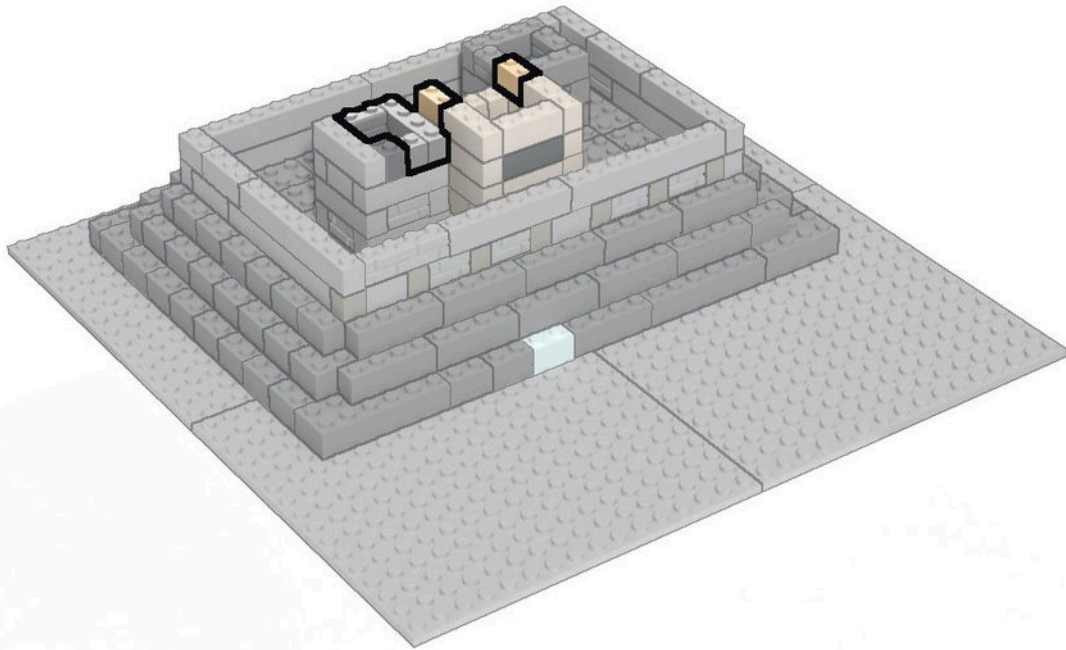
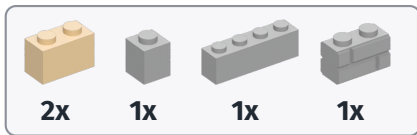
turn the model around



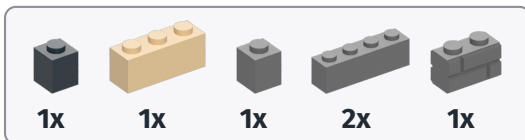
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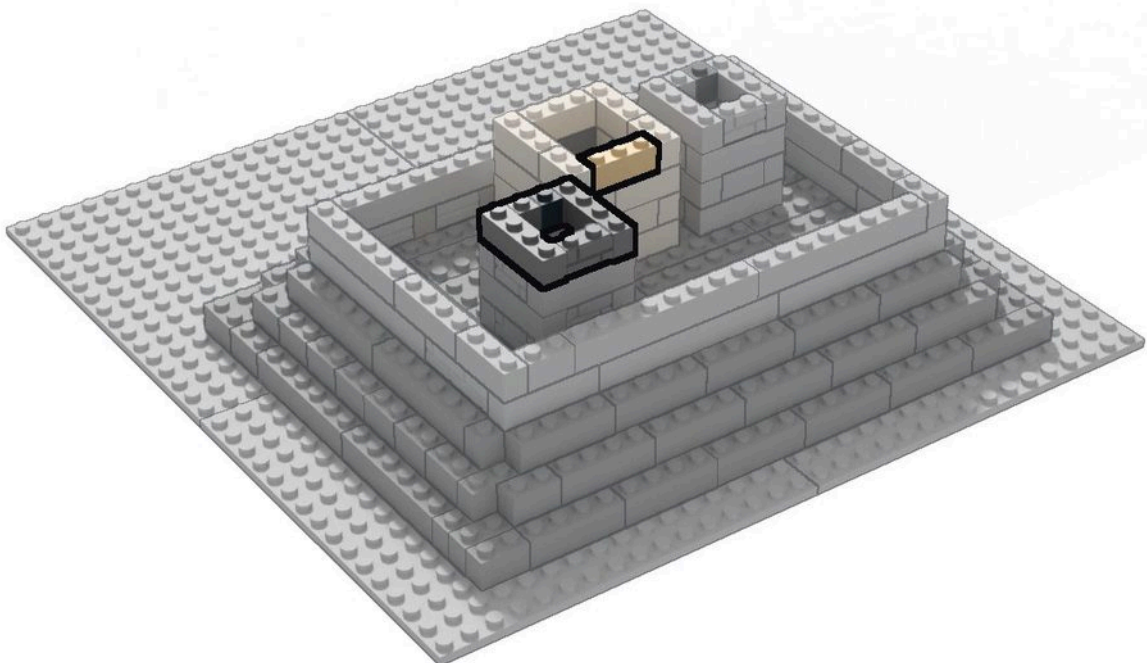
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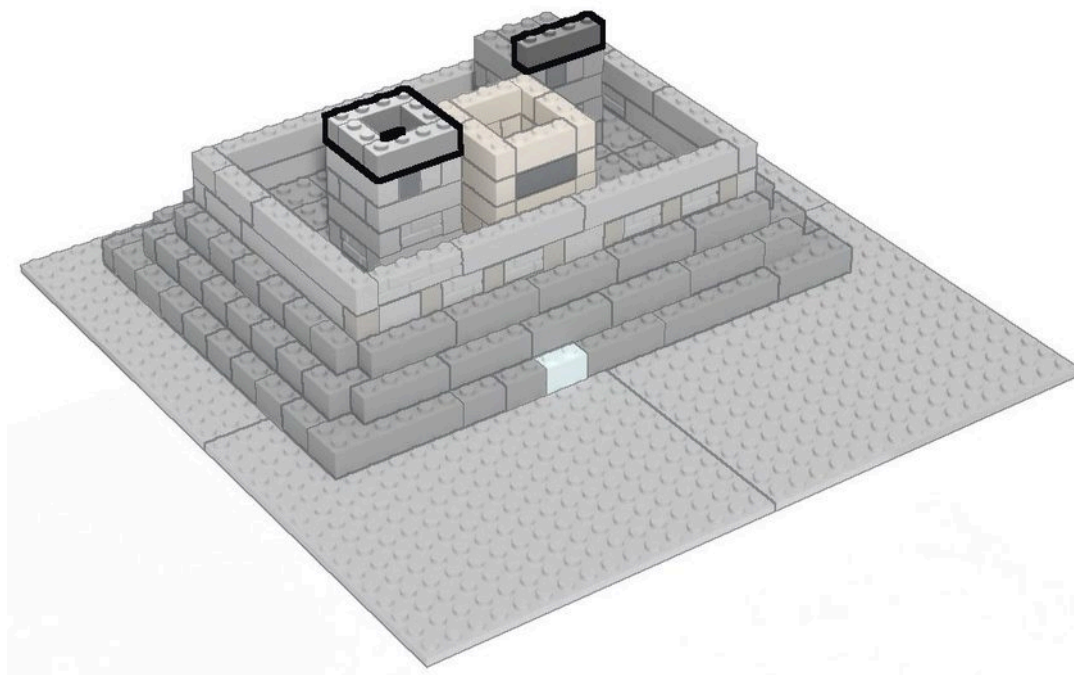
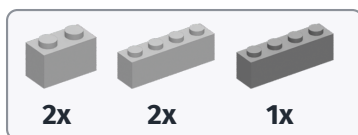
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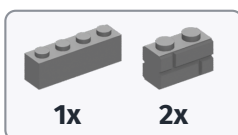
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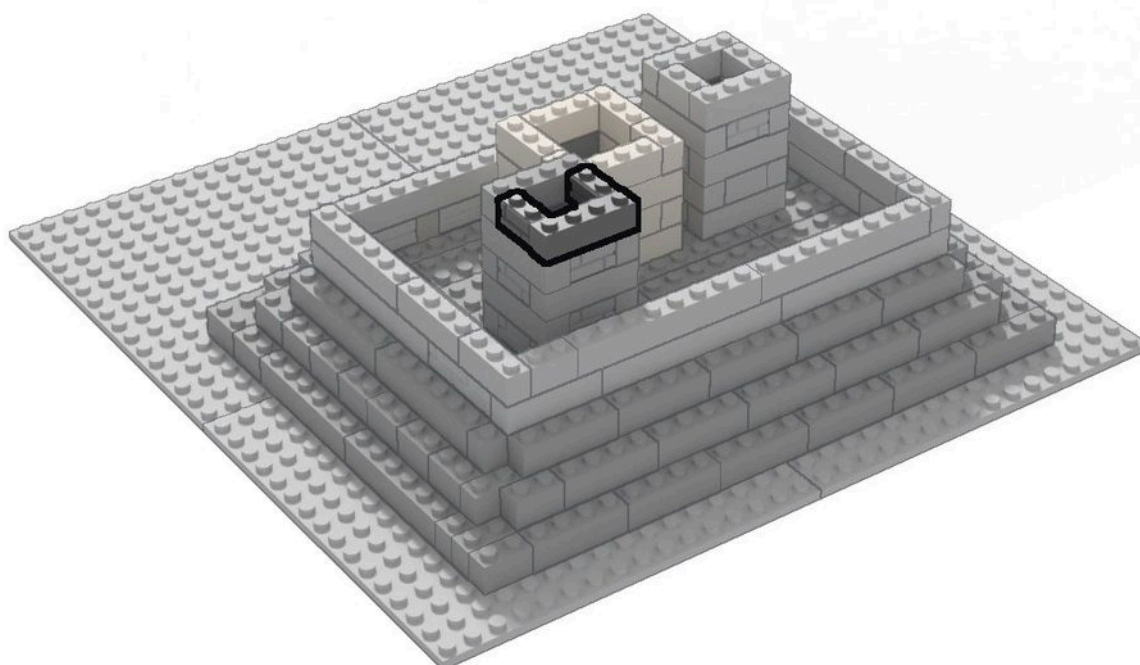
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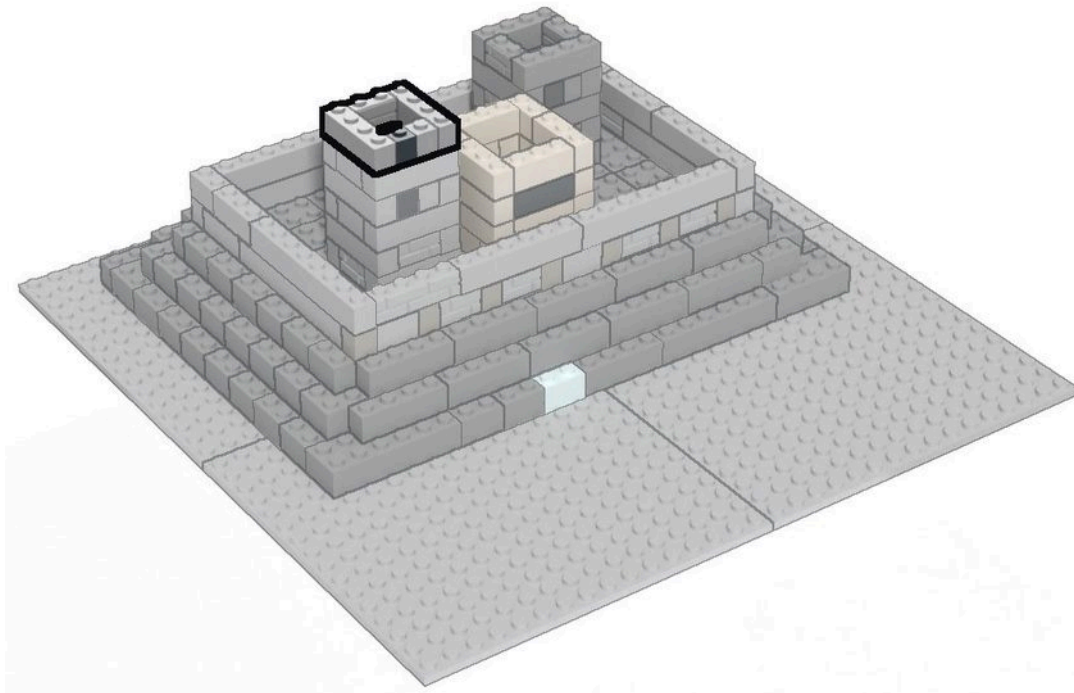
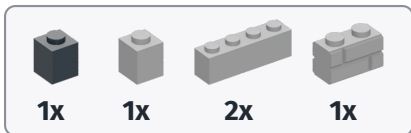
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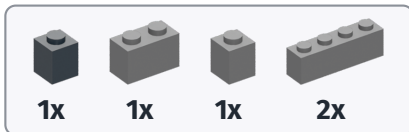
turn the model around



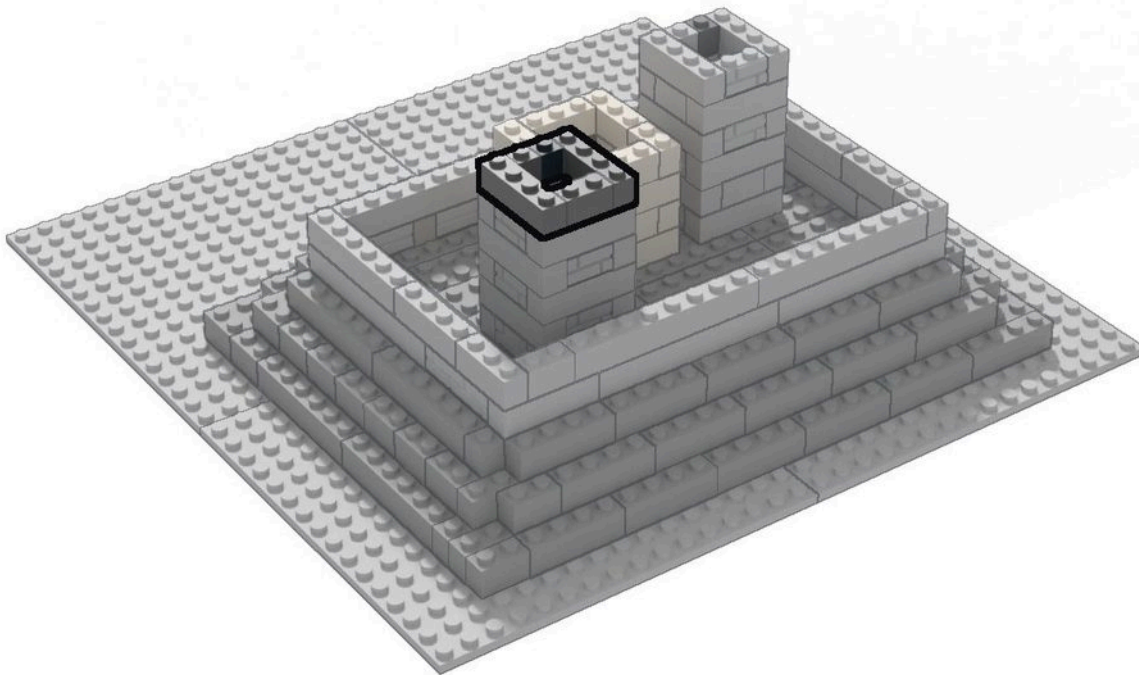
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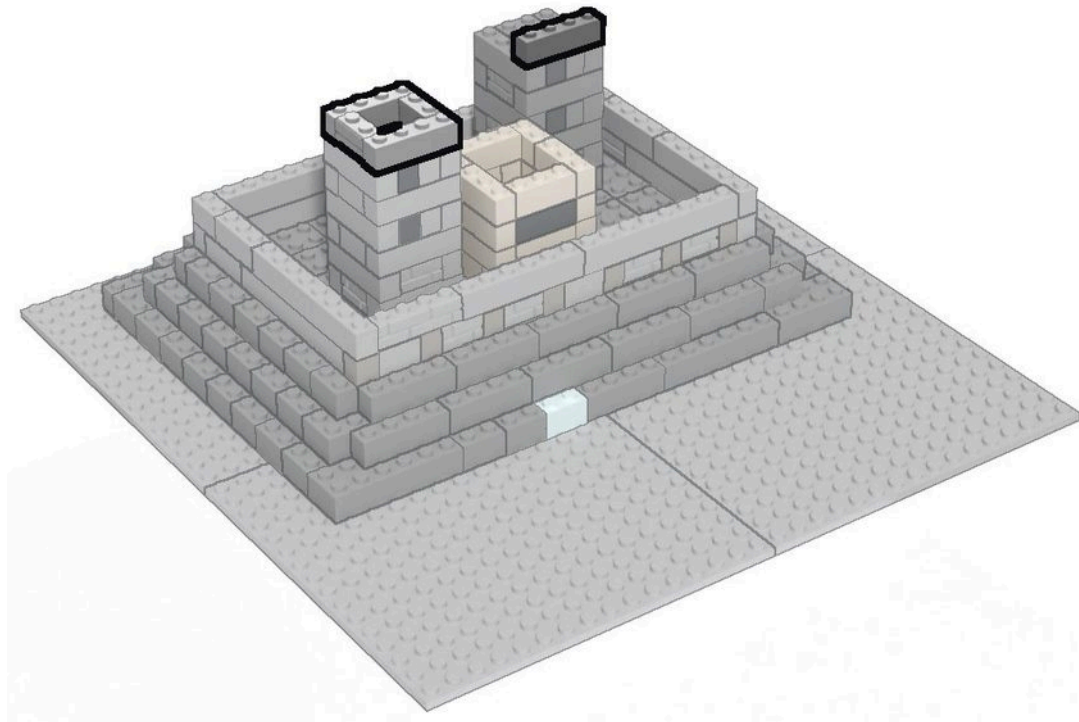
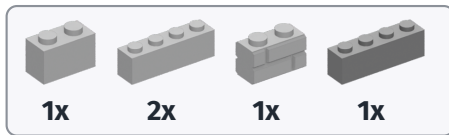
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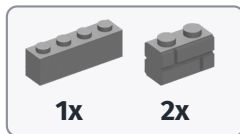
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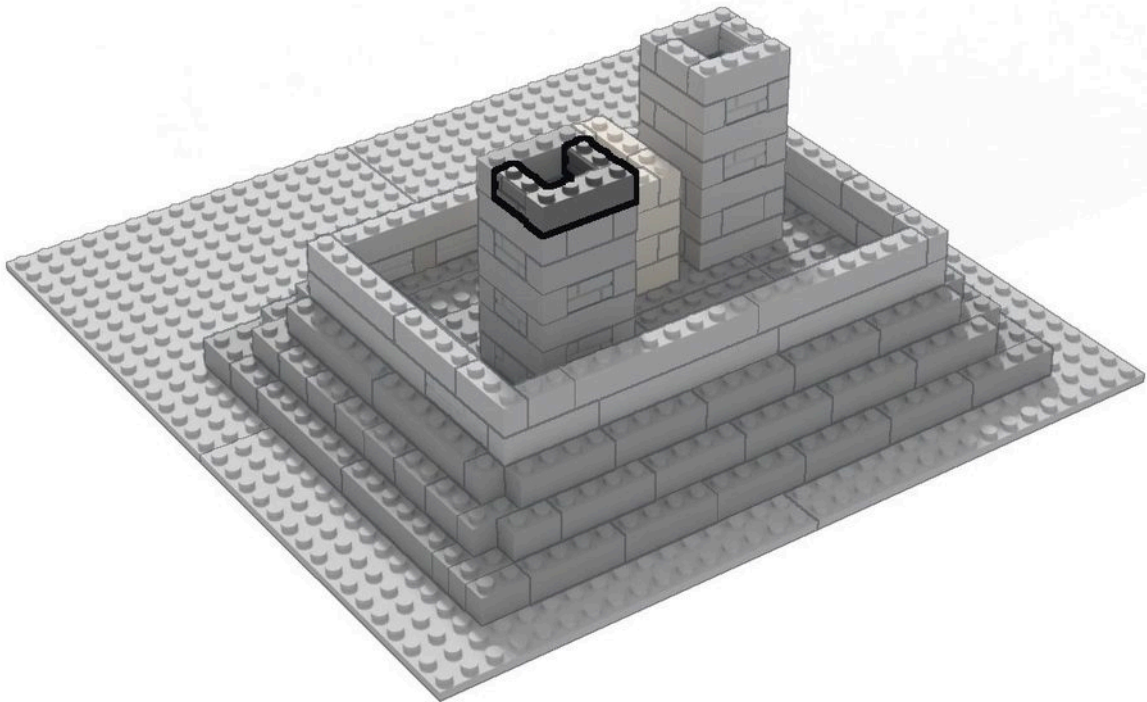
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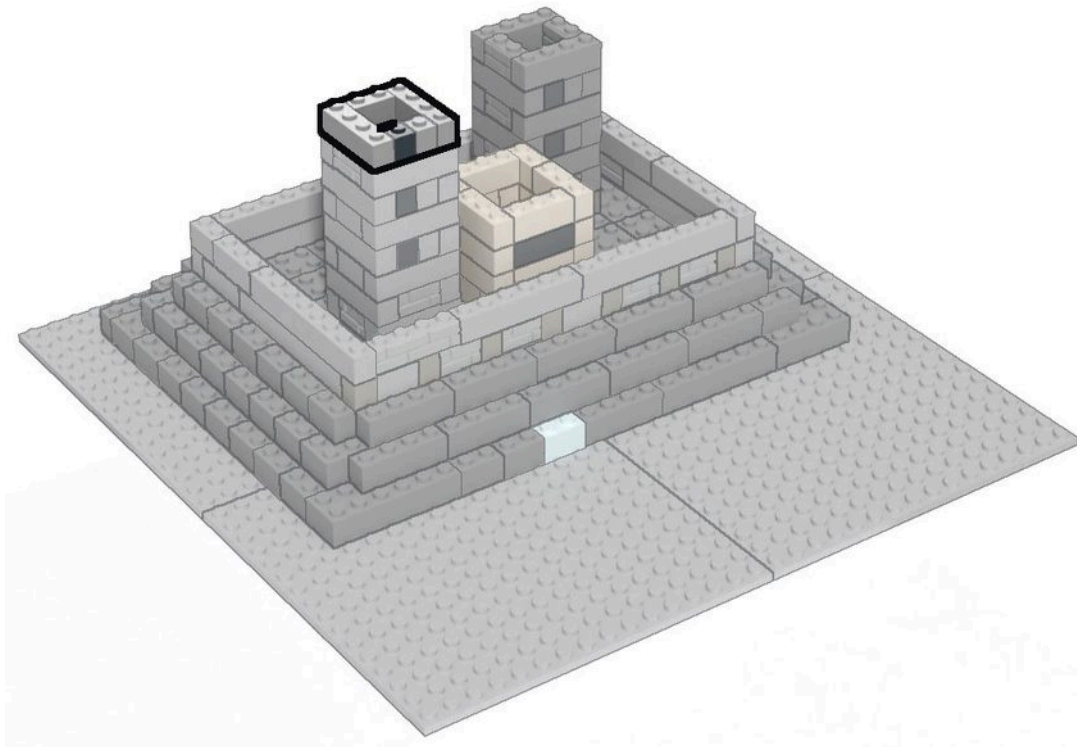
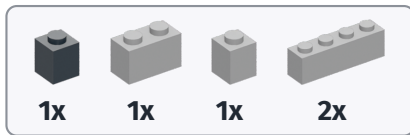
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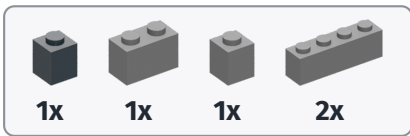
turn the model around



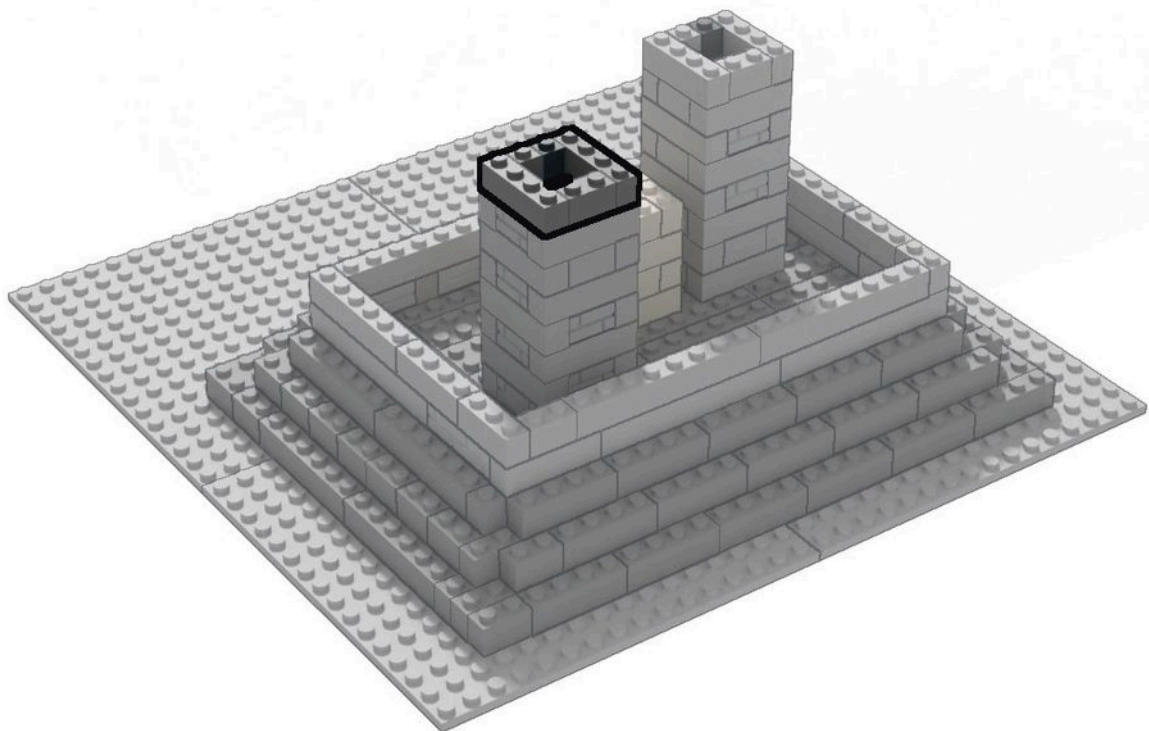
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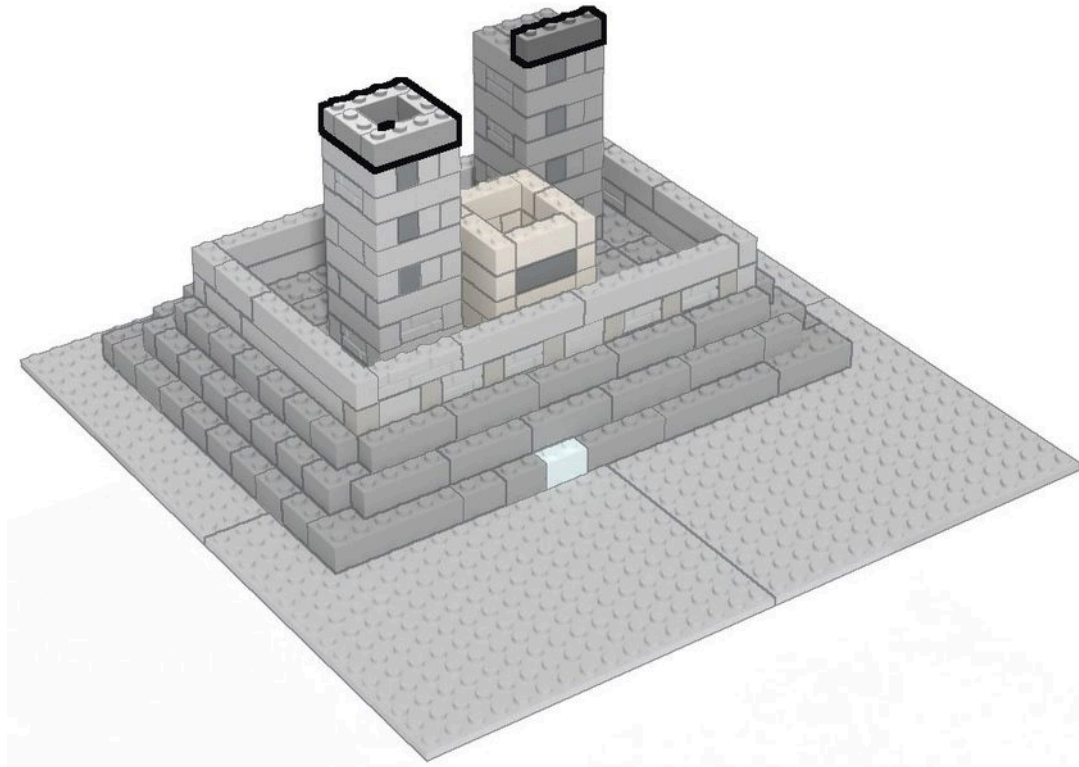
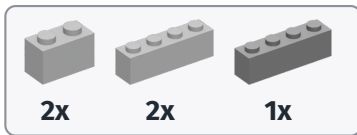
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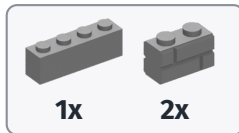
turn the model around



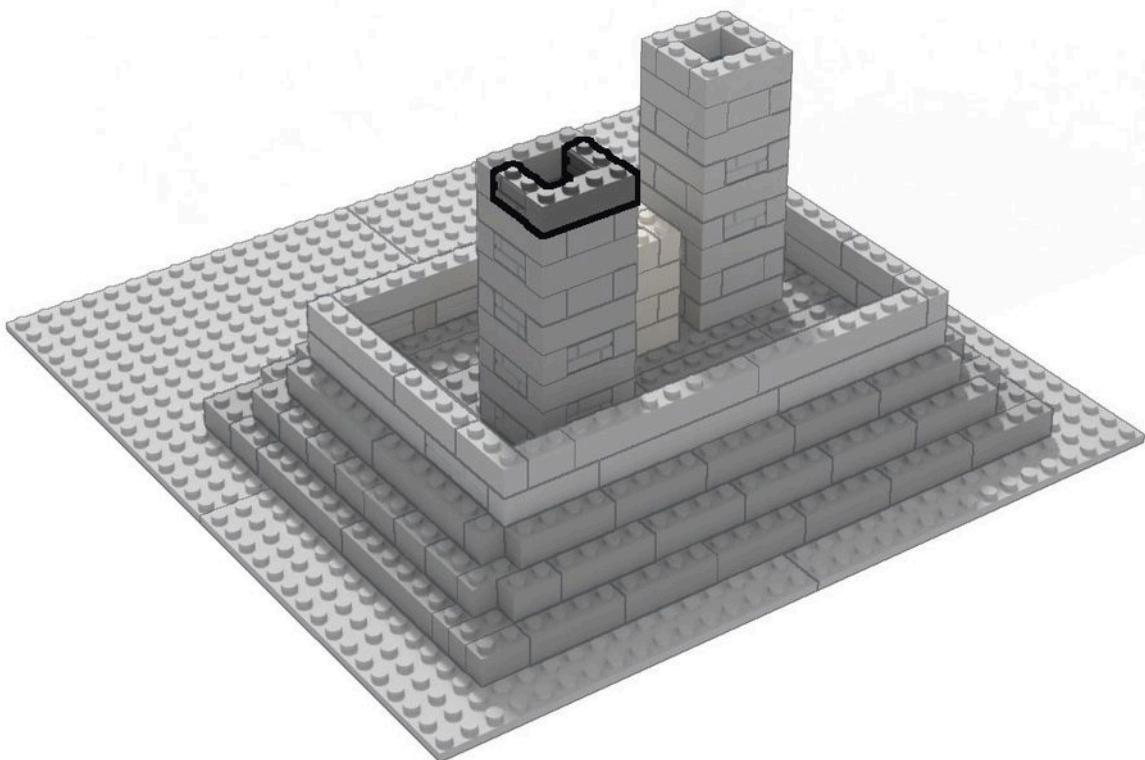
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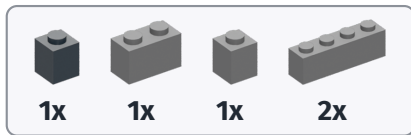
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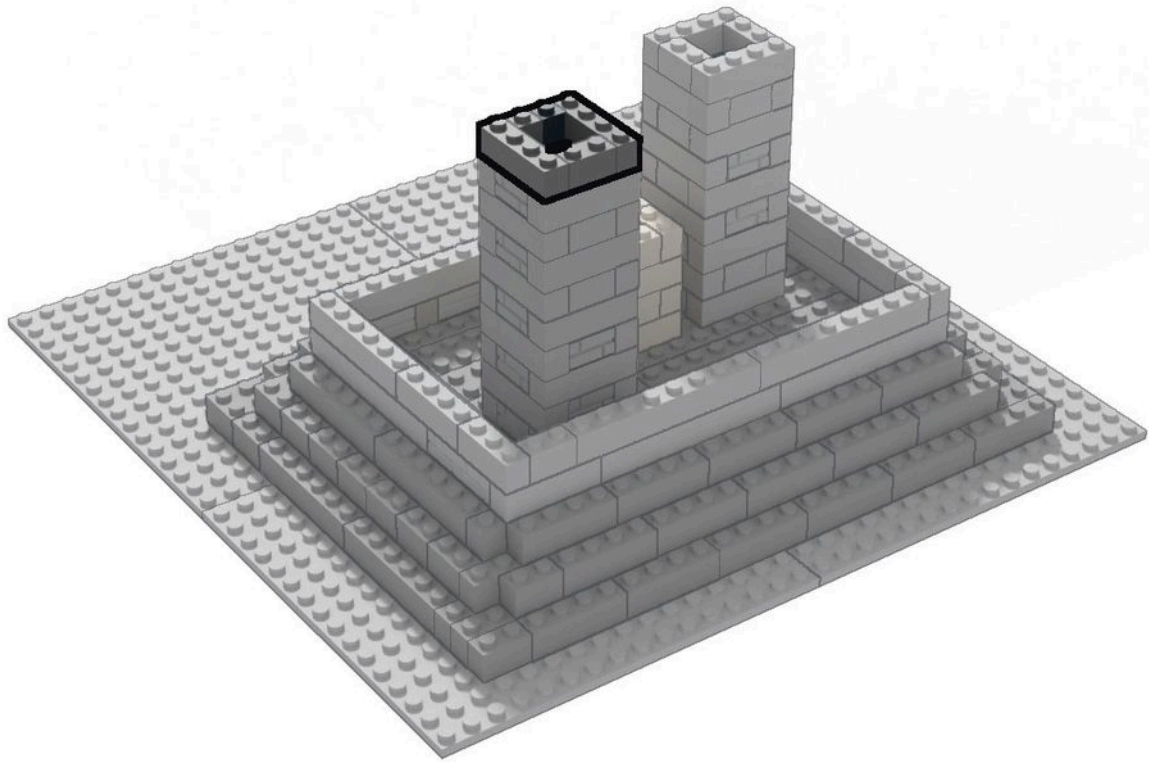
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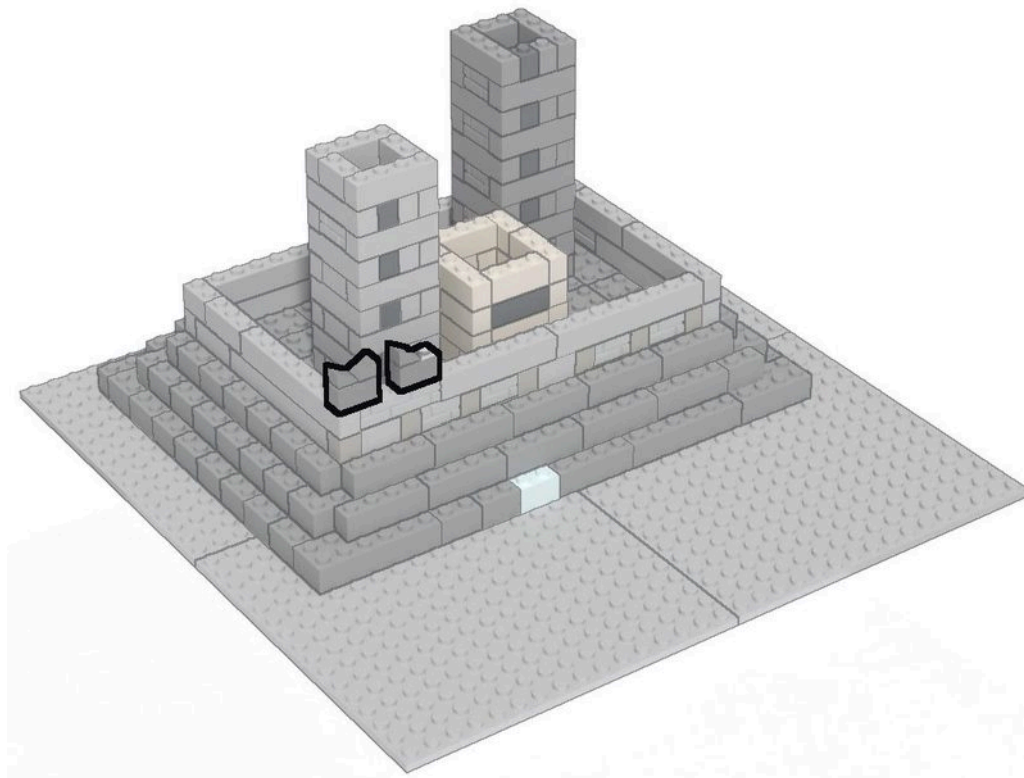
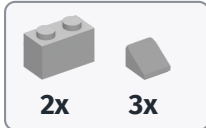
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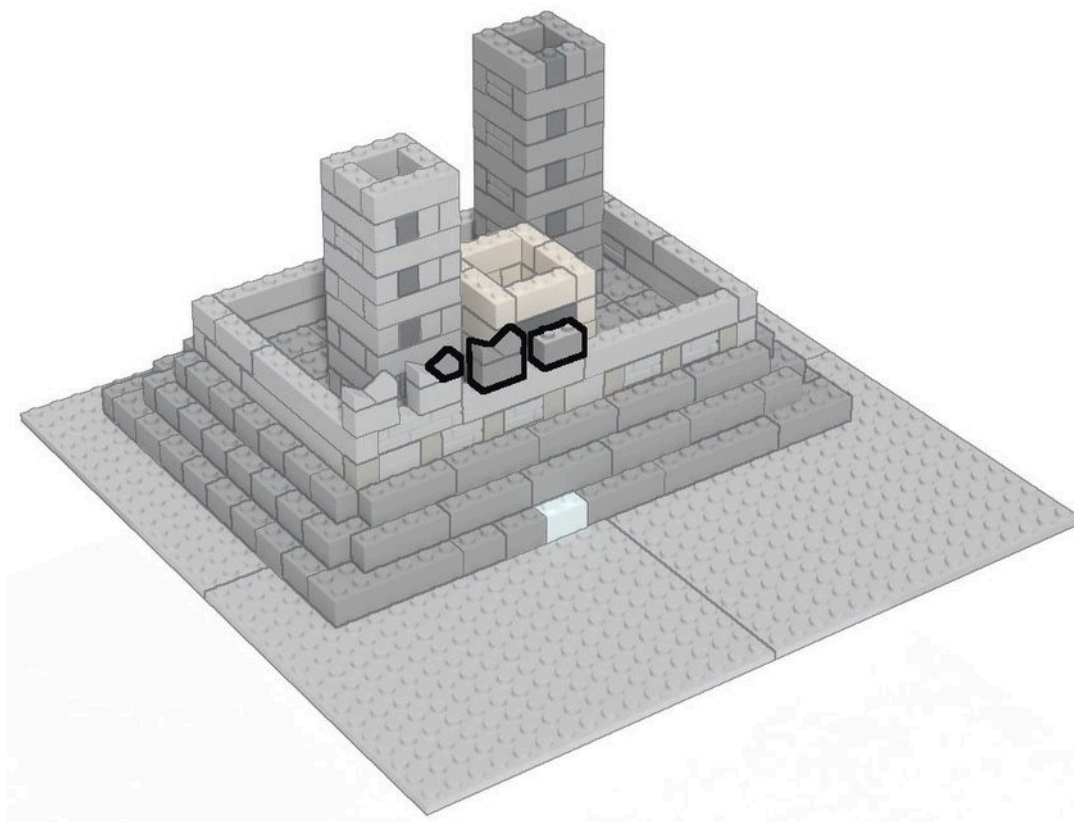
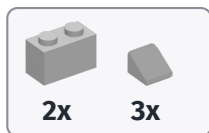
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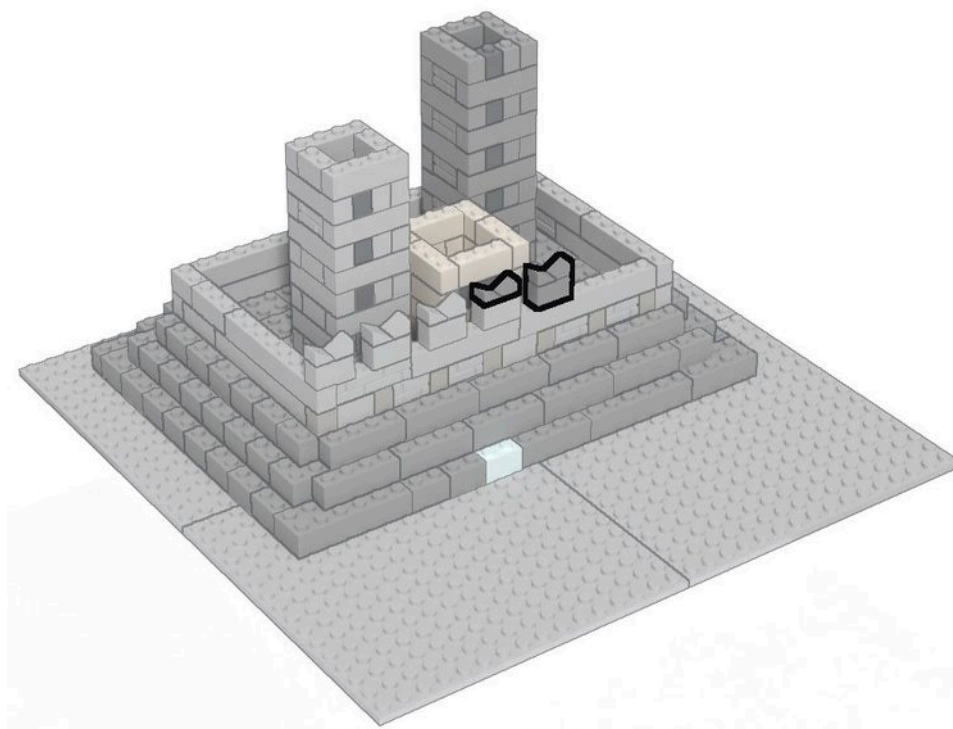
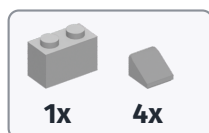
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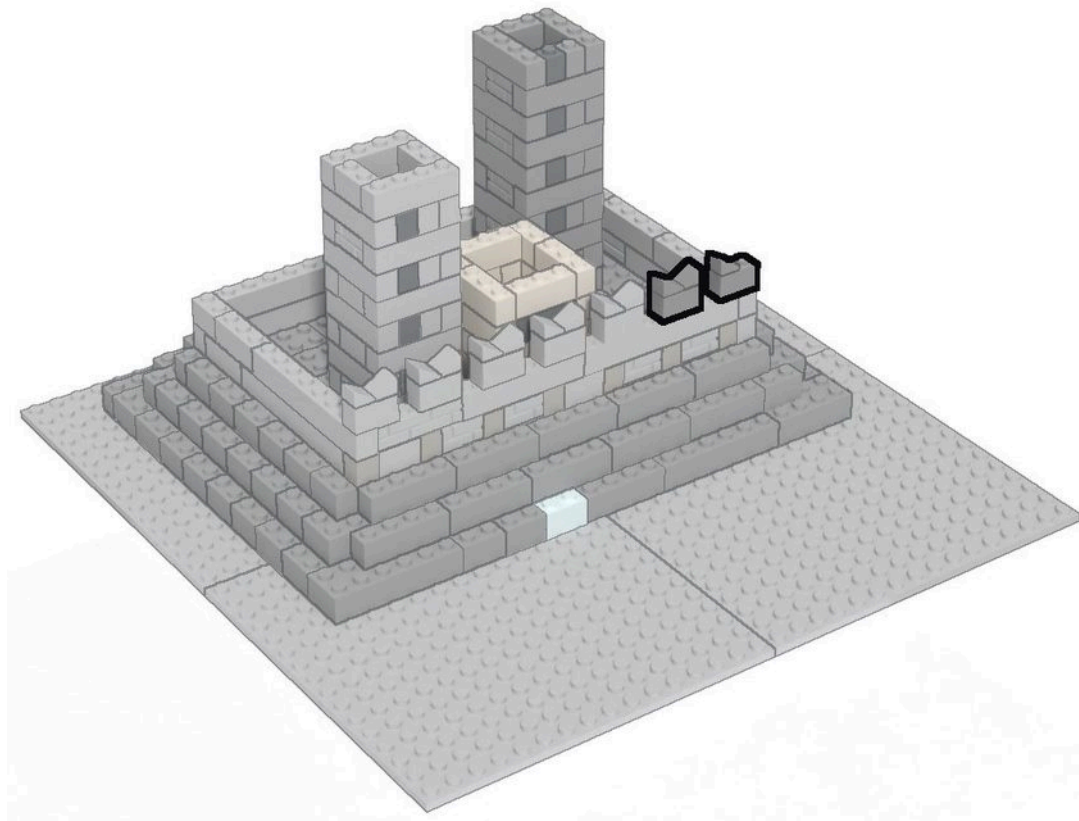
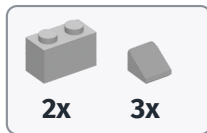
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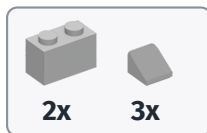
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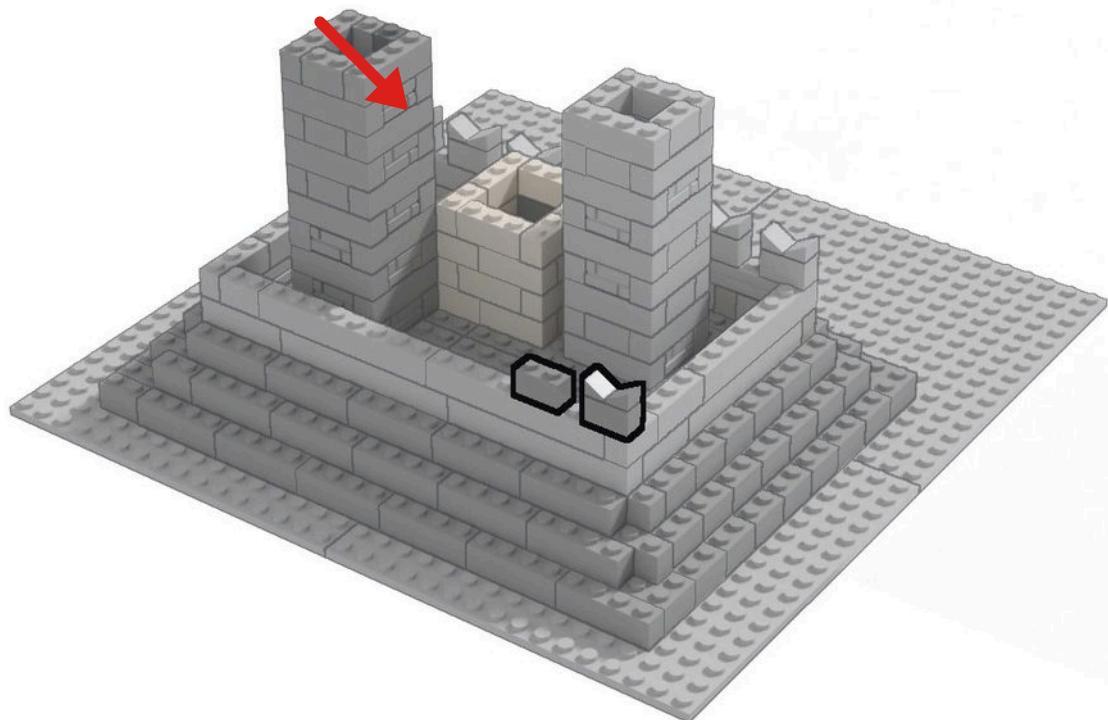
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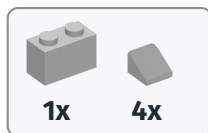
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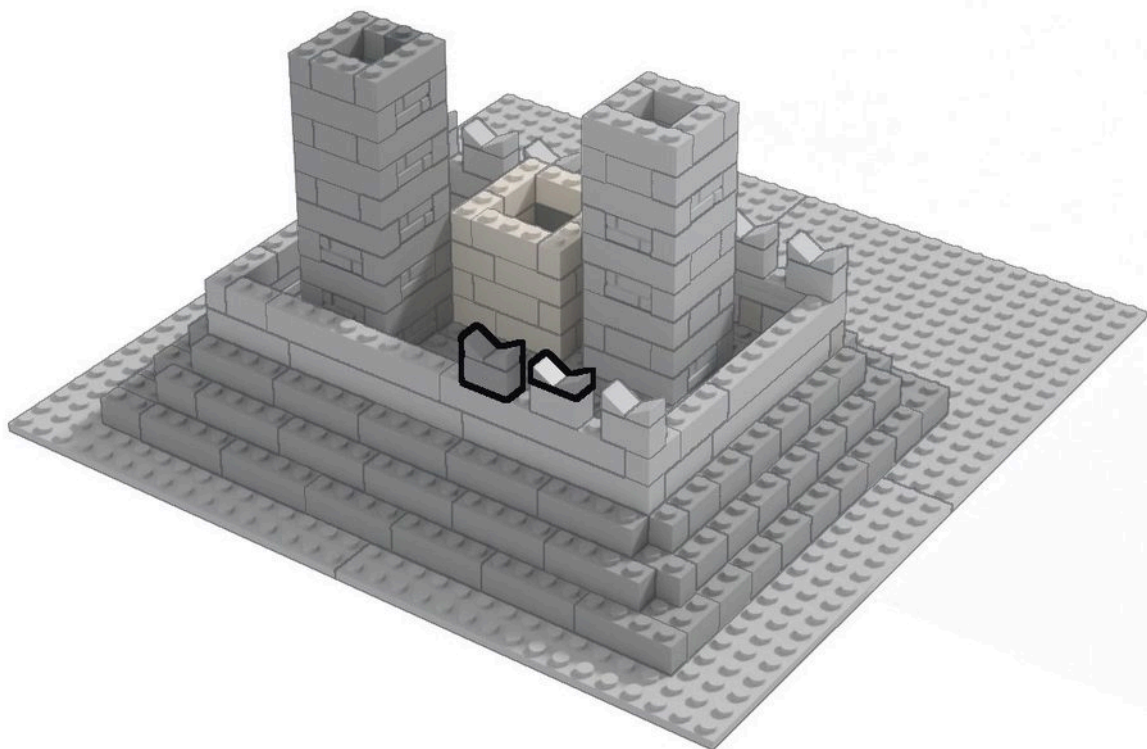
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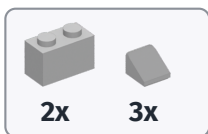
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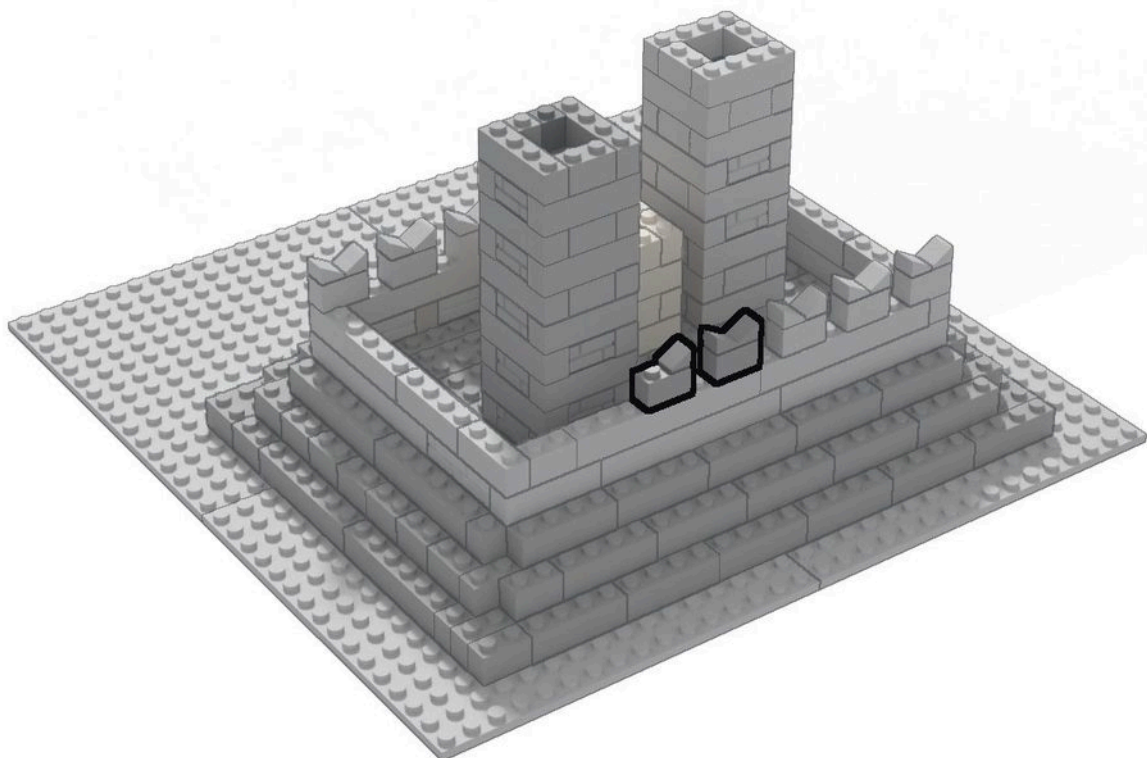
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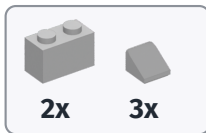
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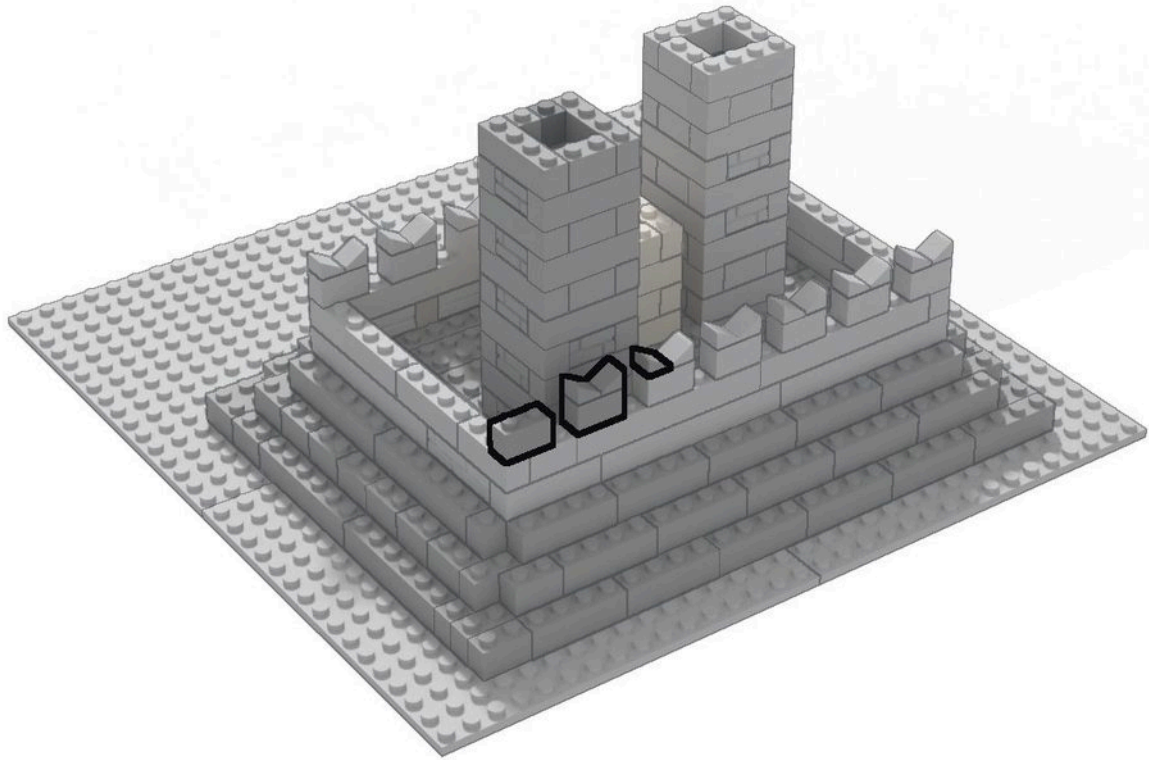
turn the model around



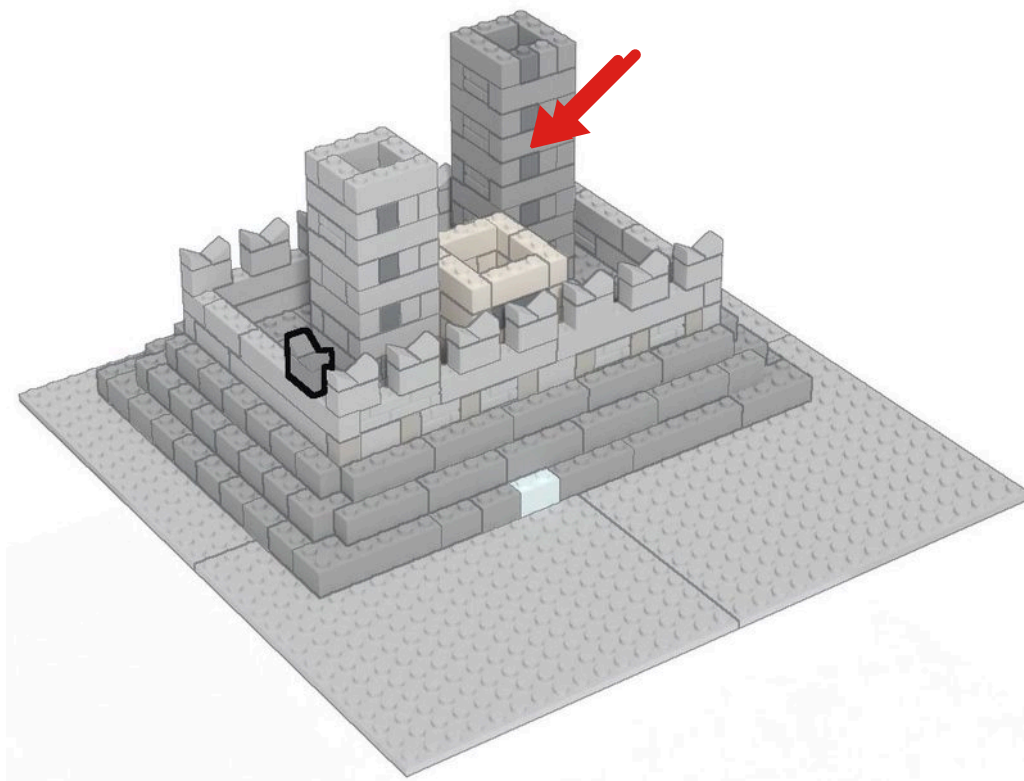
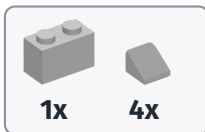
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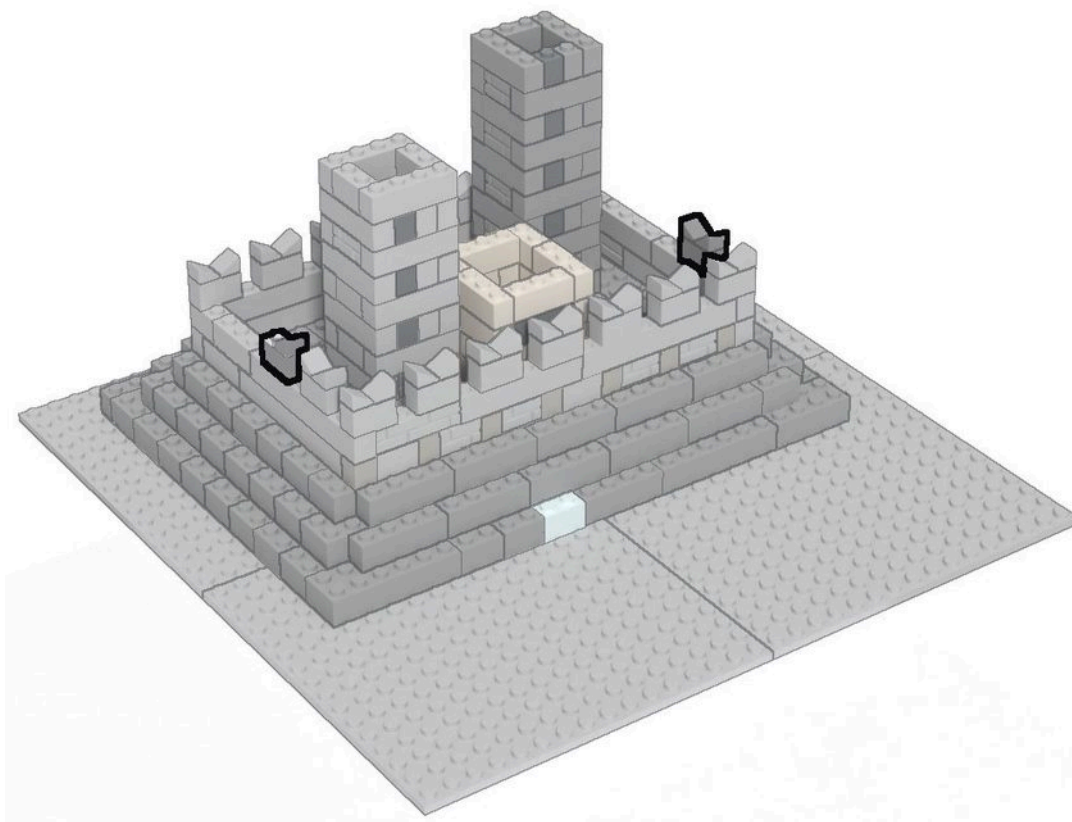
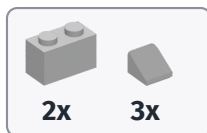
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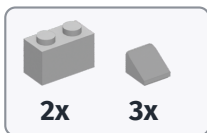
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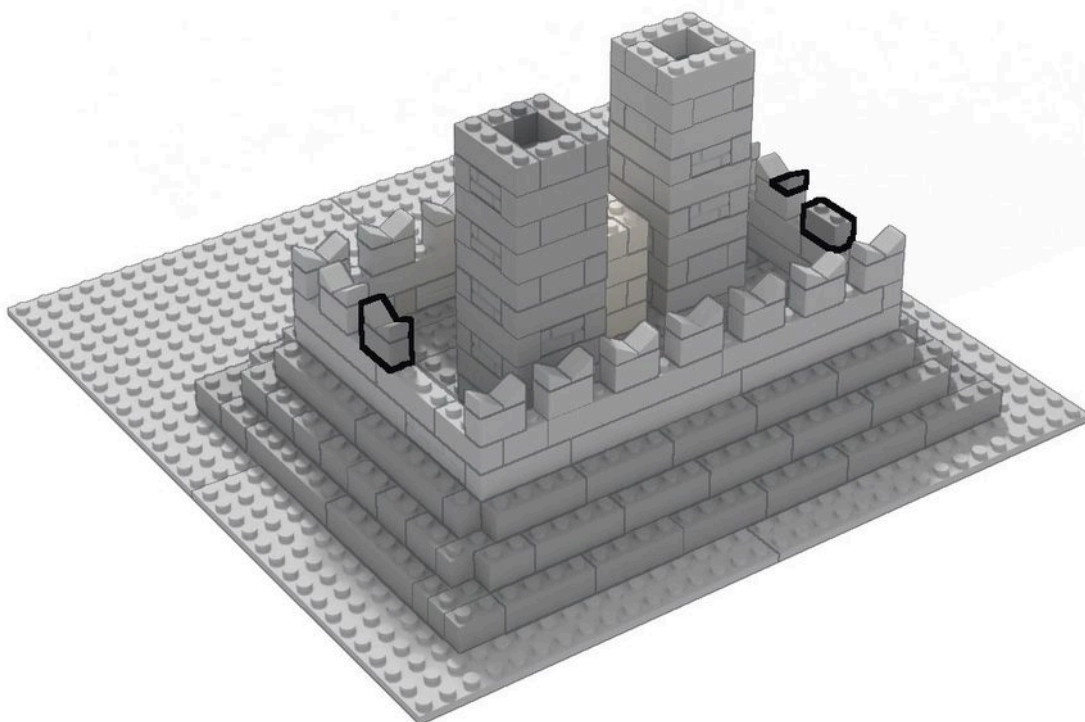
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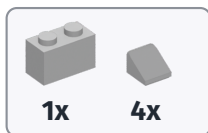
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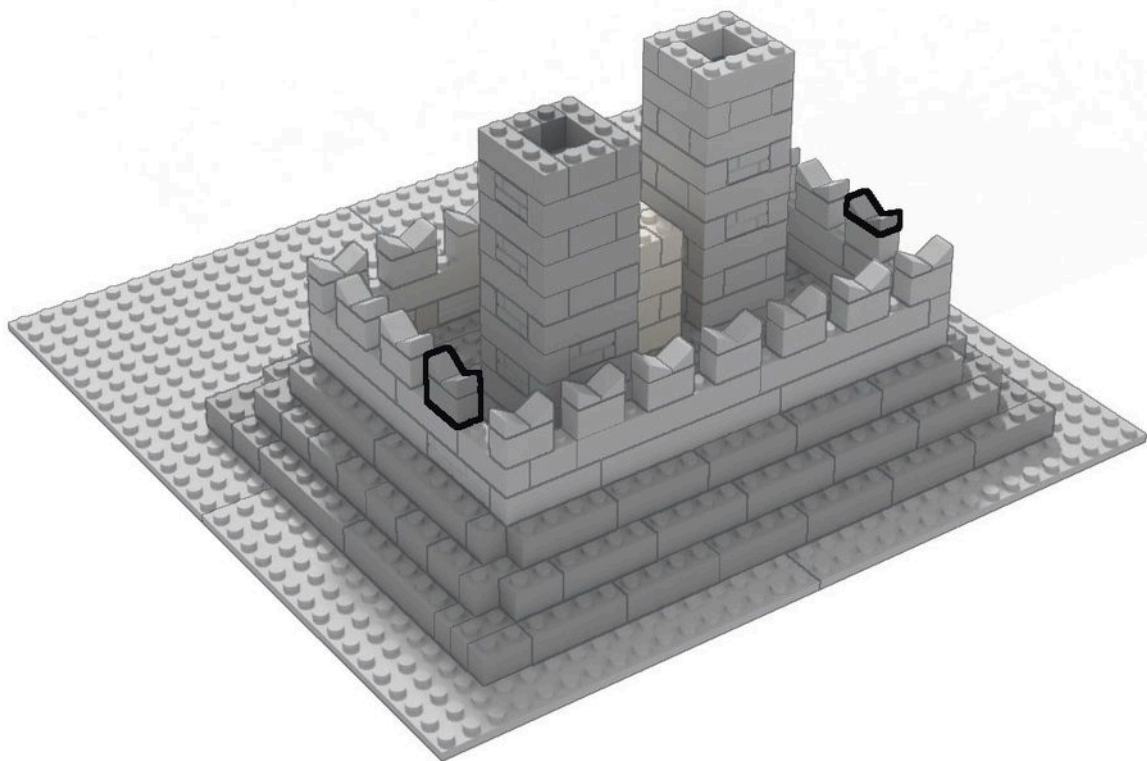
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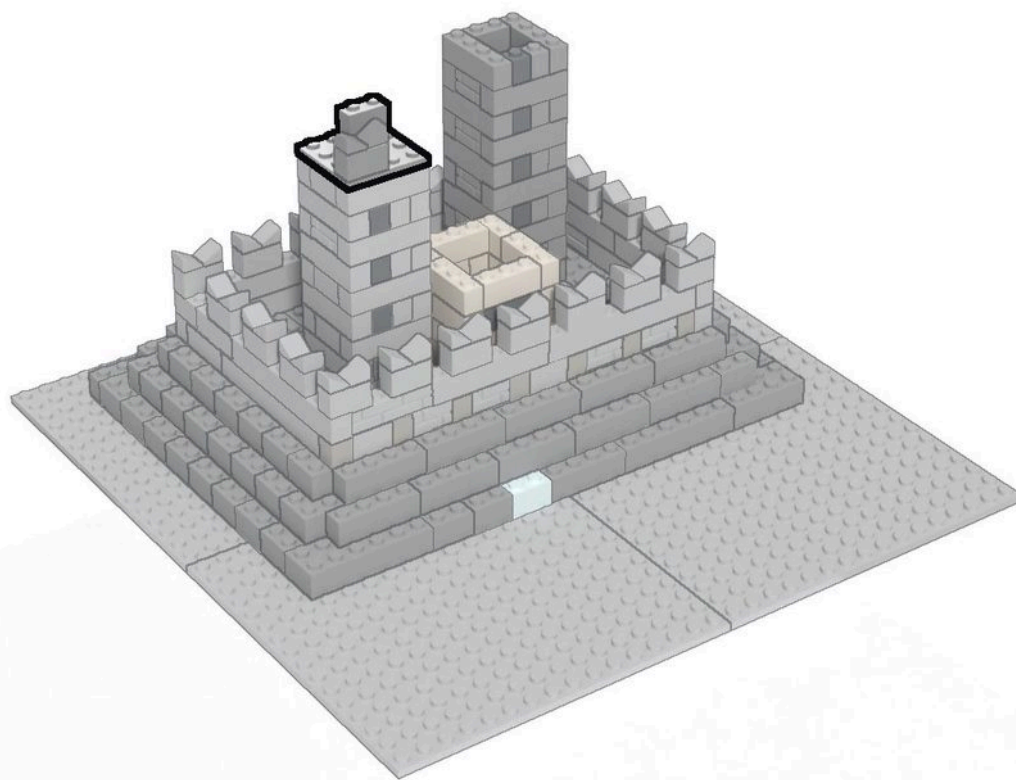
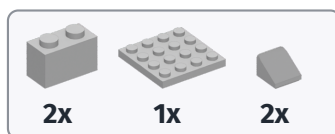
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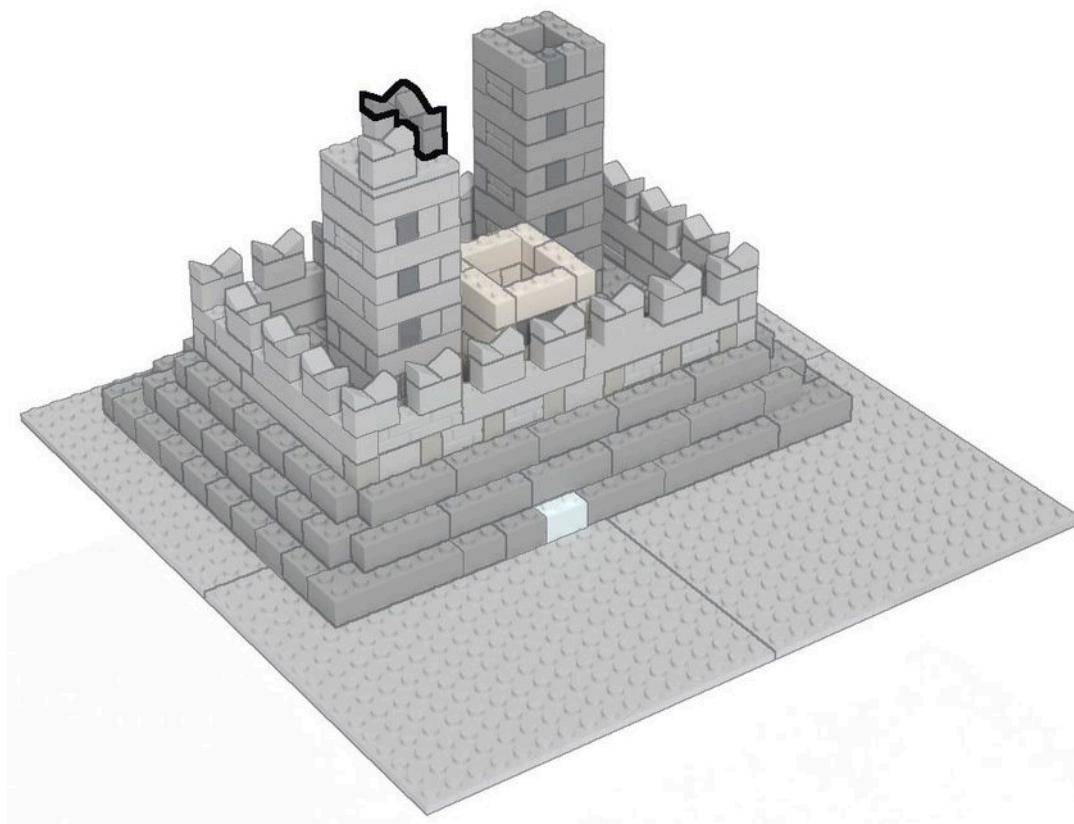
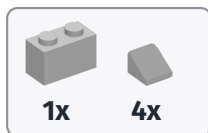
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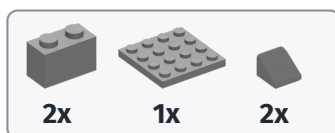
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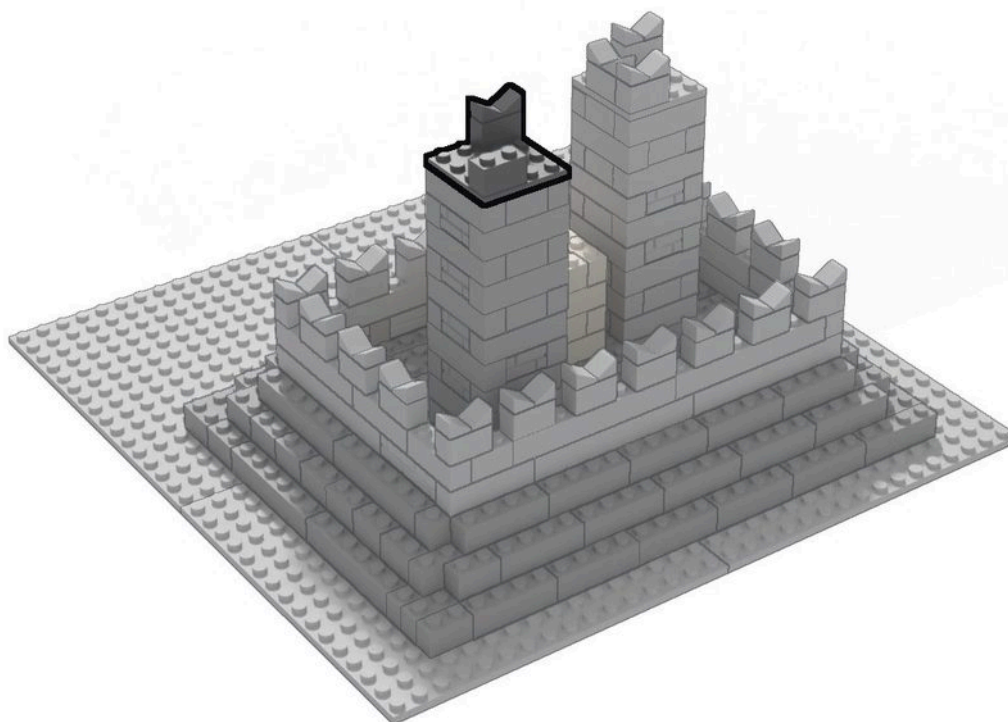
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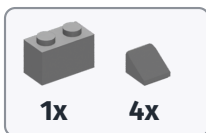
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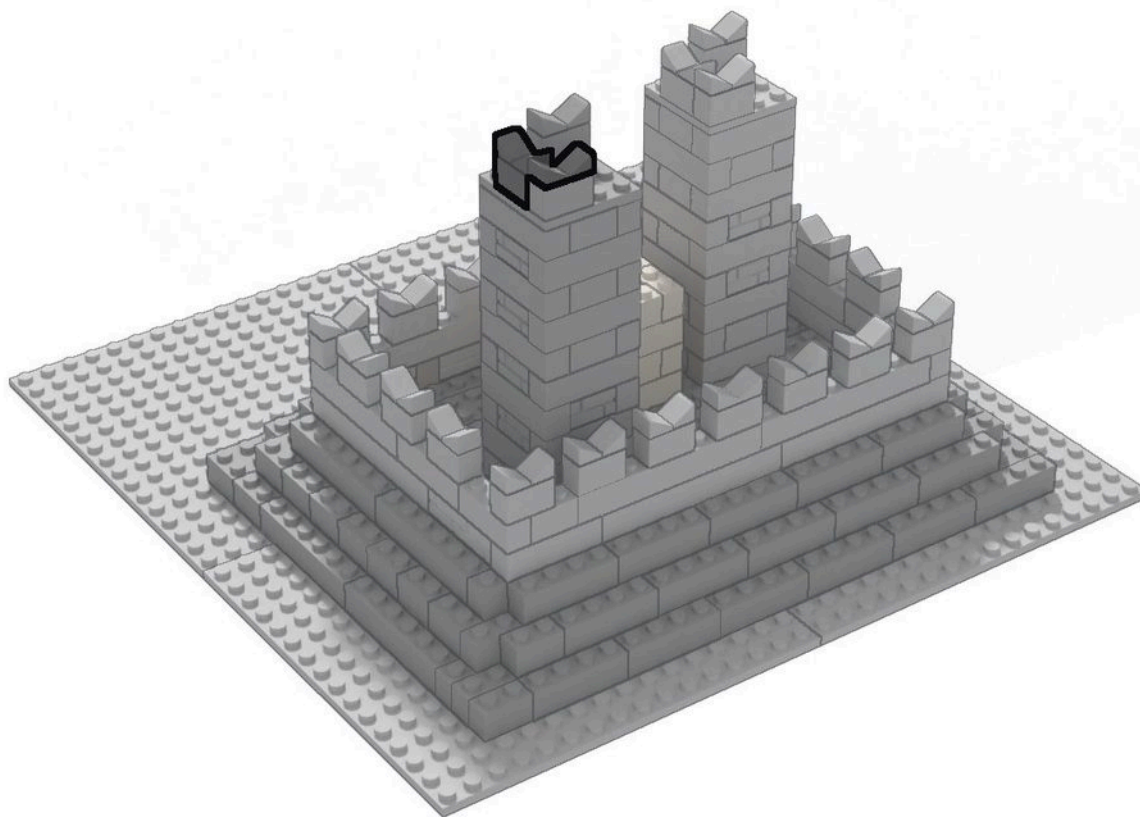
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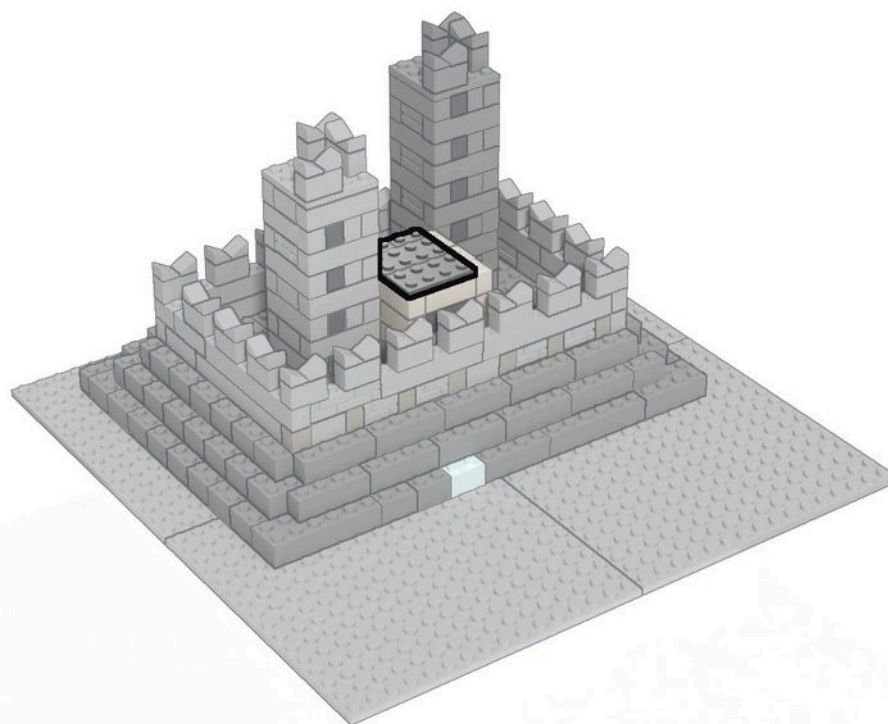
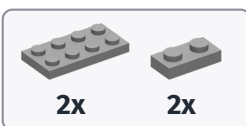
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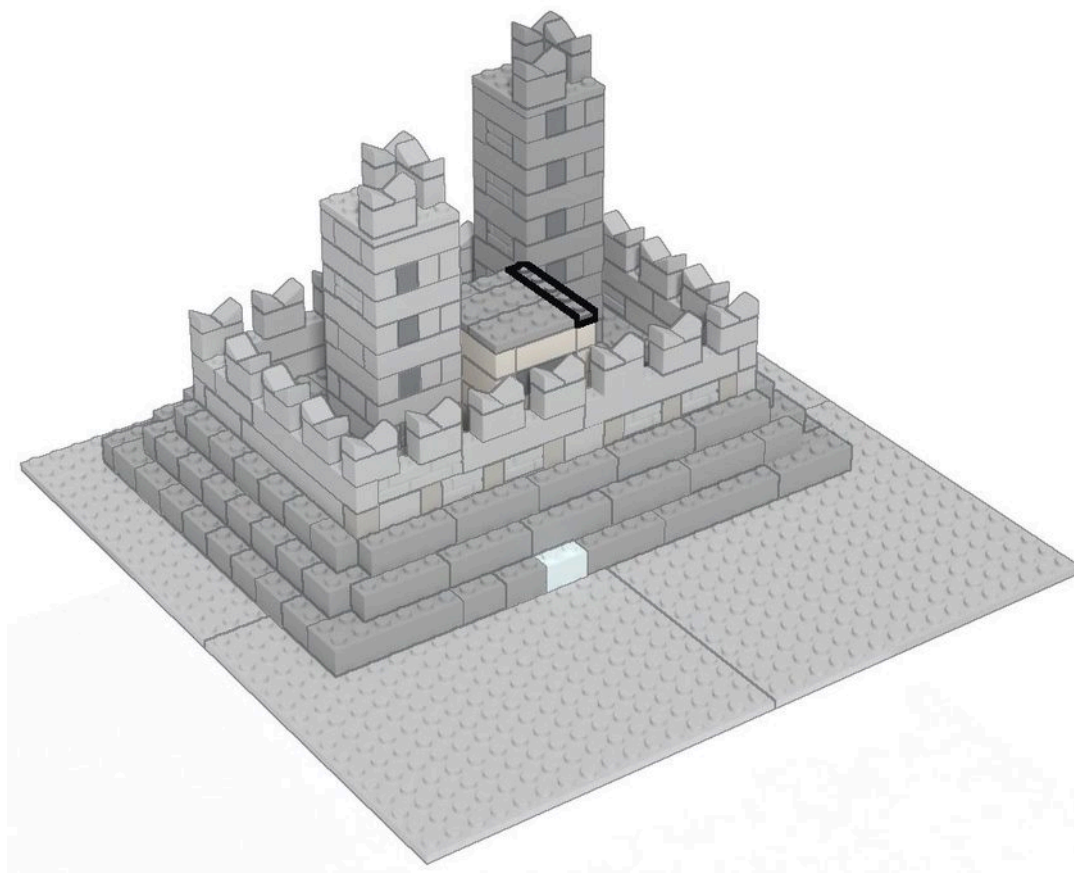
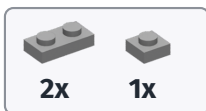
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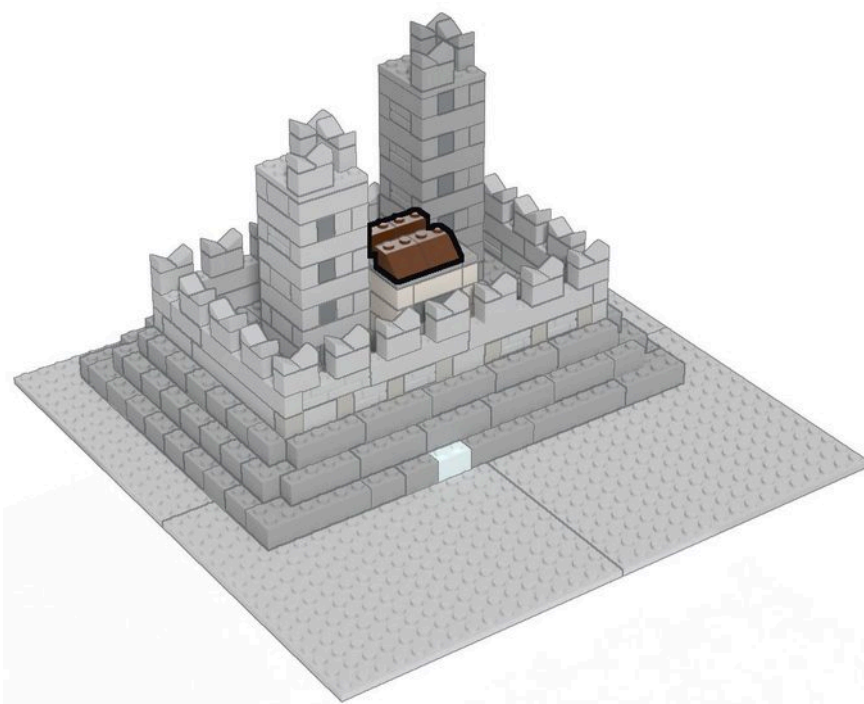
75



76



77



Chapter 3

The Murata and the town

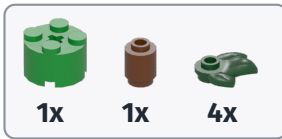
Steps 78–130



Tree x4

Build this 4 times; it goes on in a later step.

1



2



Tree (×4)

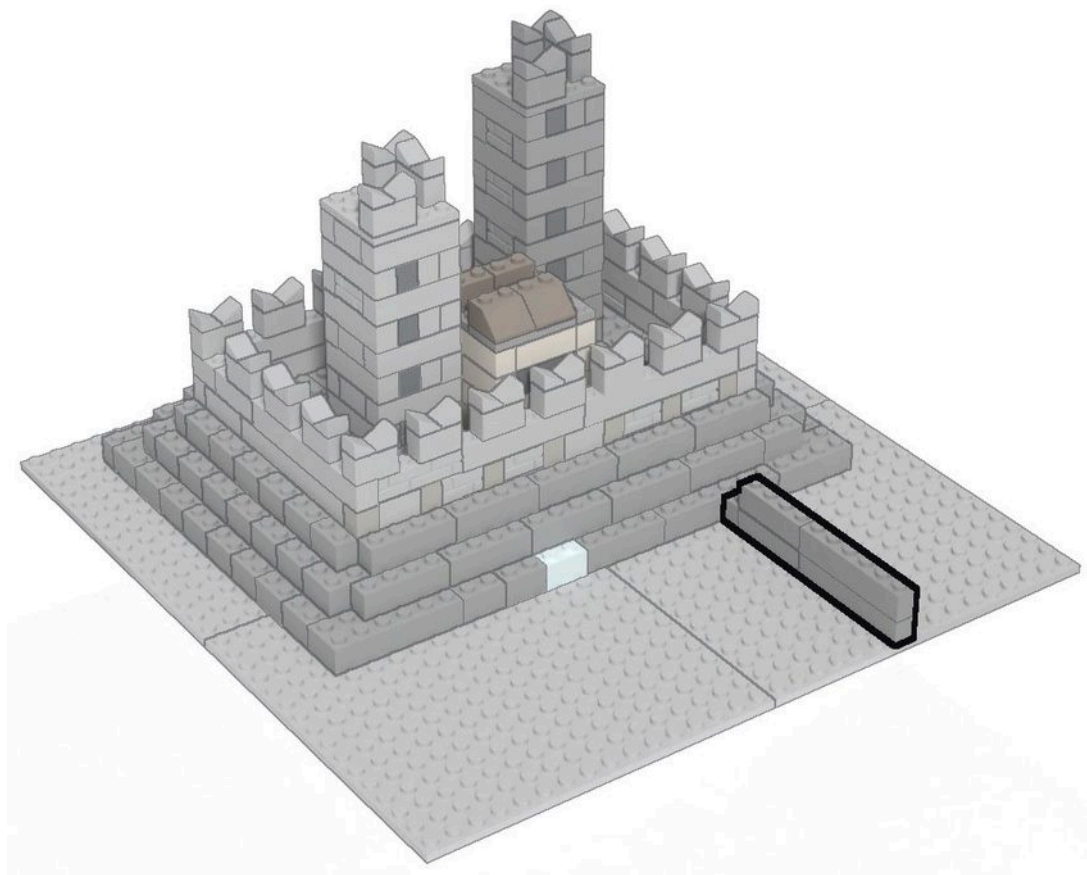
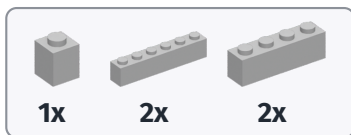
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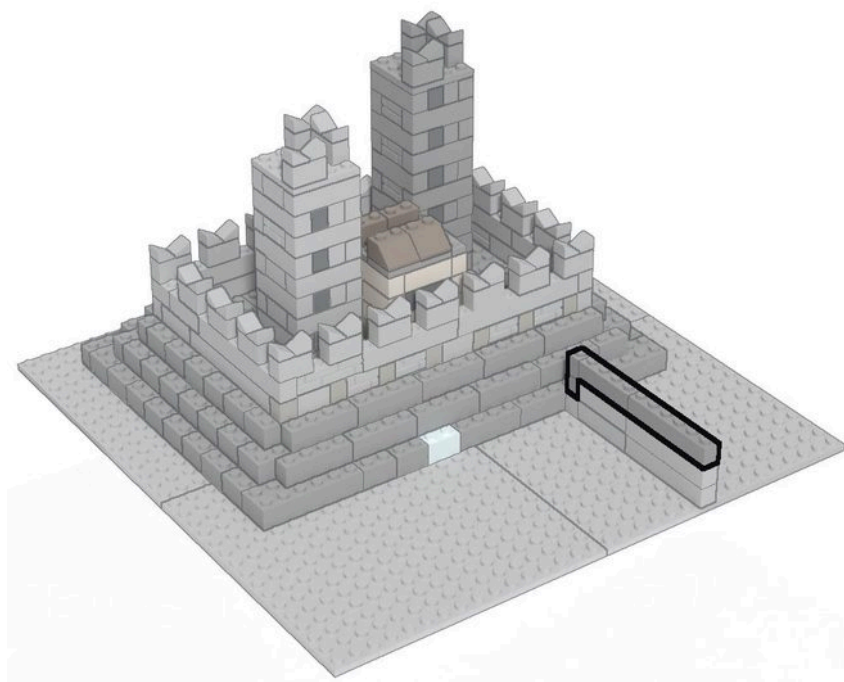
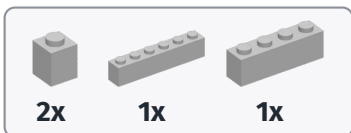
4X



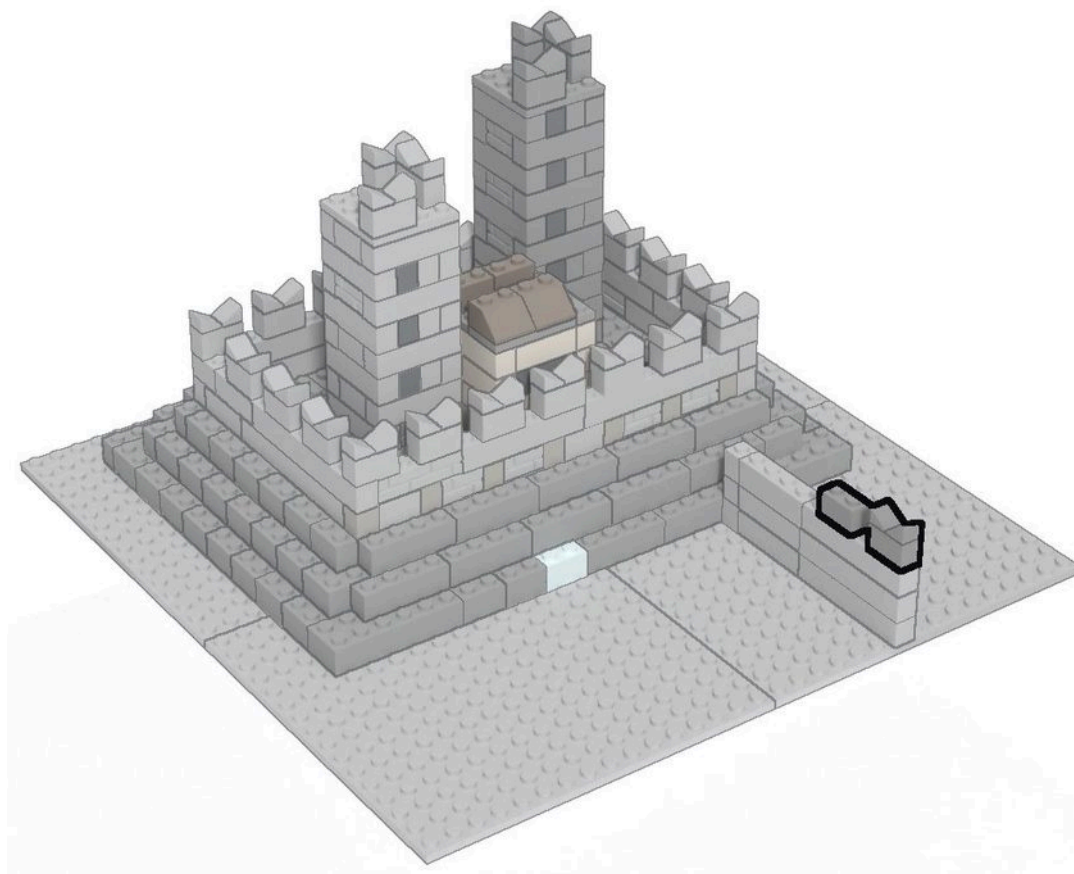
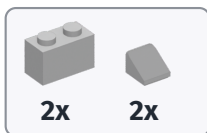
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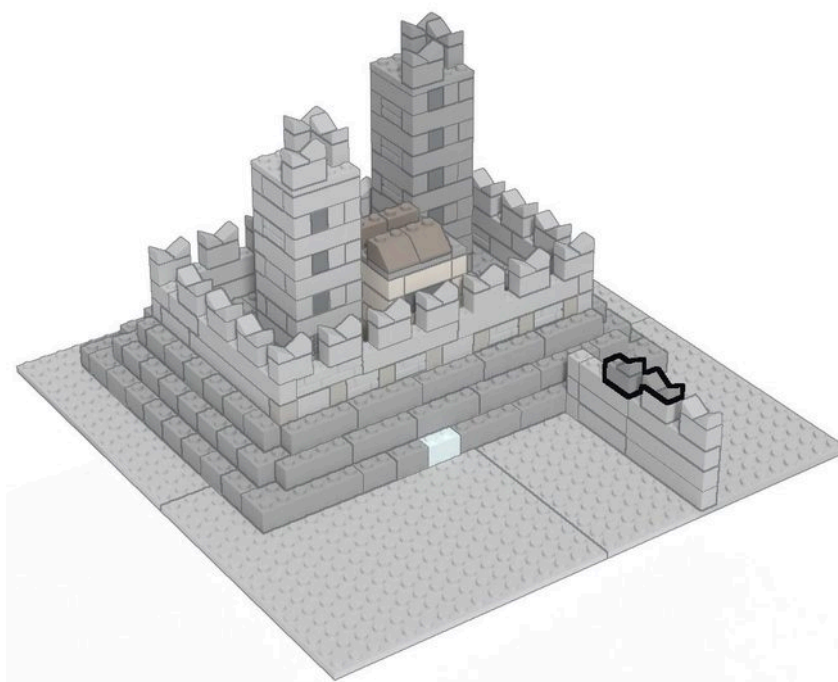
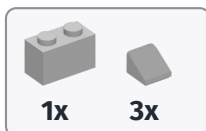
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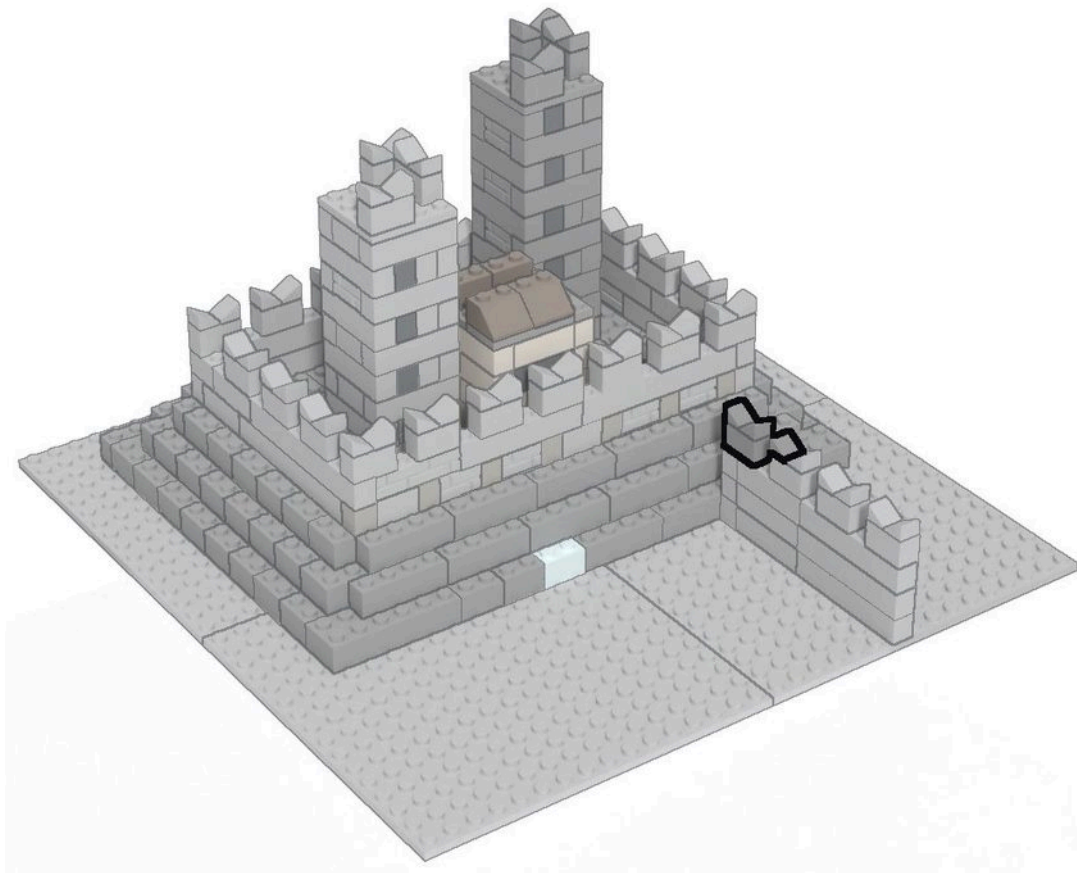
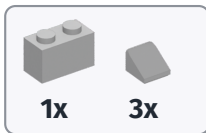
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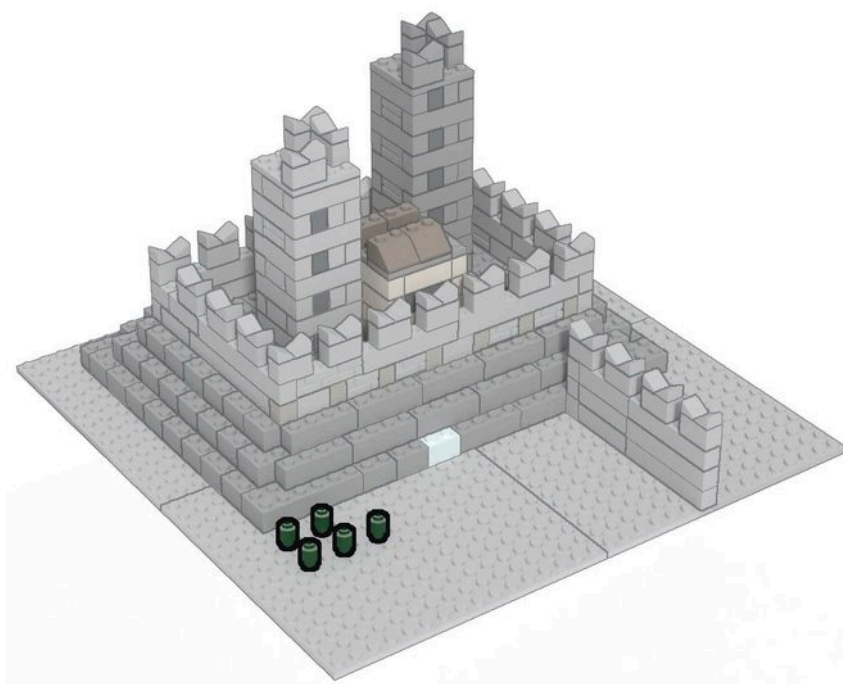
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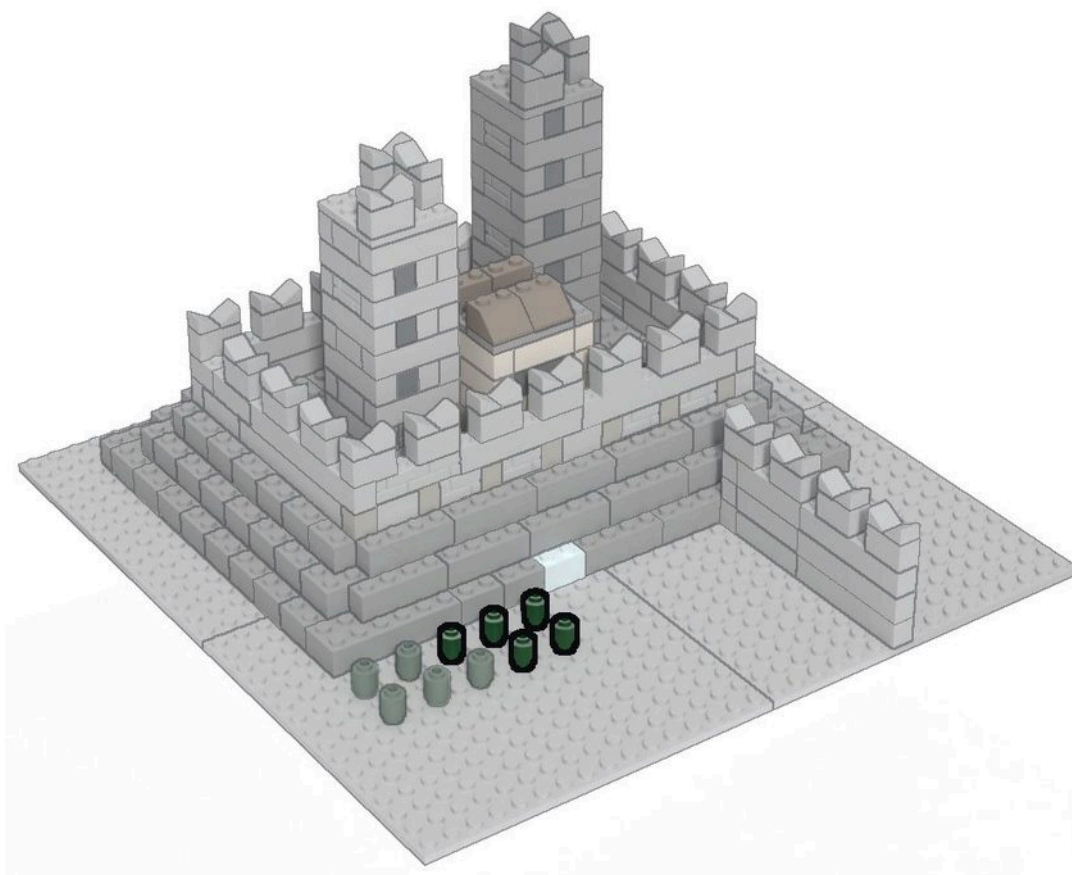
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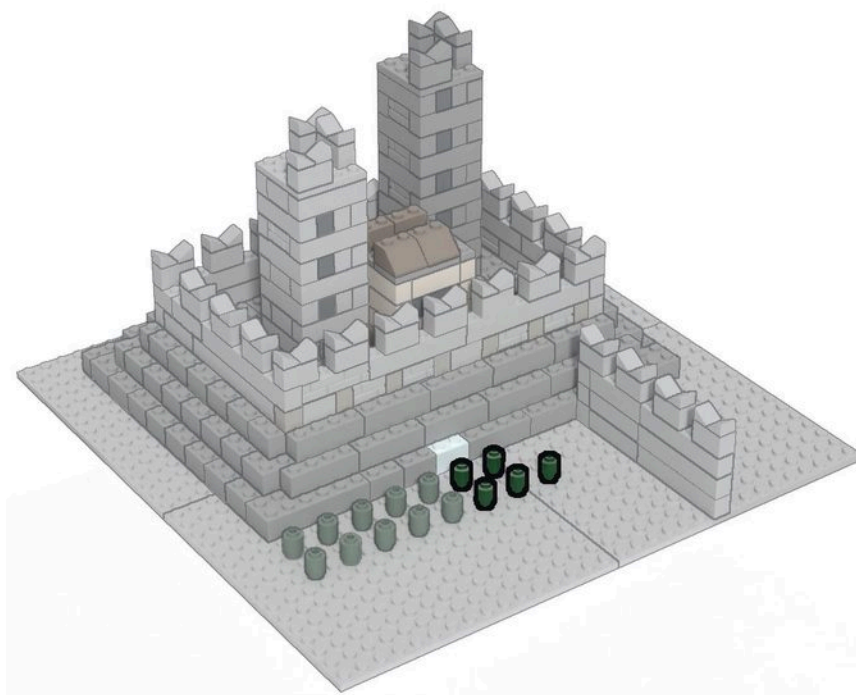
83



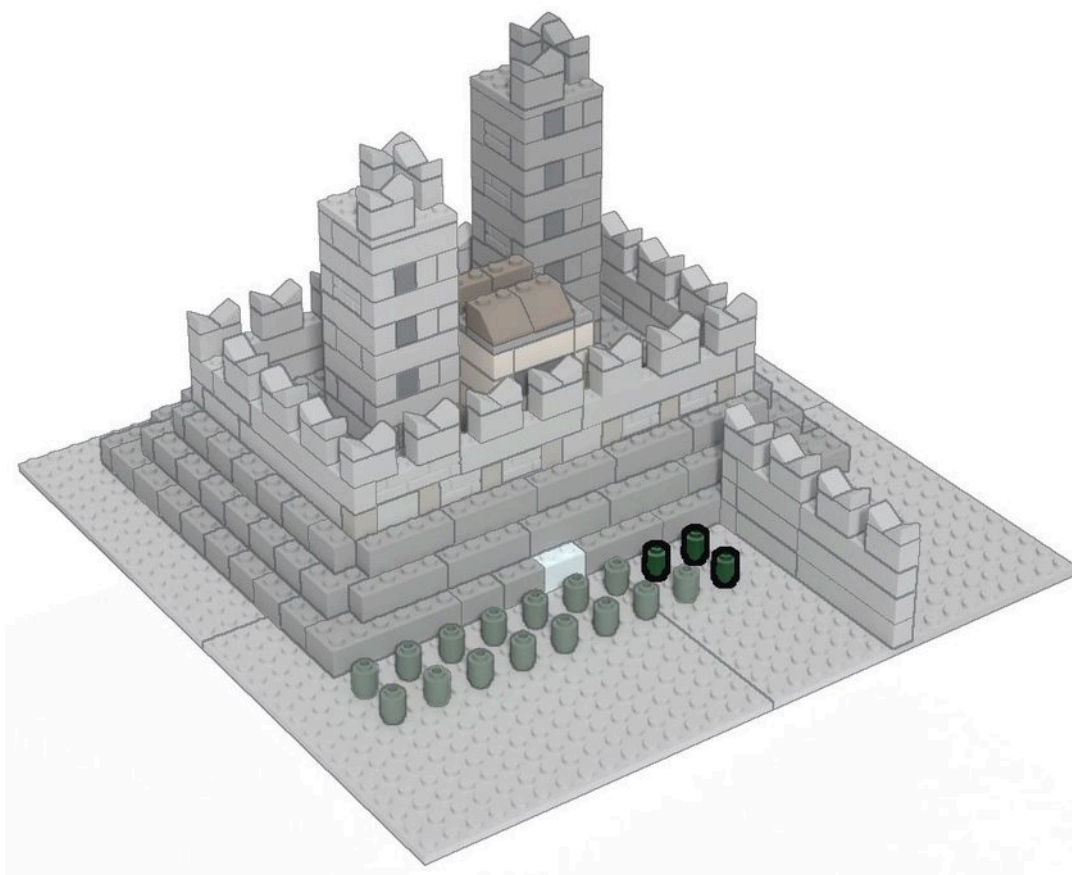
84



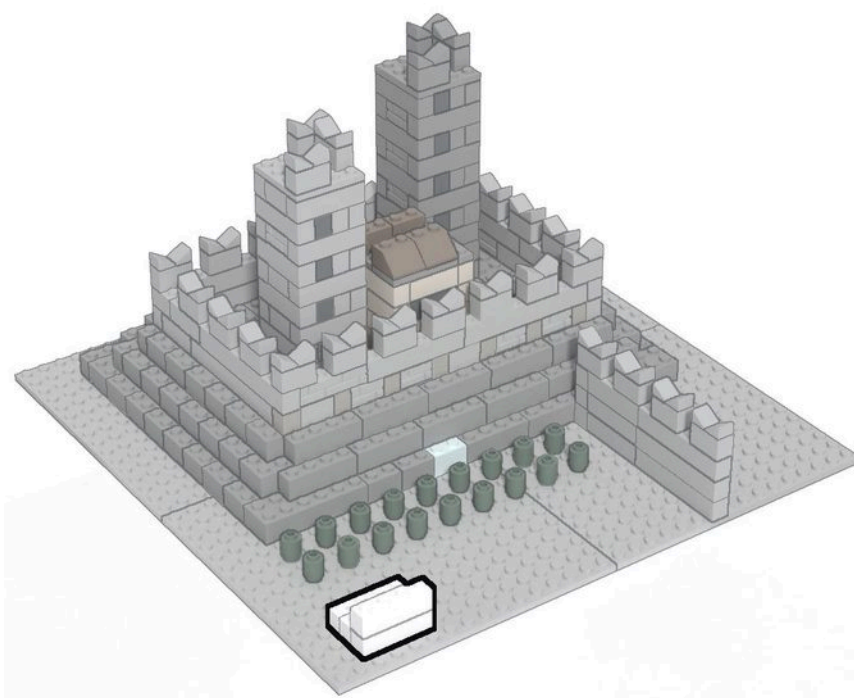
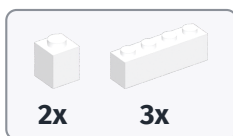
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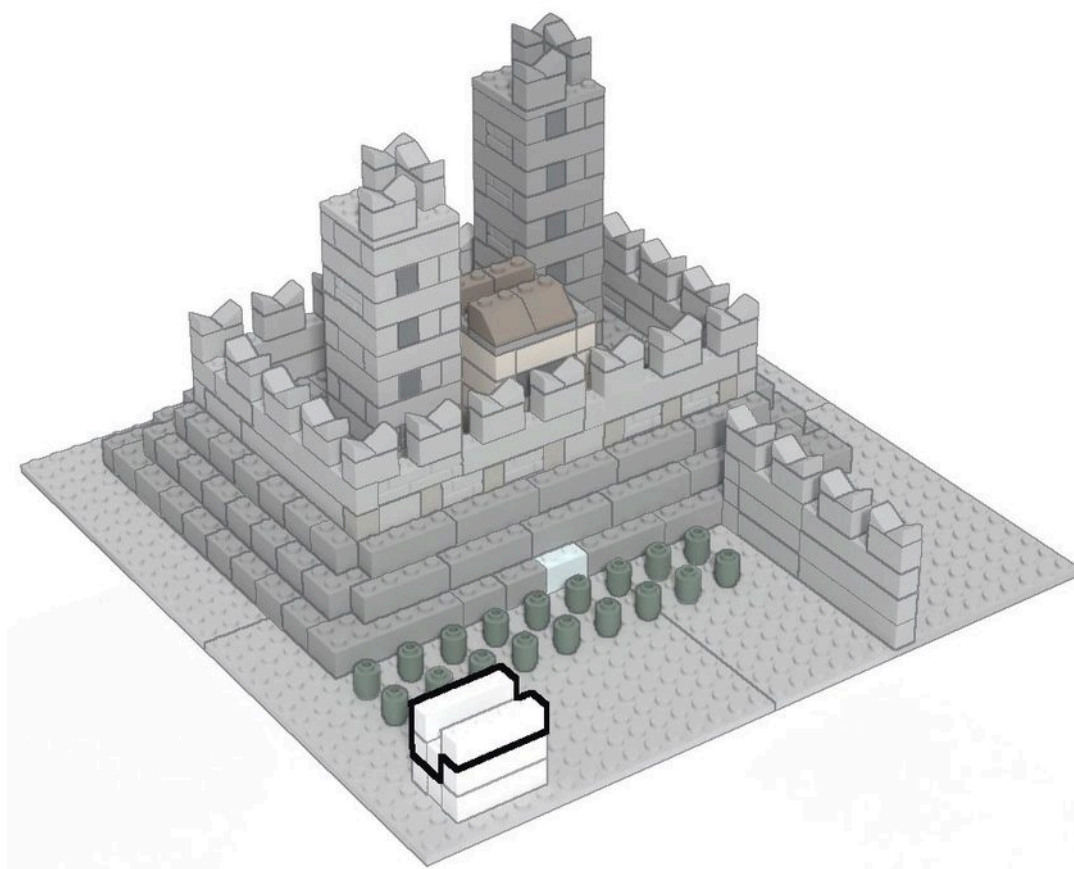
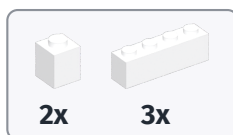
86



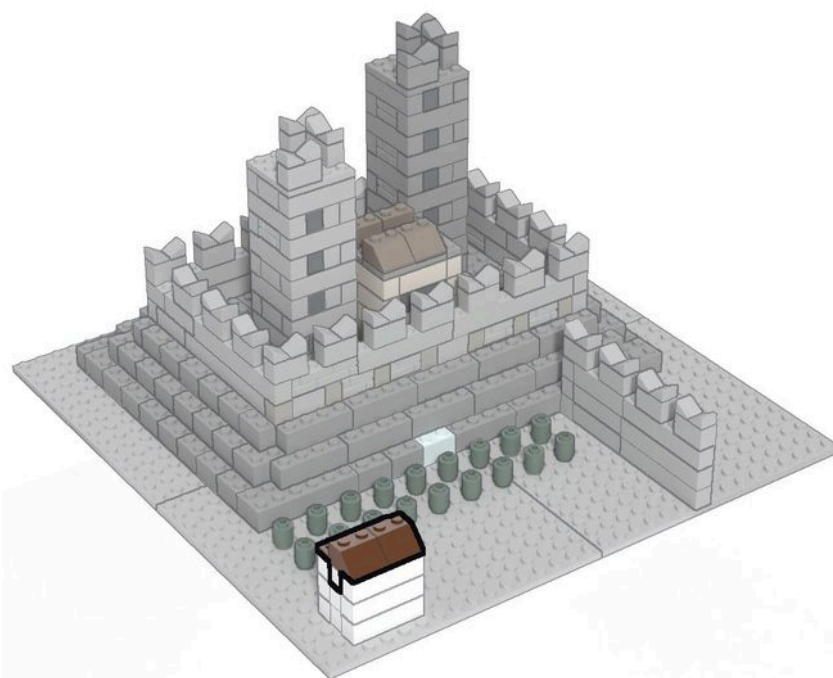
87



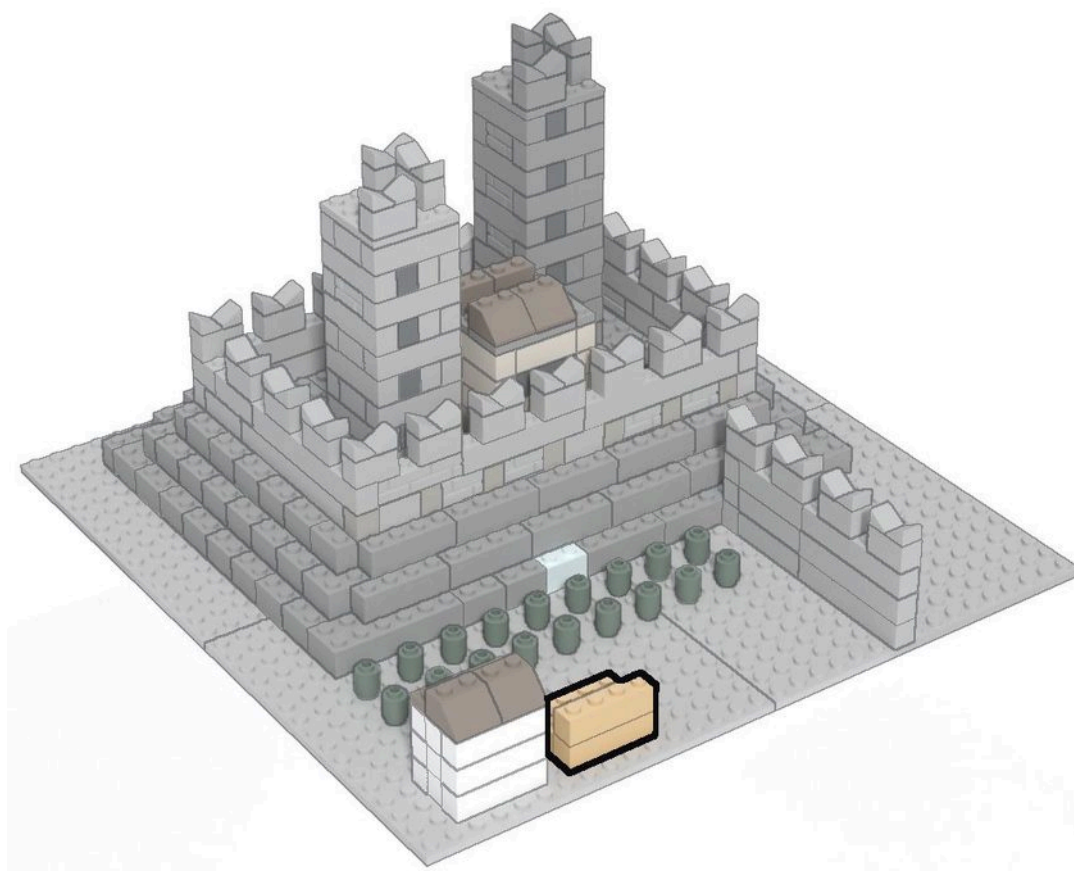
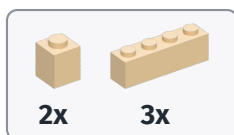
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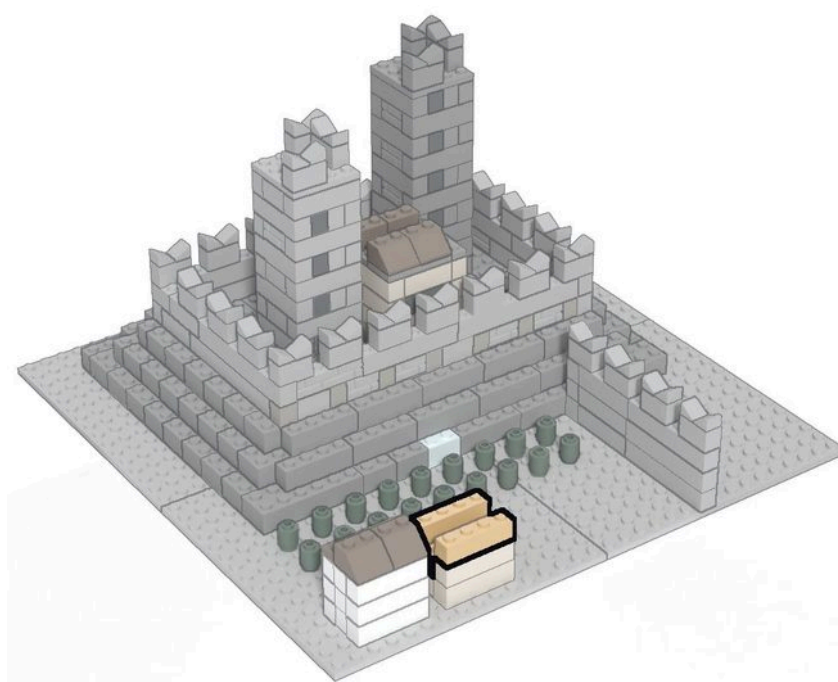
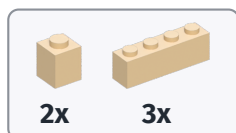
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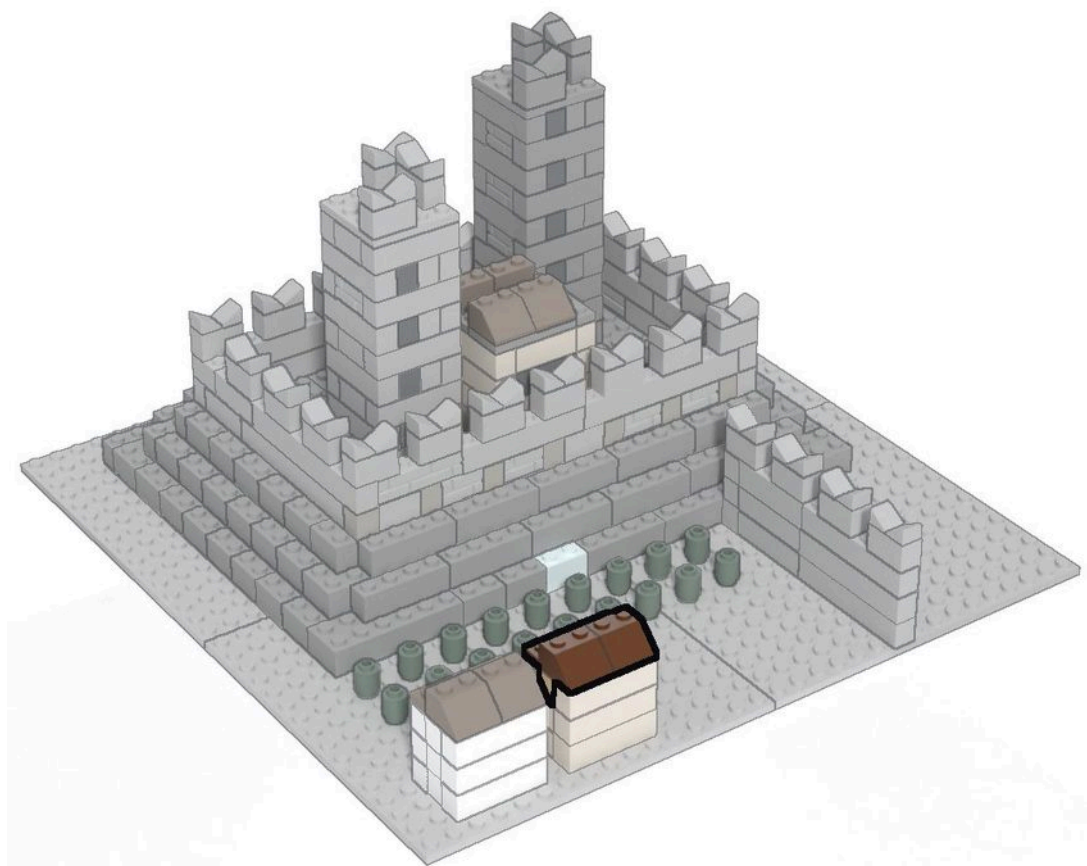
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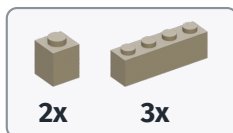
91



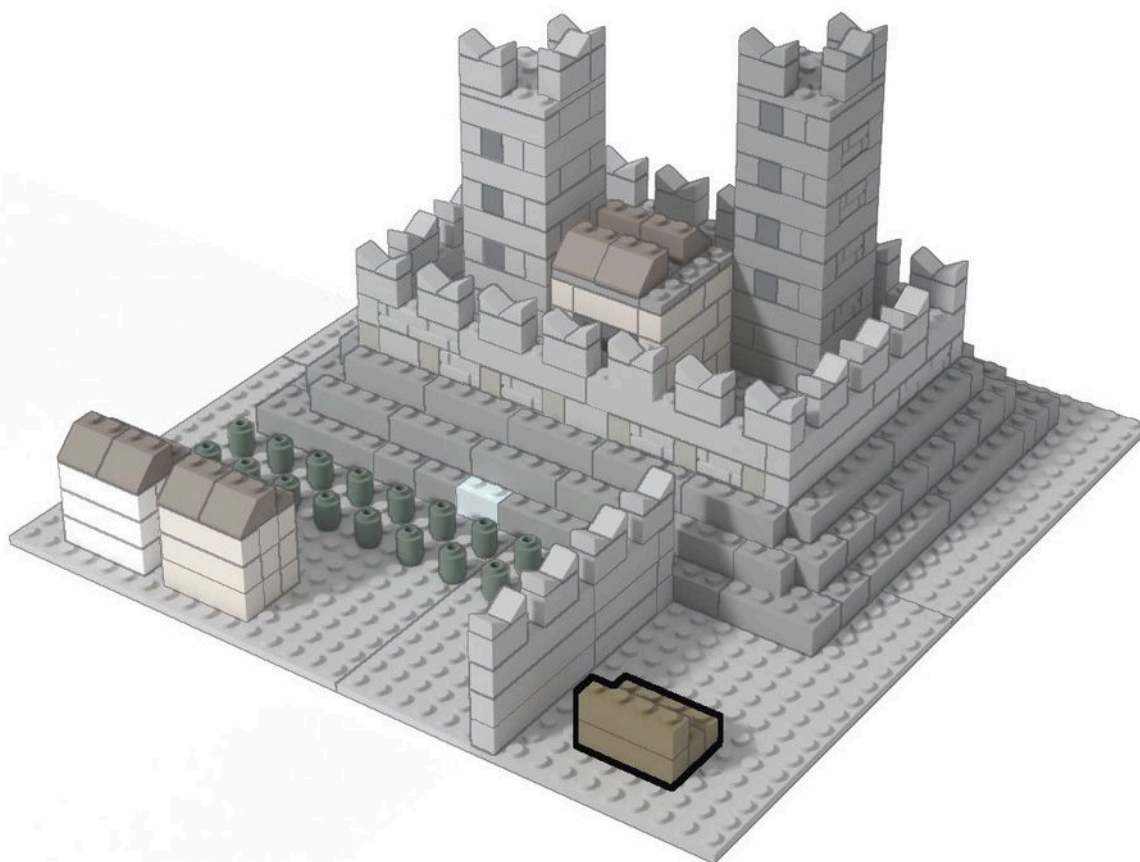
92



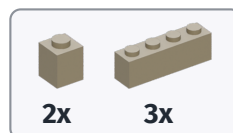
93



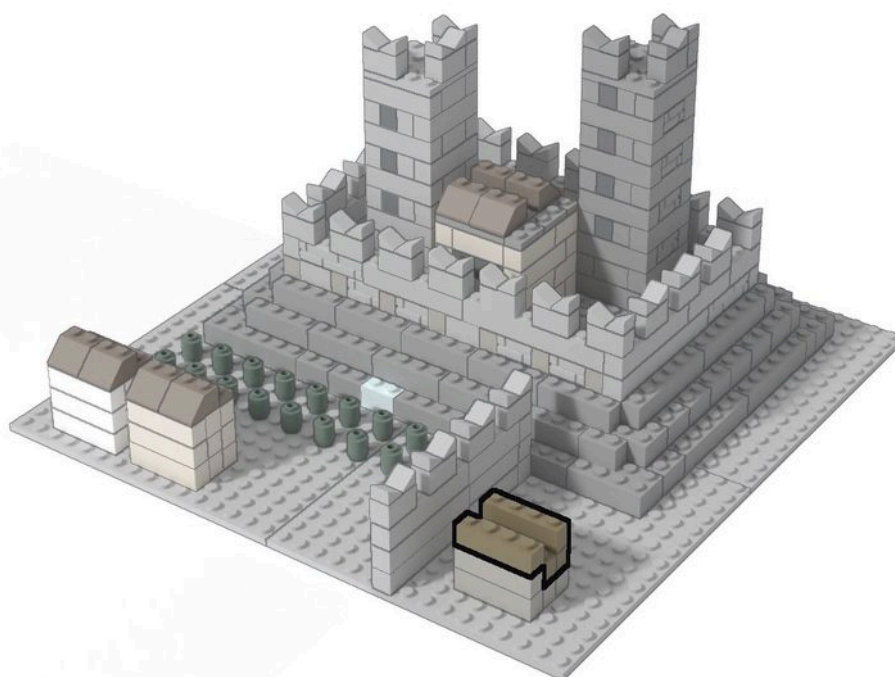
turn the model around



94



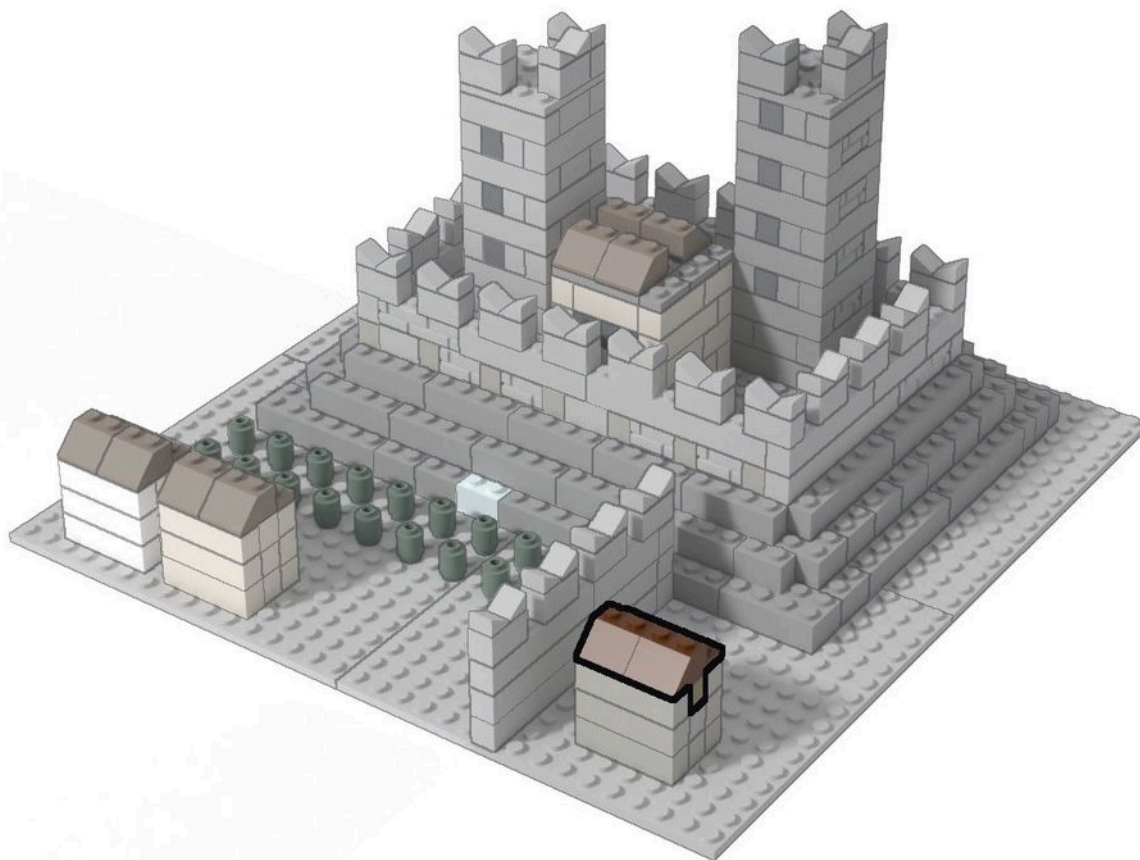
turn the model around



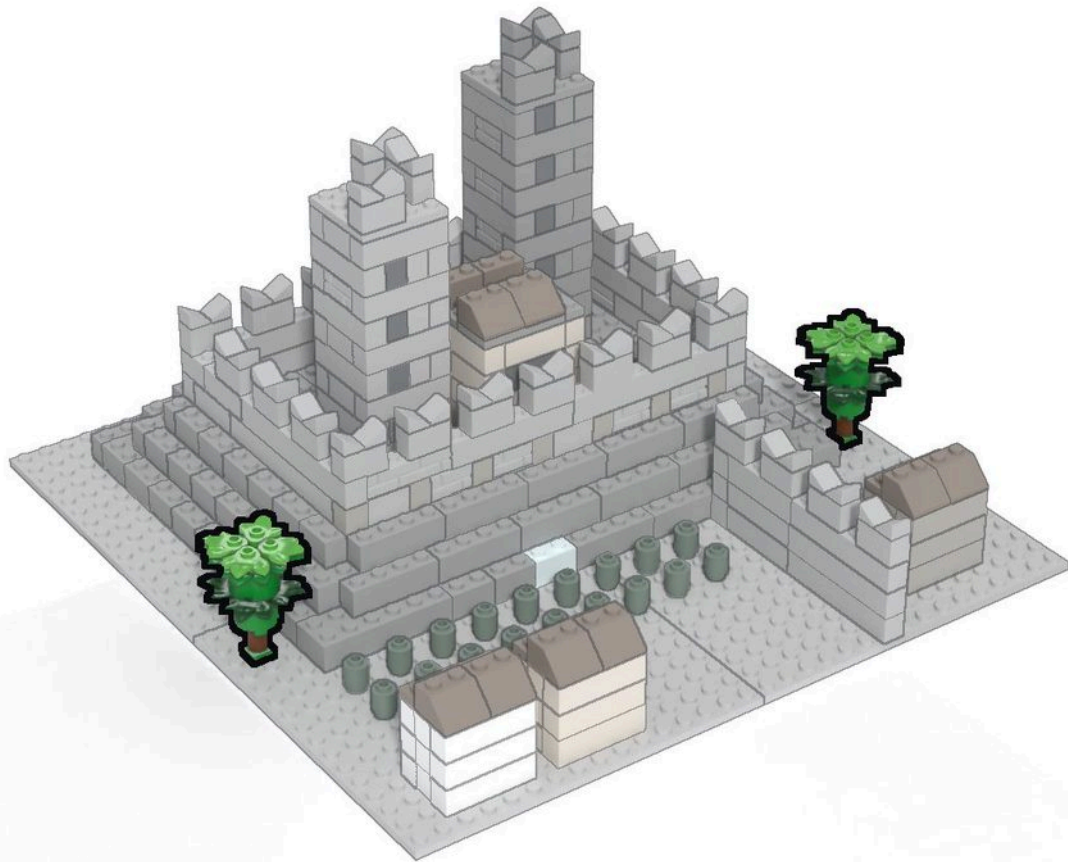
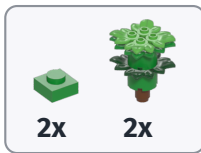
95



turn the model around



96



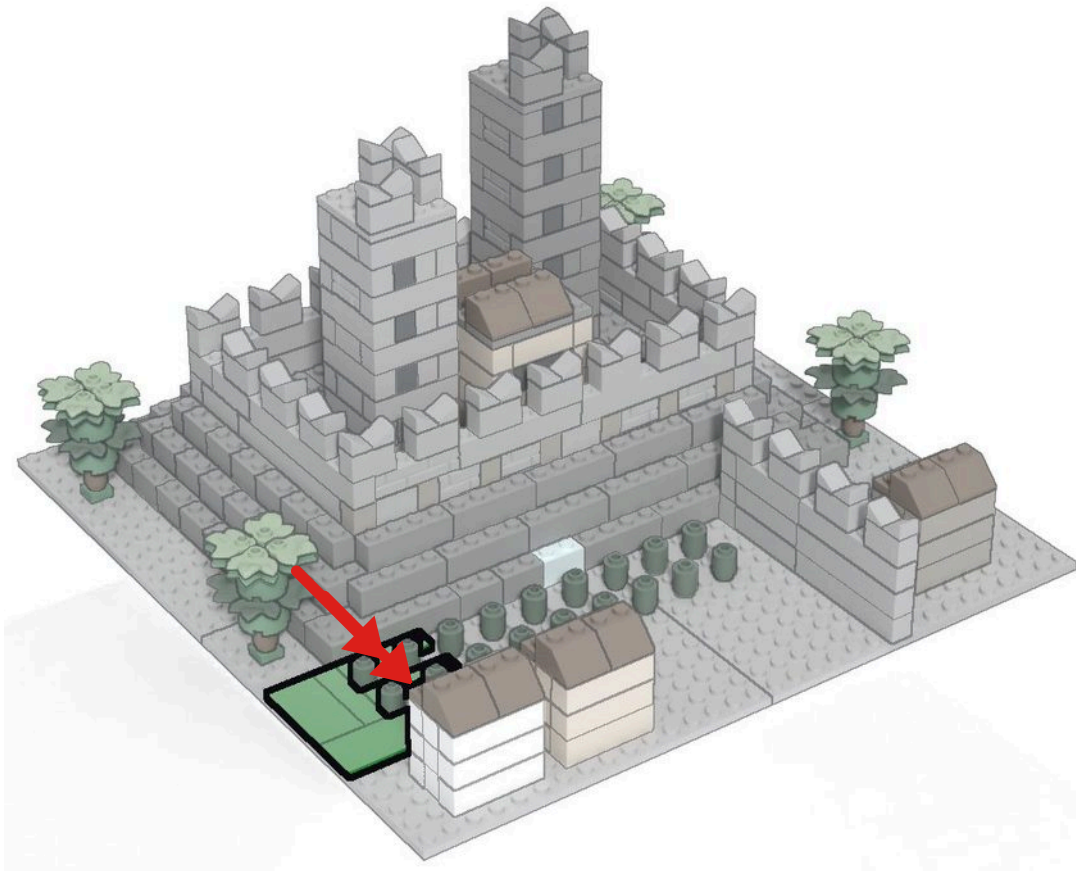
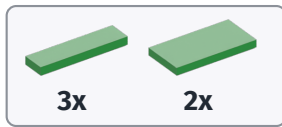
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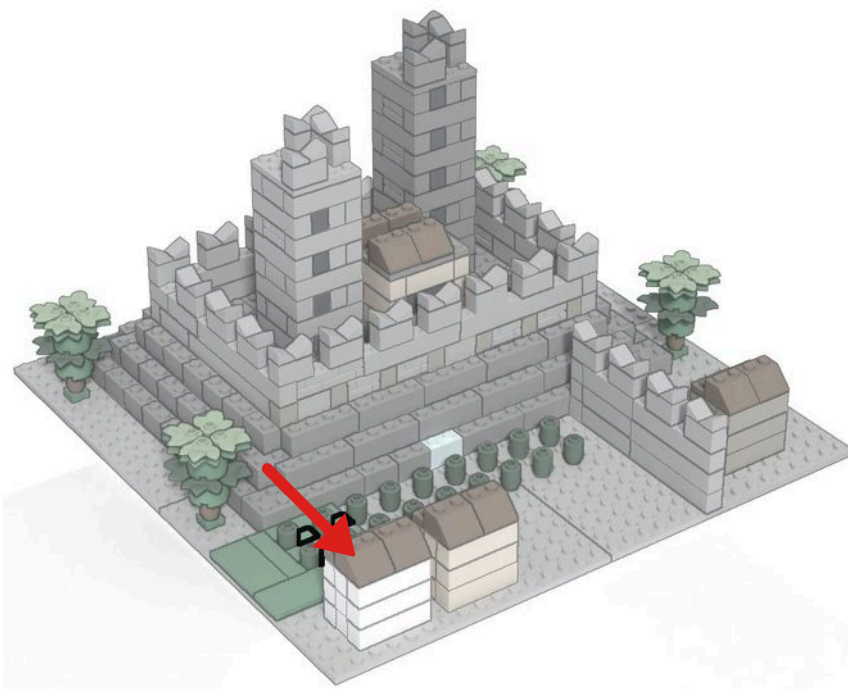
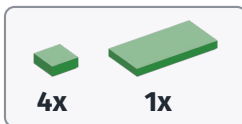
turn the model around



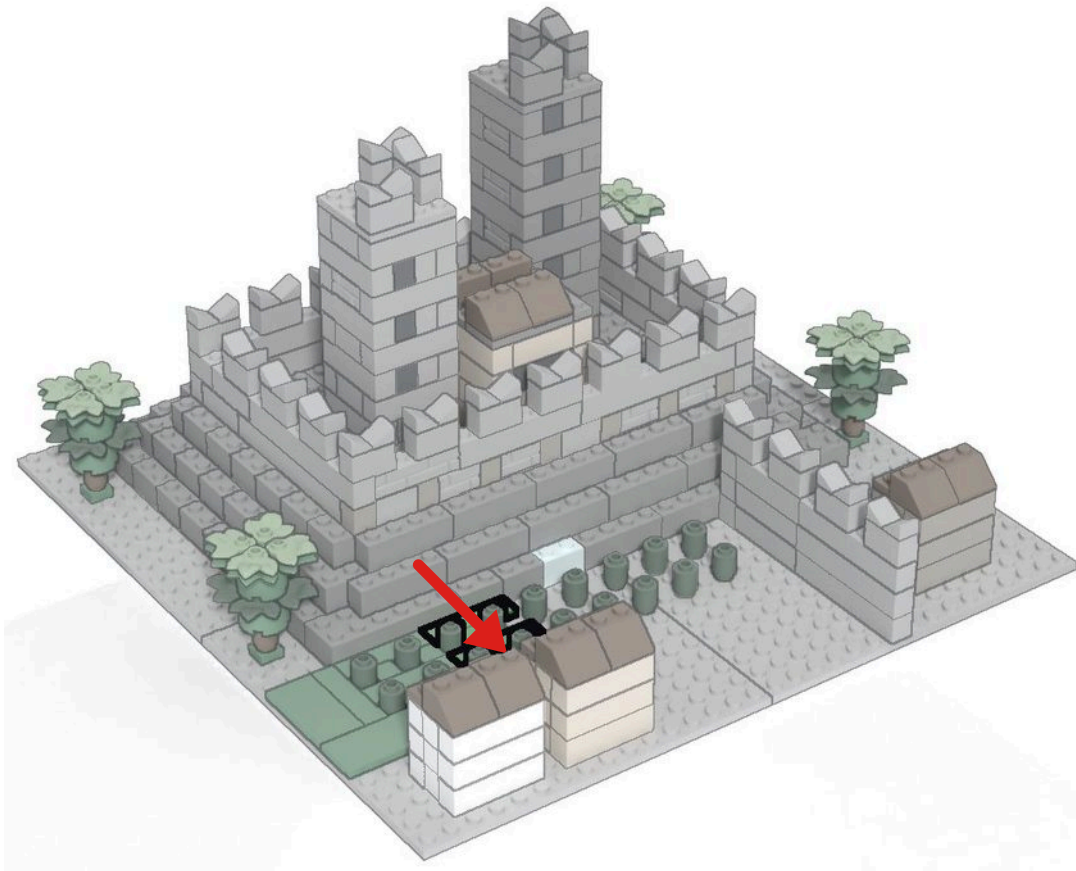
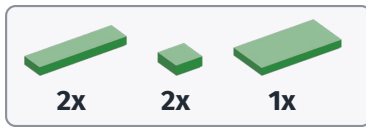
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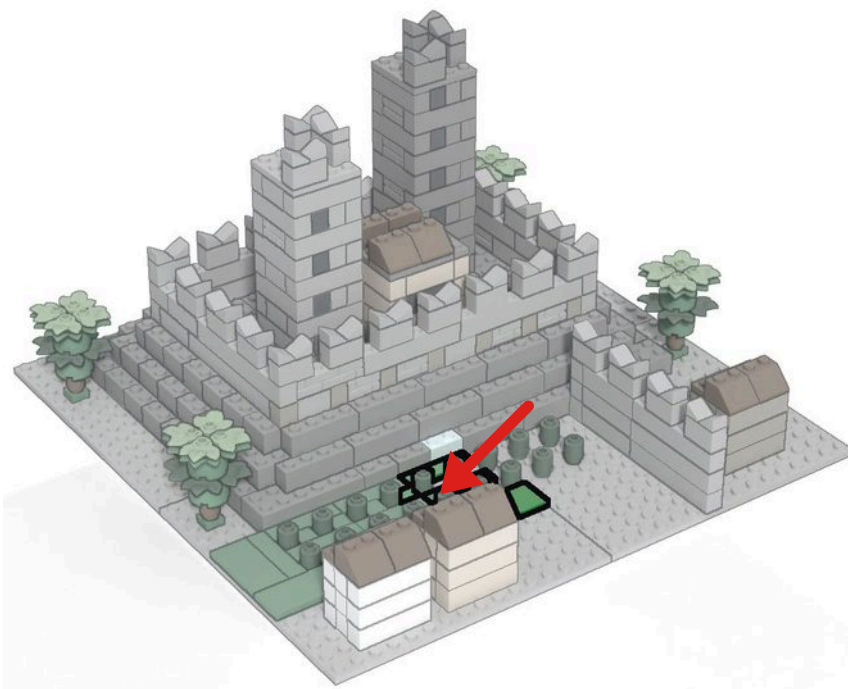
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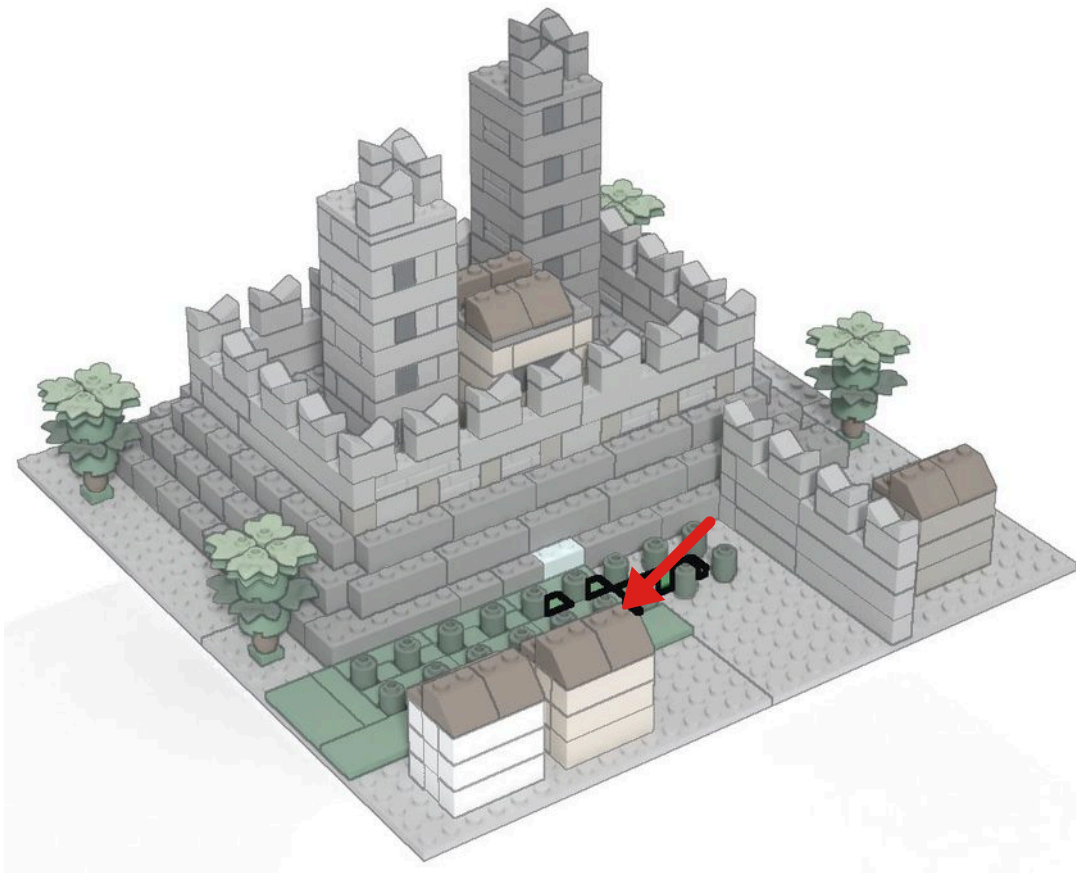
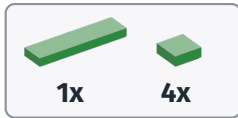
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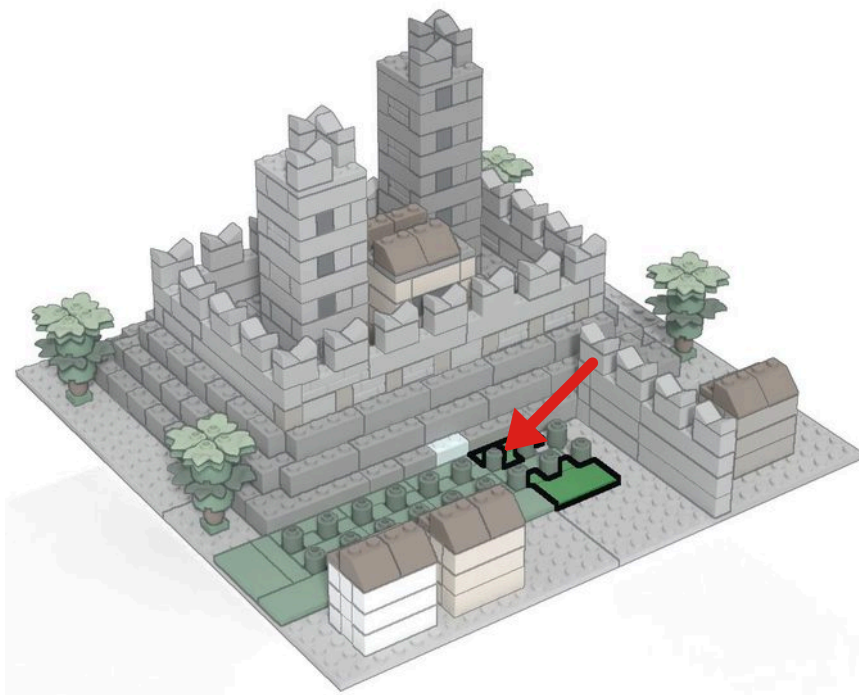
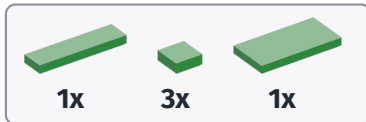
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102



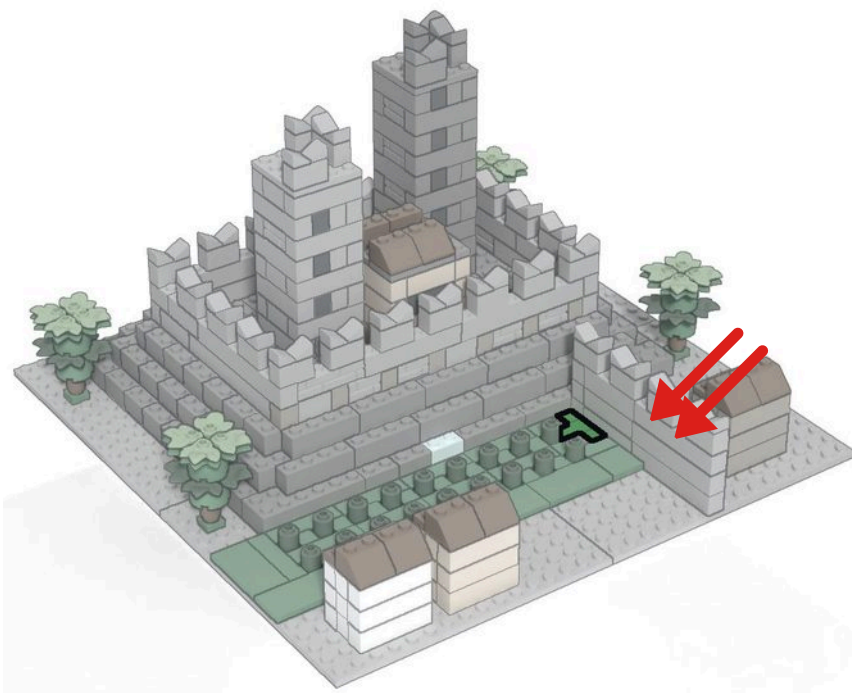
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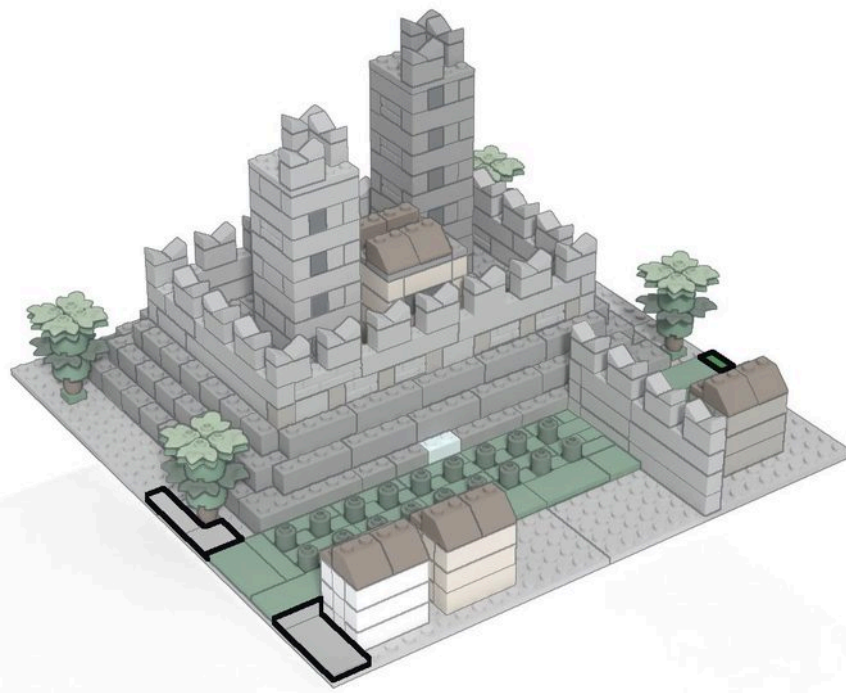


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105

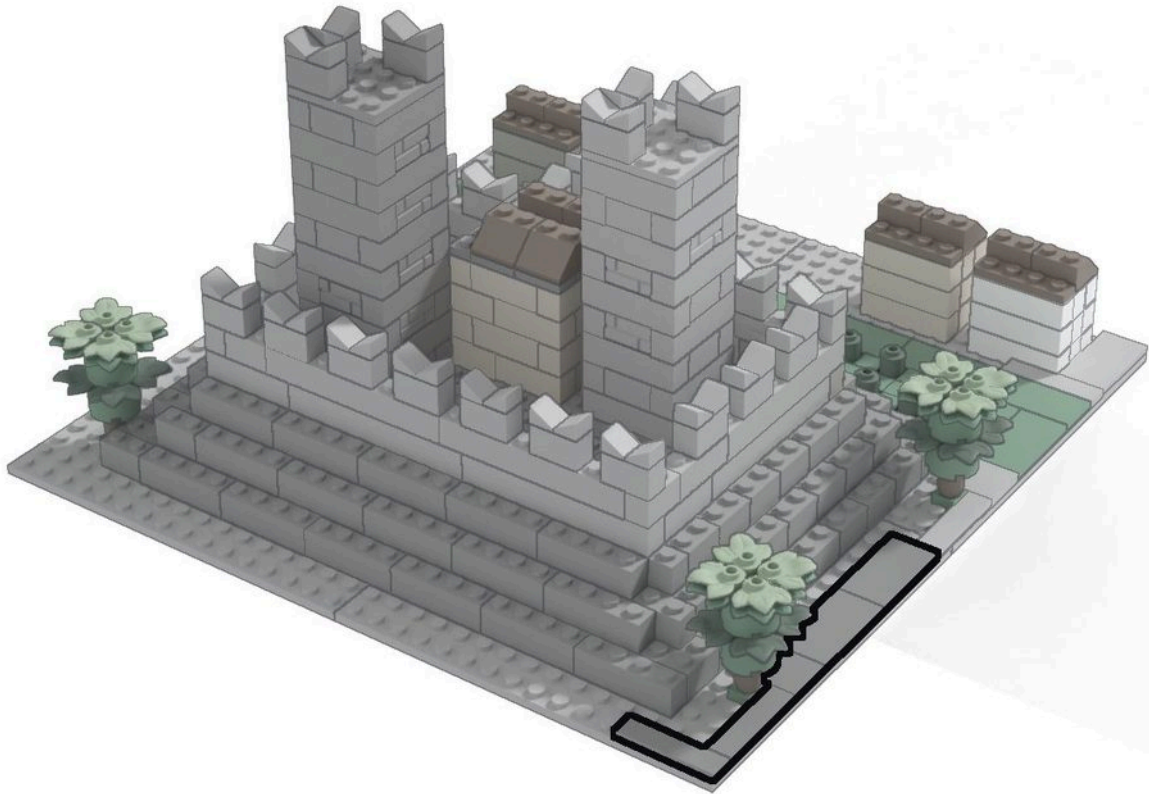




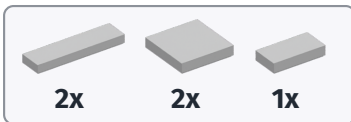
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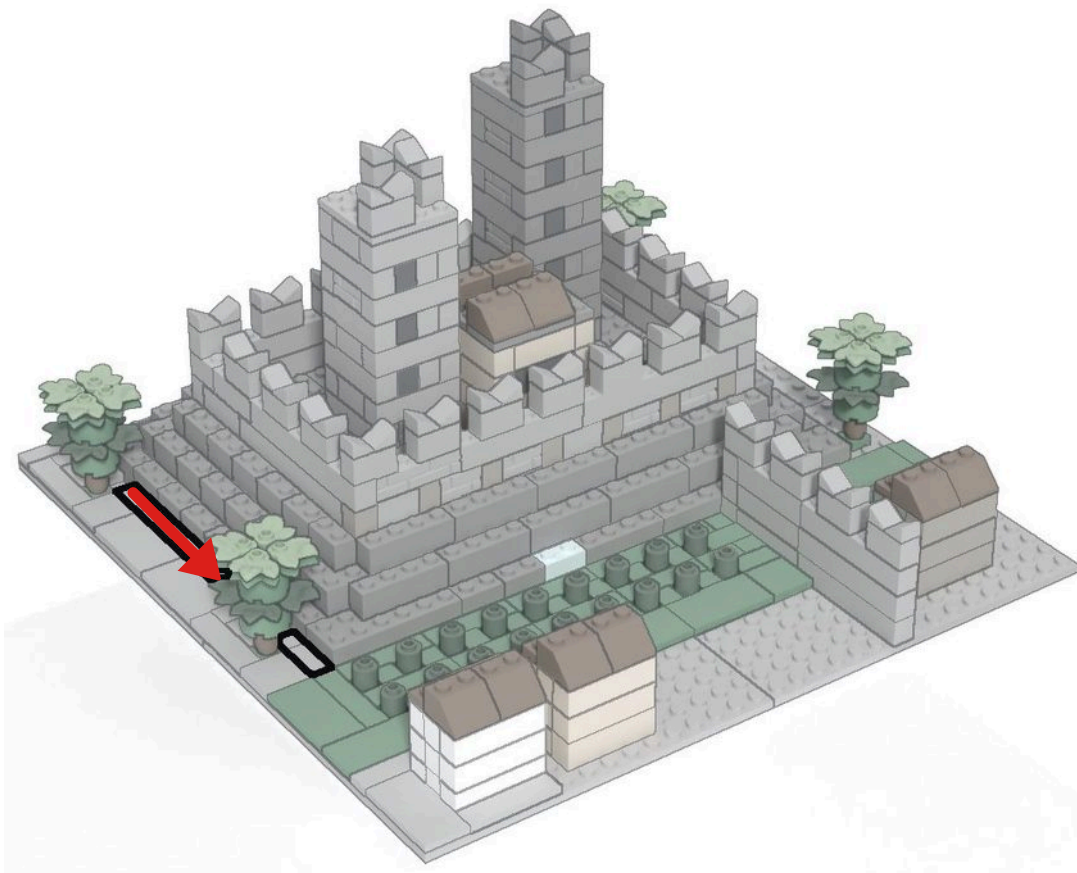
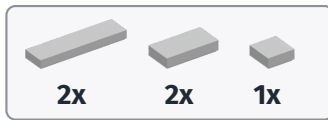
turn the model around



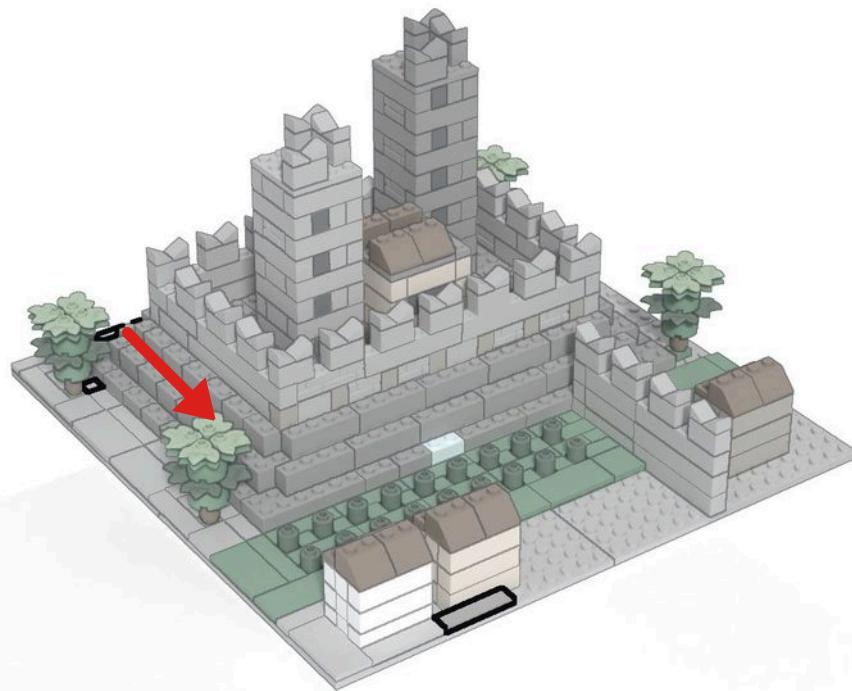
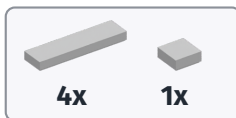
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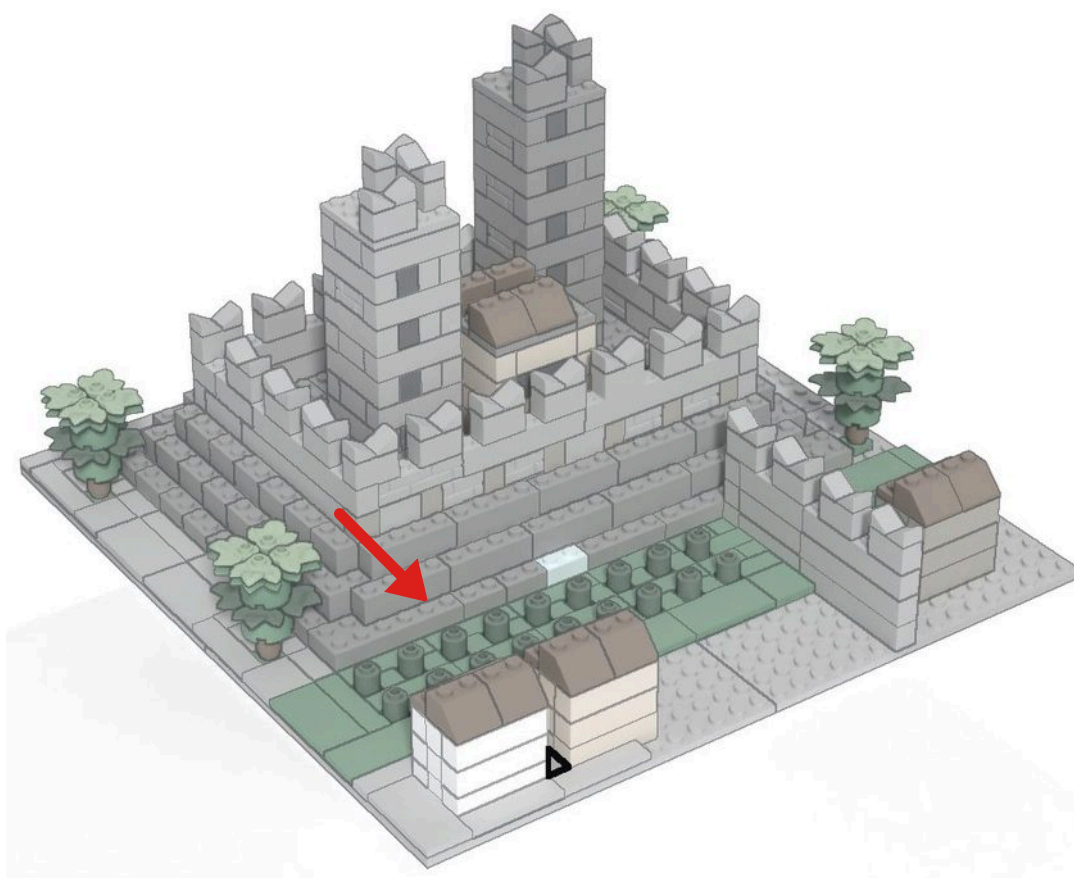
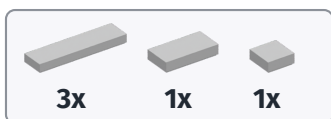
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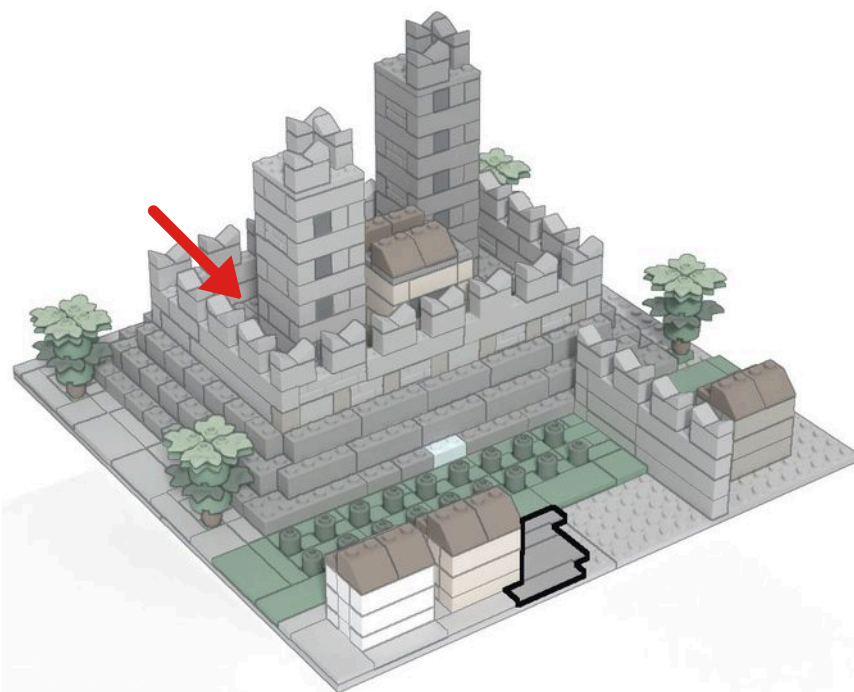
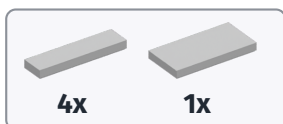
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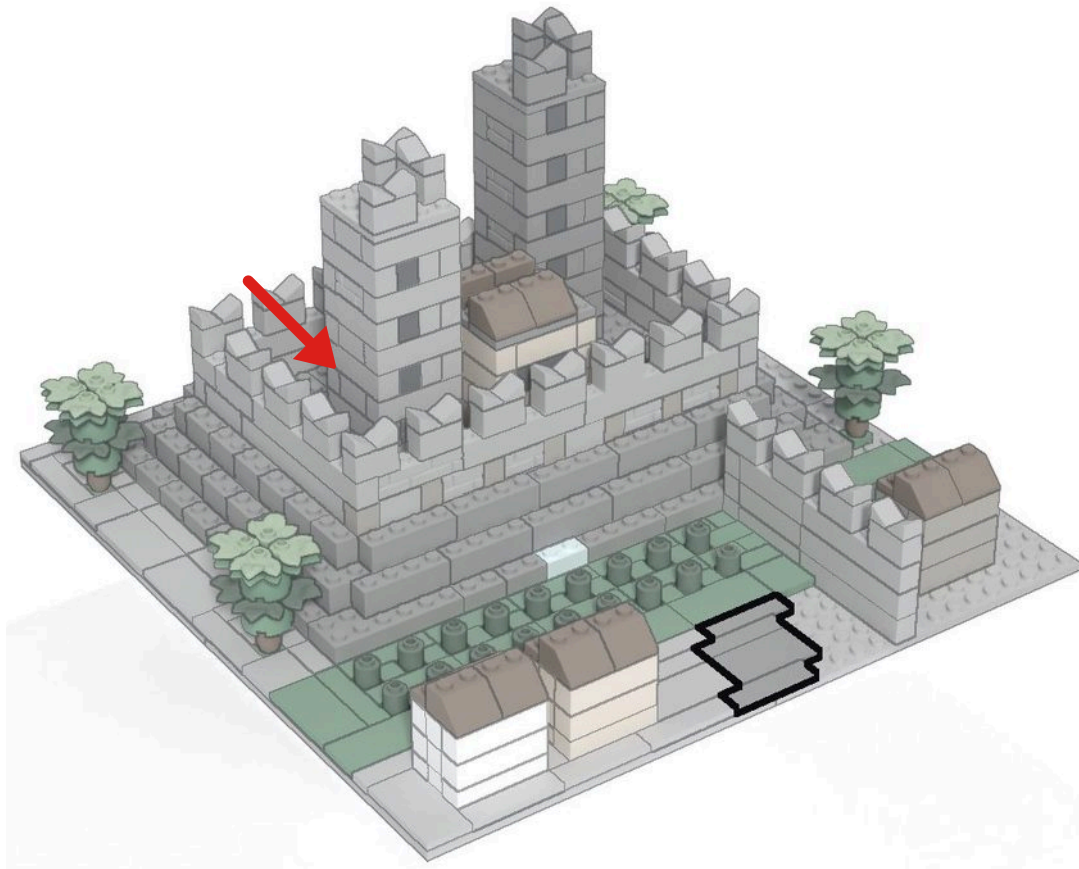
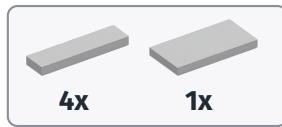
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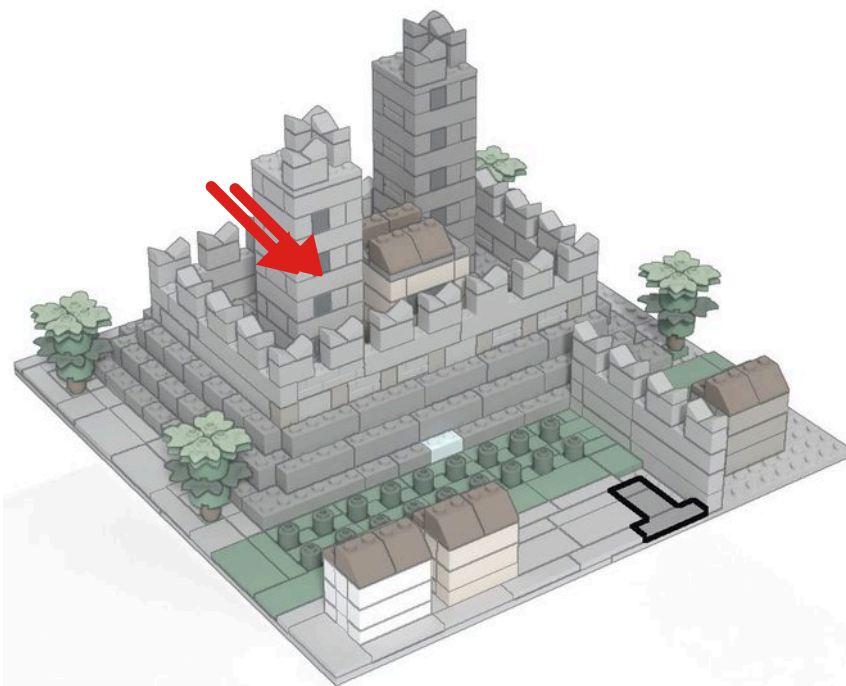
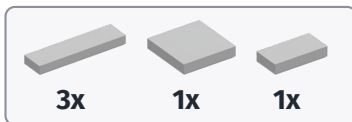
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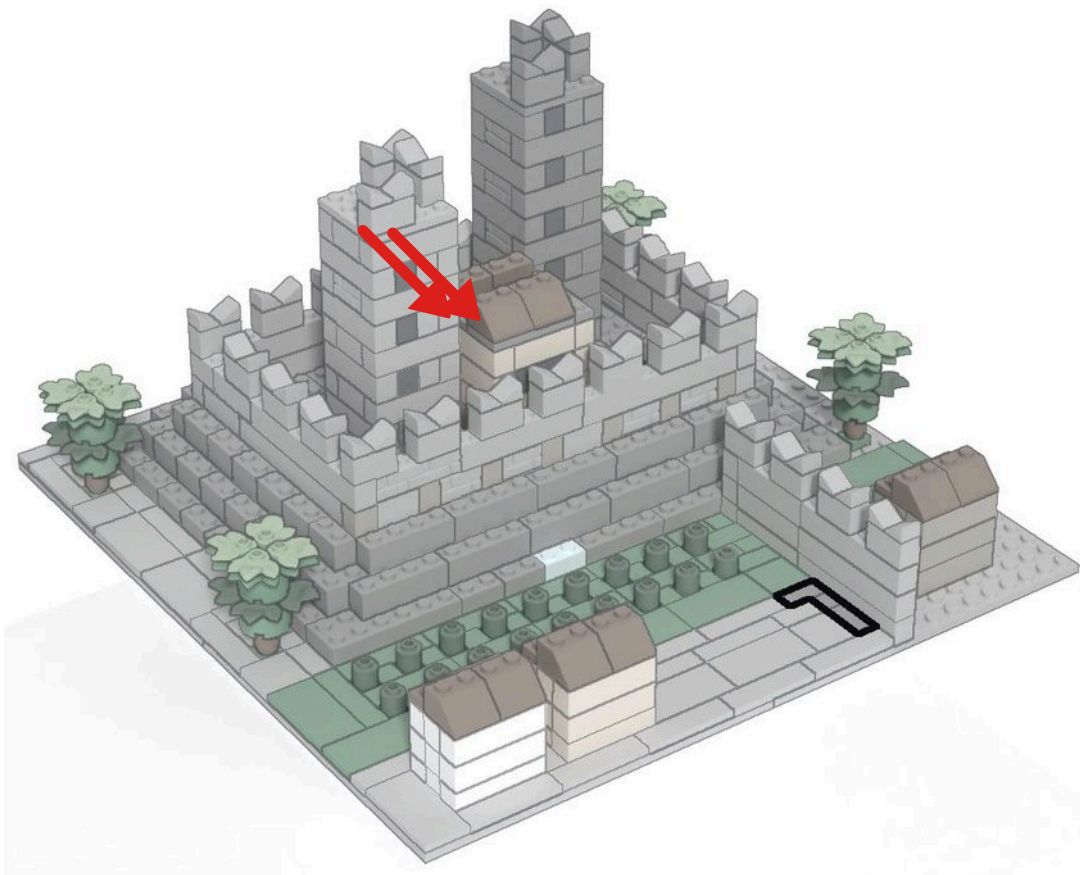
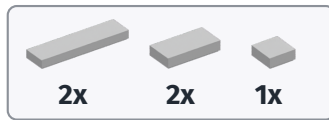
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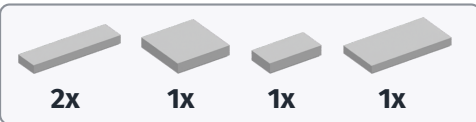
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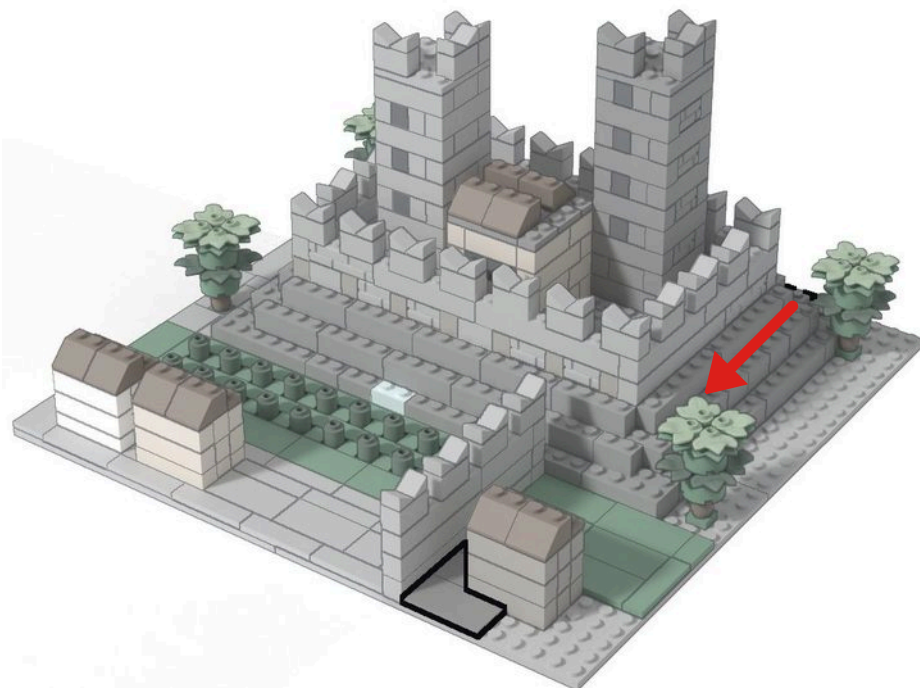
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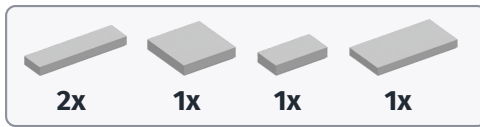
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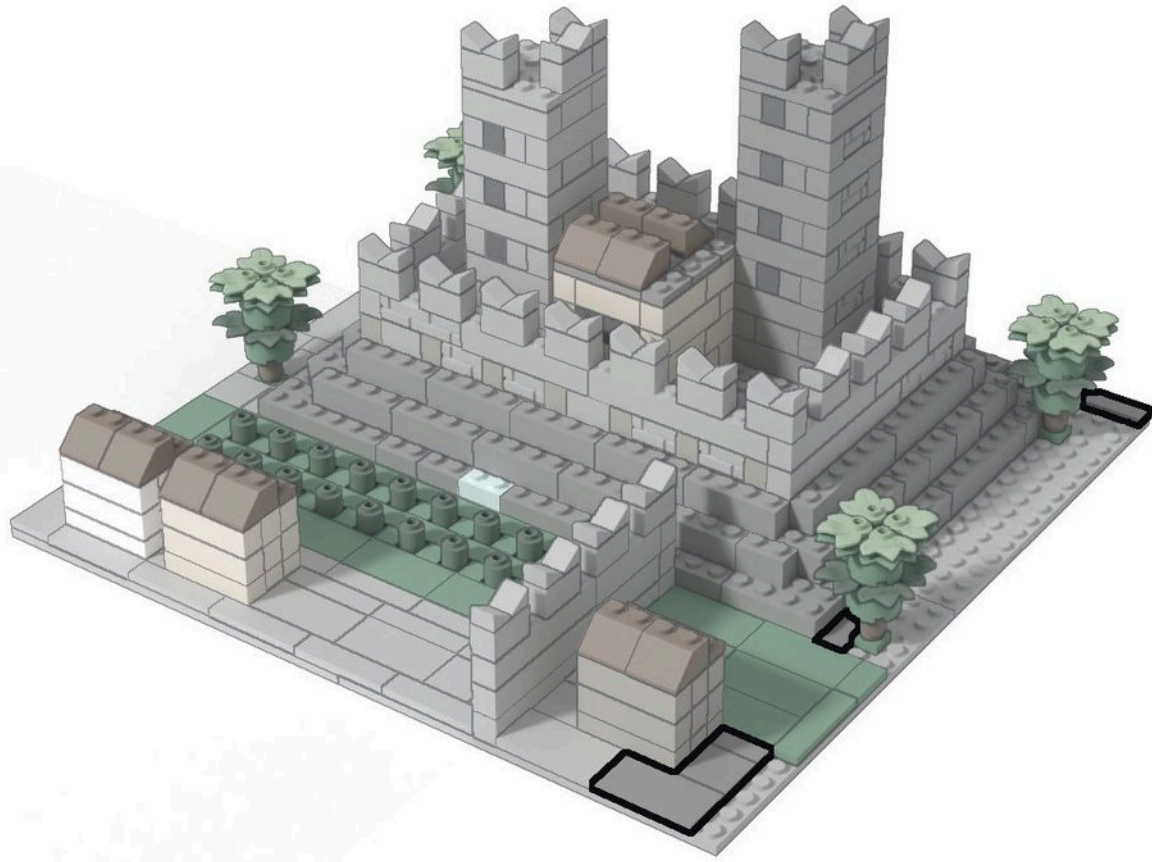
turn the model around



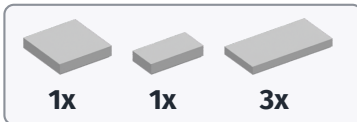
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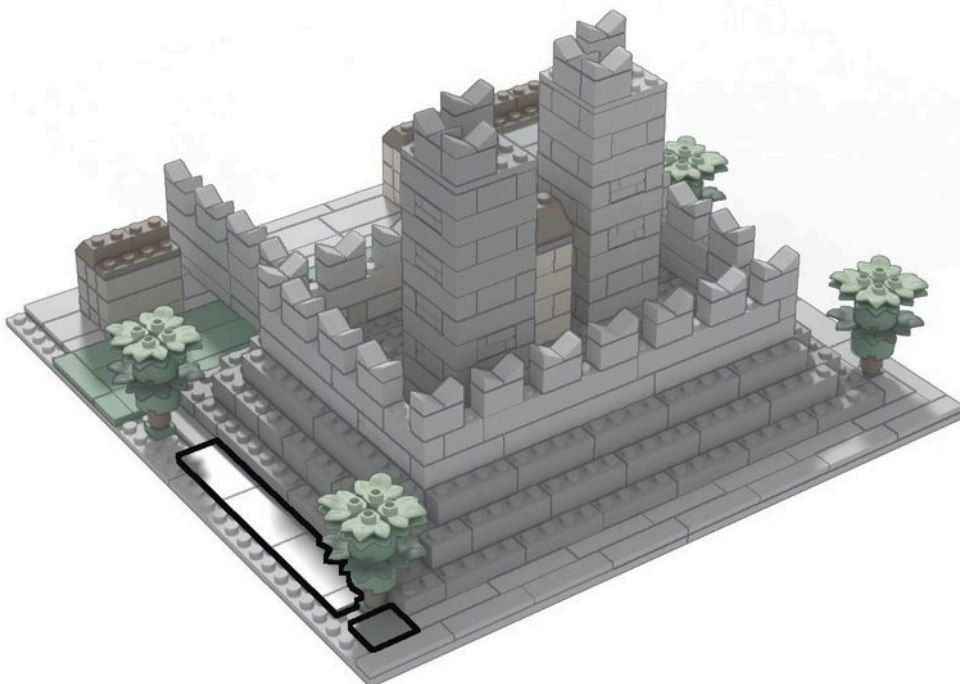
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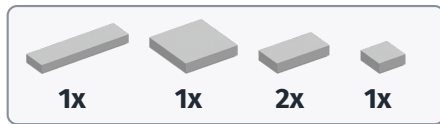
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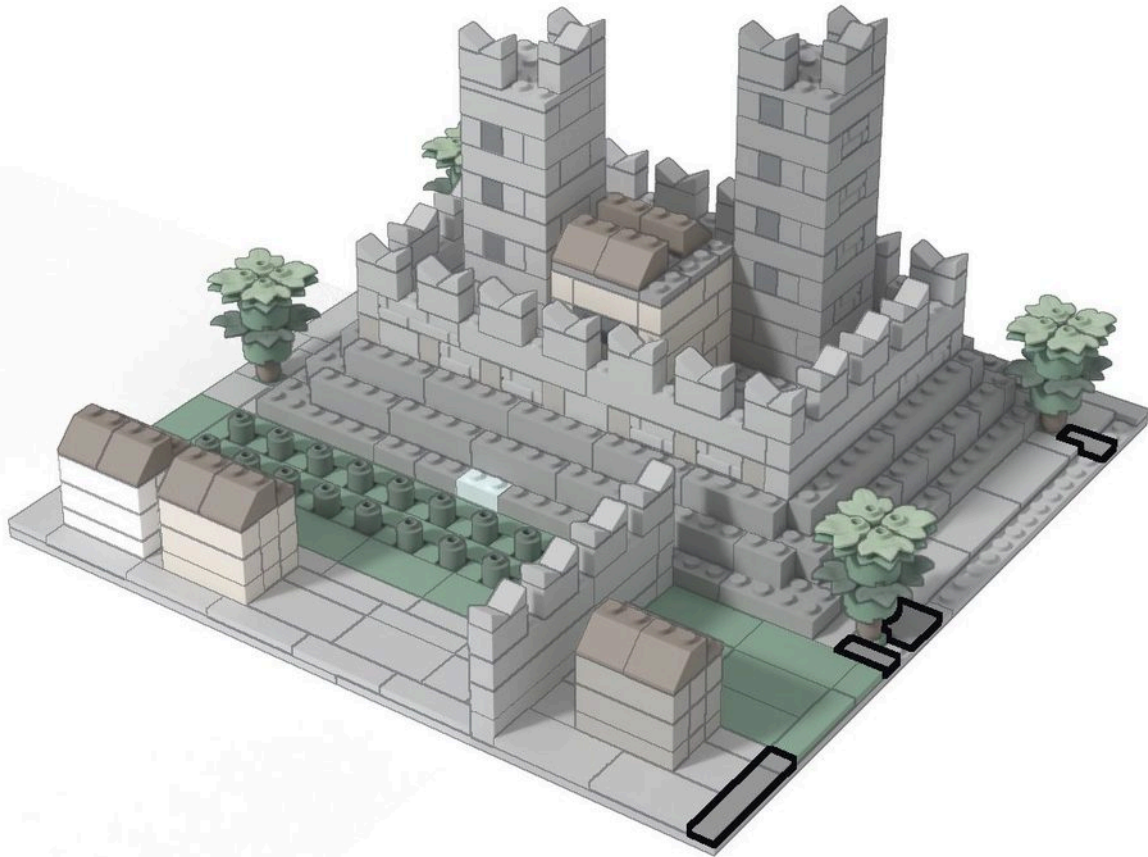
turn the model around



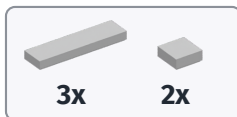
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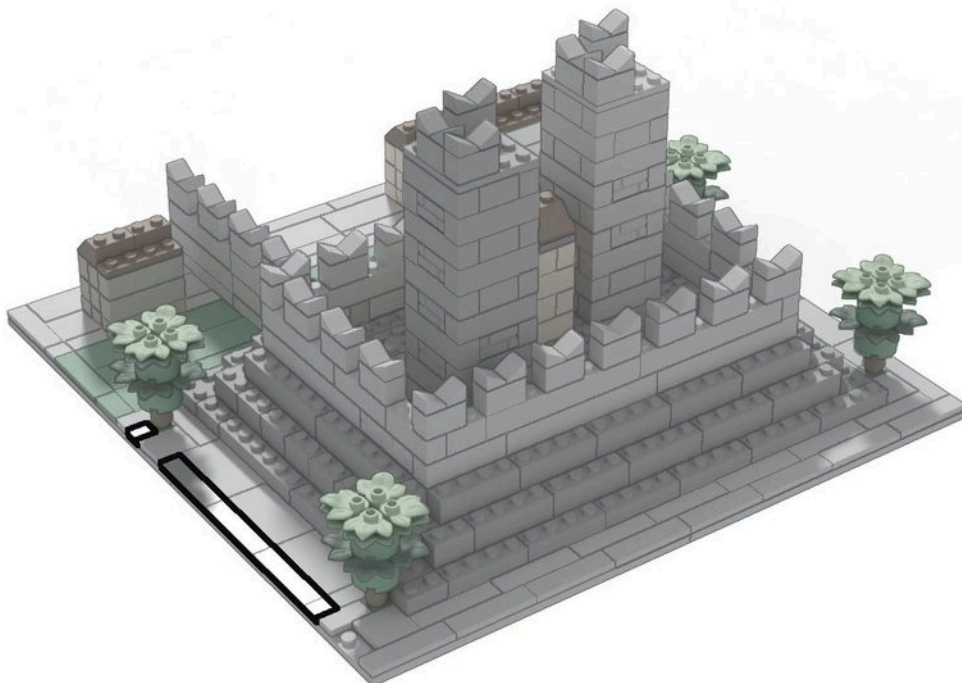
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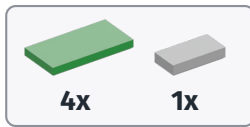
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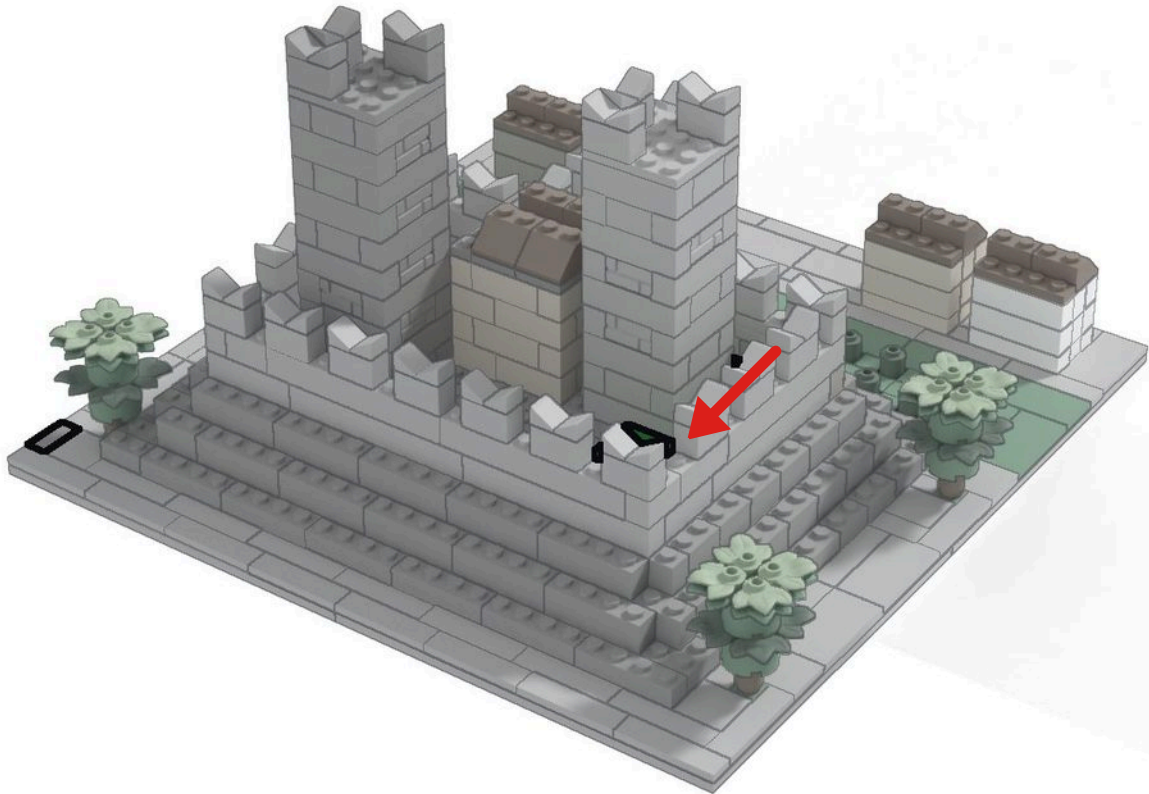
turn the model around



122



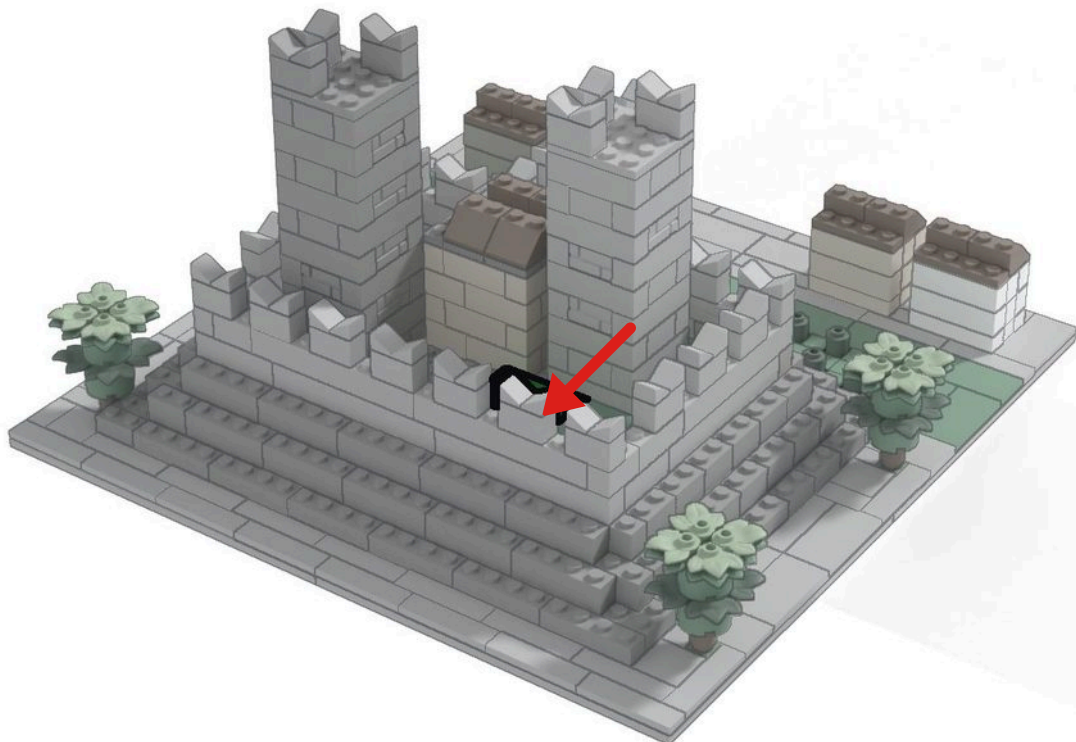
turn the model around



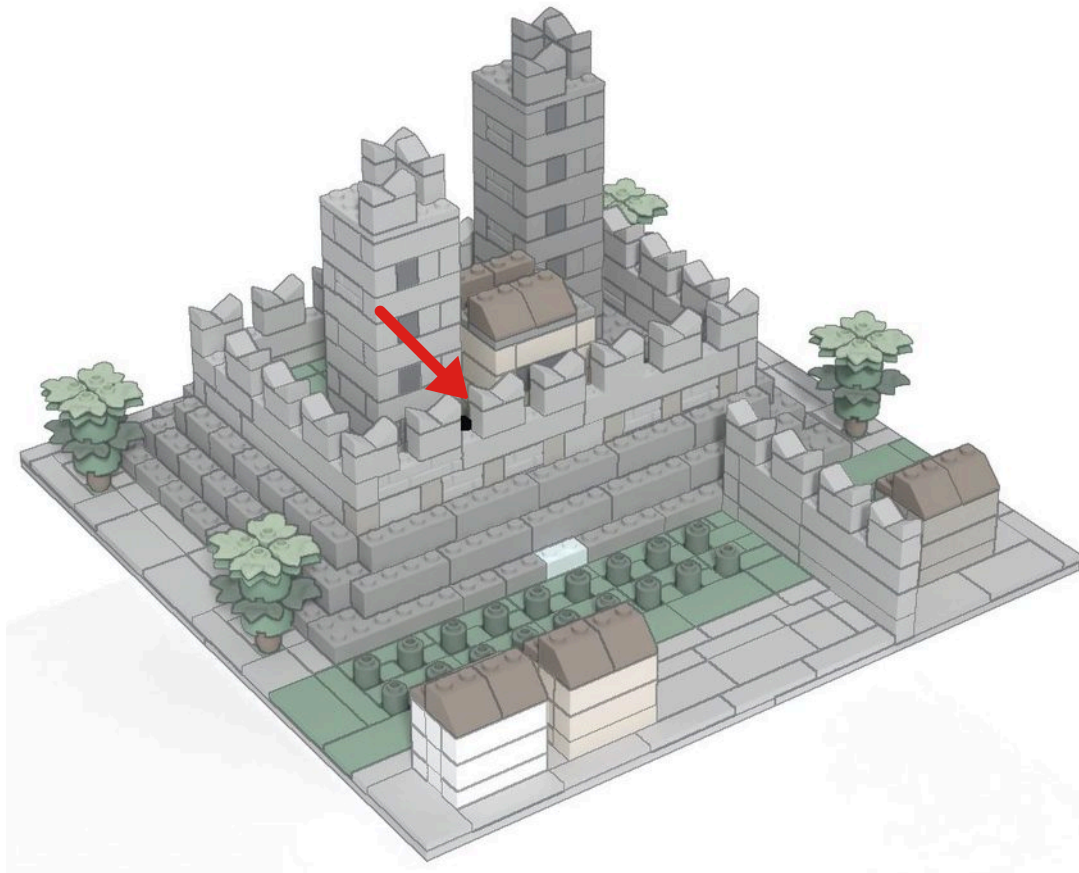
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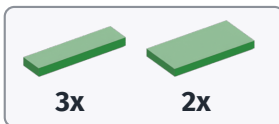
turn the model around



124



125



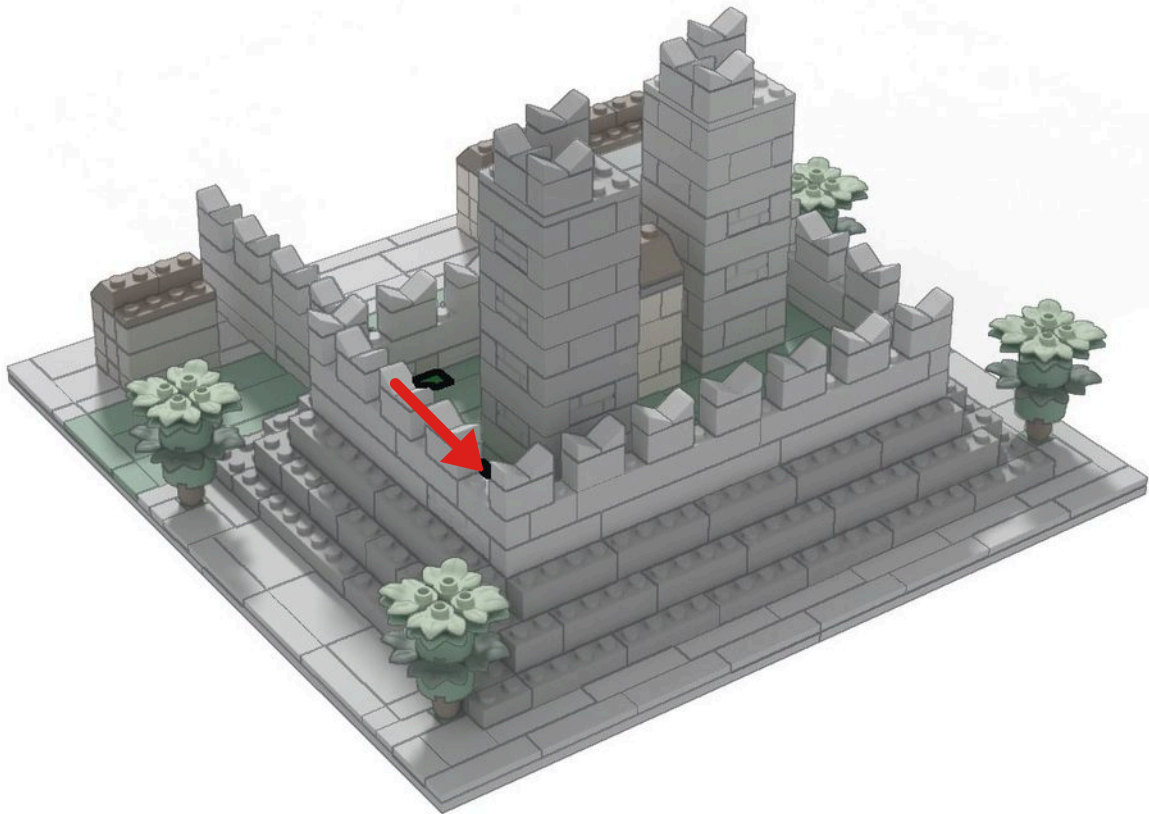
turn the model around



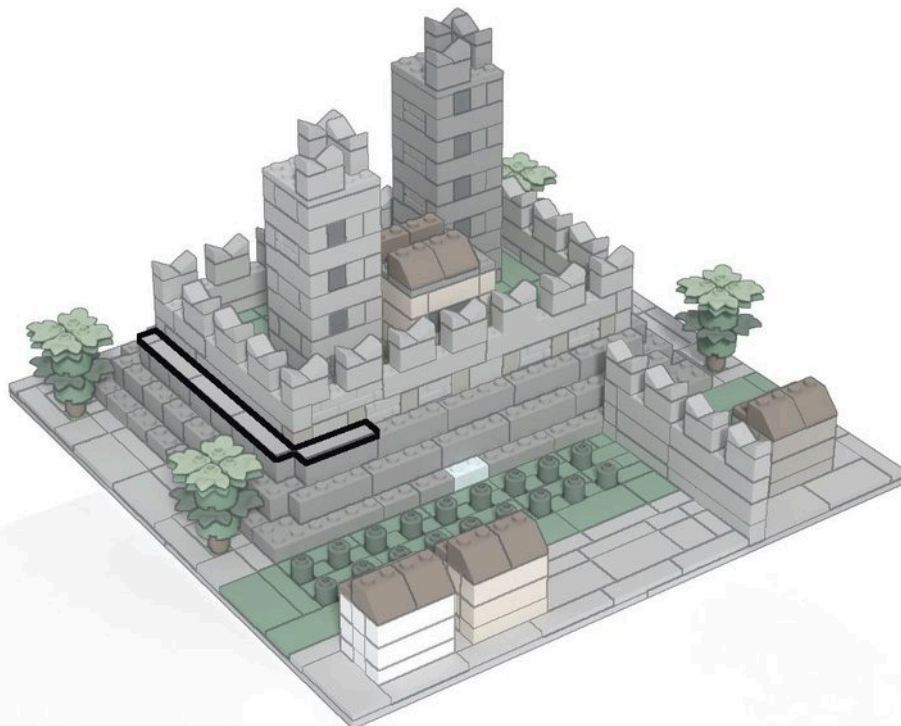
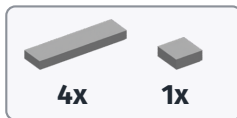
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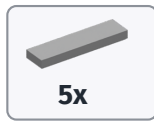
turn the model around



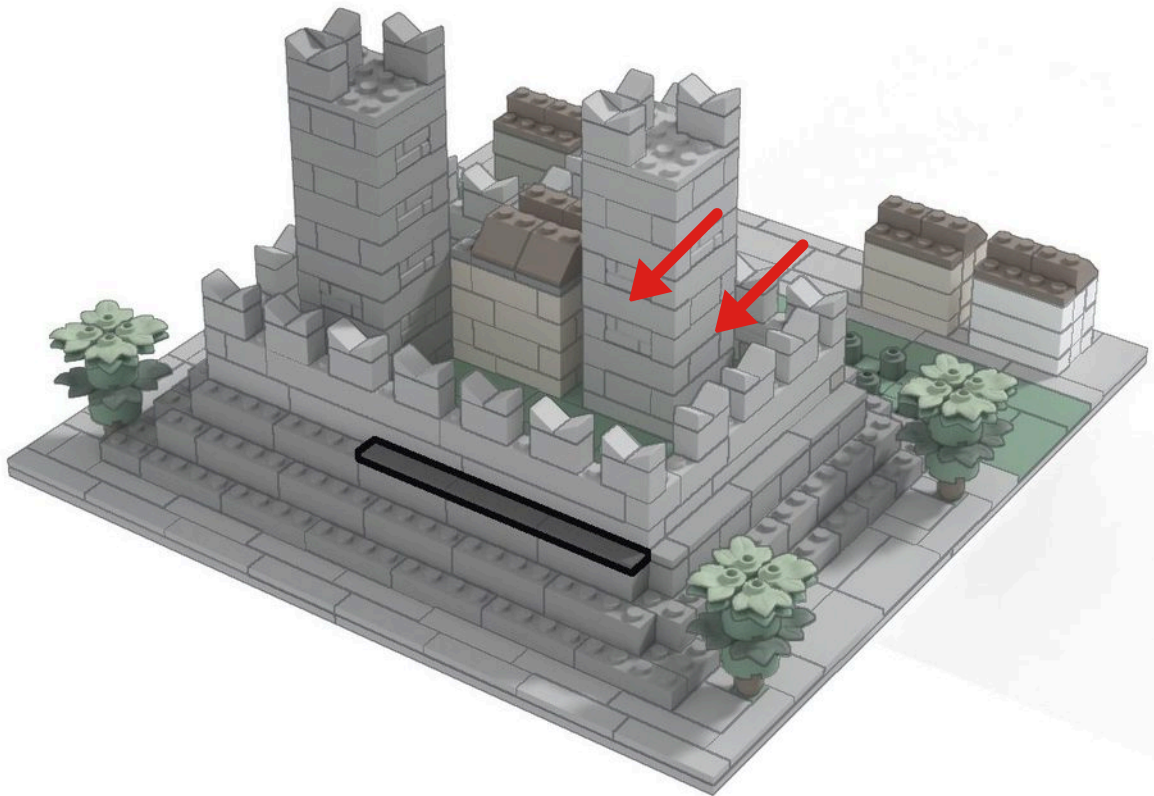
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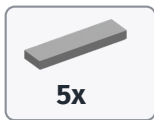
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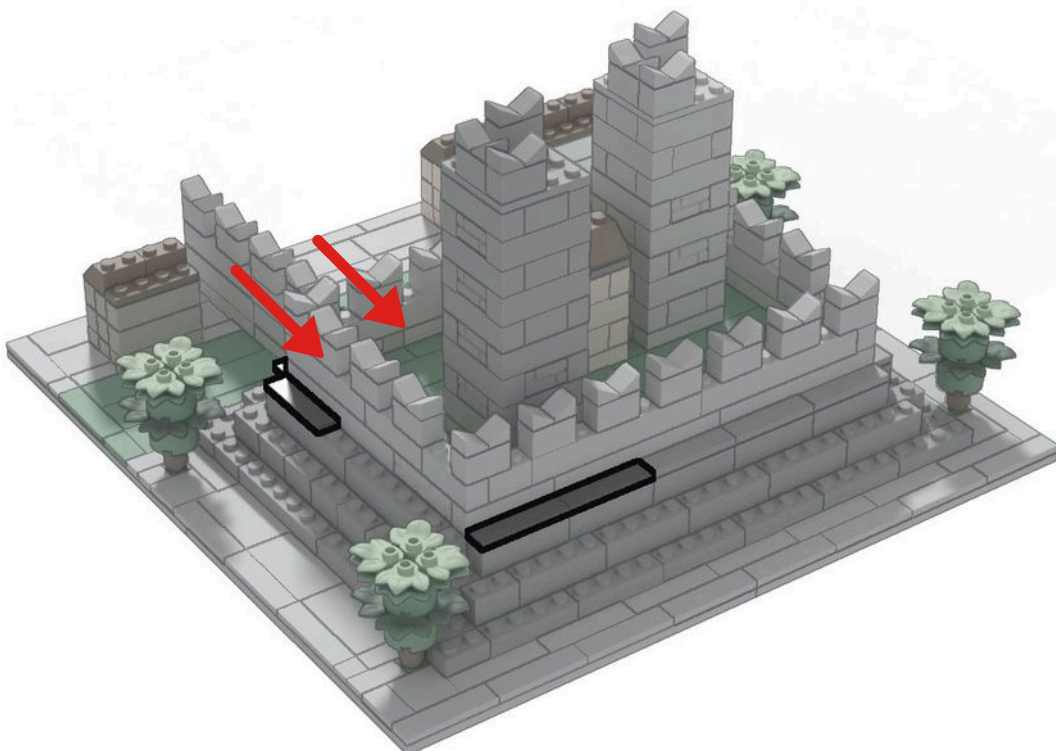
turn the model around



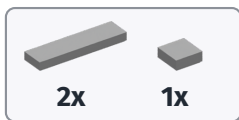
129



turn the model around



130



turn the model around



Last chapter

The display stand

Every model in the series stands on the same black stand with a nameplate, so your souvenirs line up on the shelf. Build the black strip, press it under the front edge of the model, and press the small 2 × 4 plates (the feet) under its back corners. Then stick the label from the nameplate page on the tan tiles.

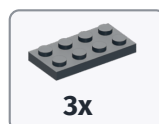


The display stand

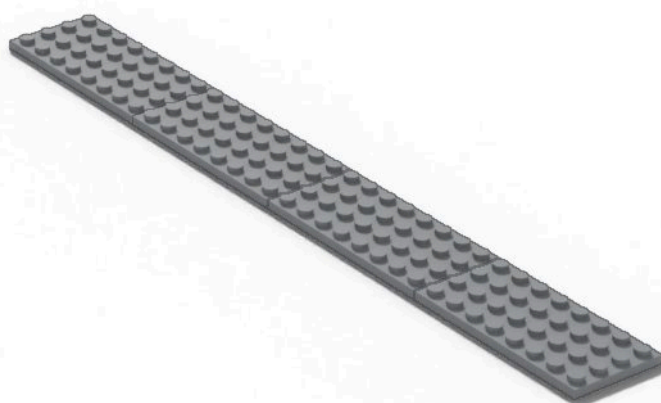
1



2



turn the model around

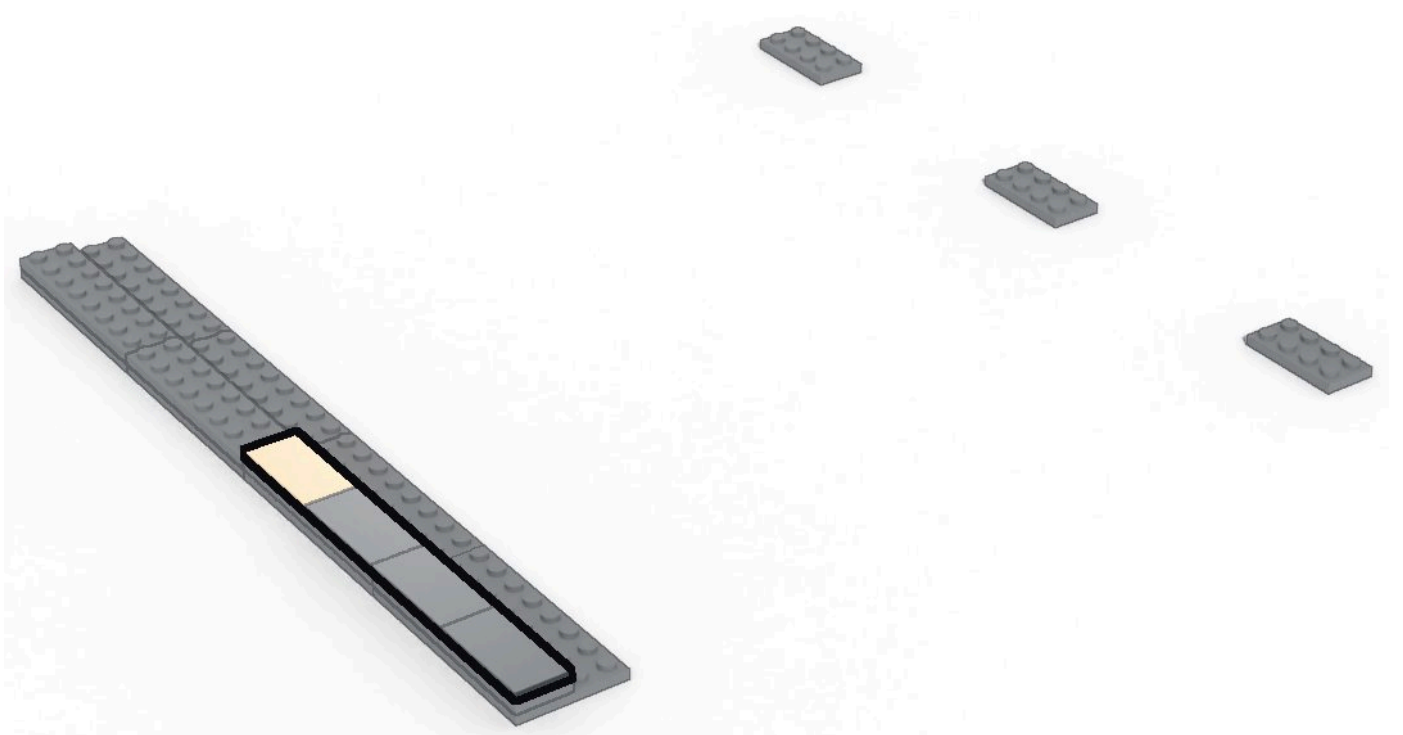
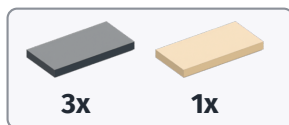


The display stand

3

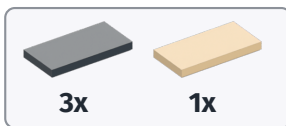


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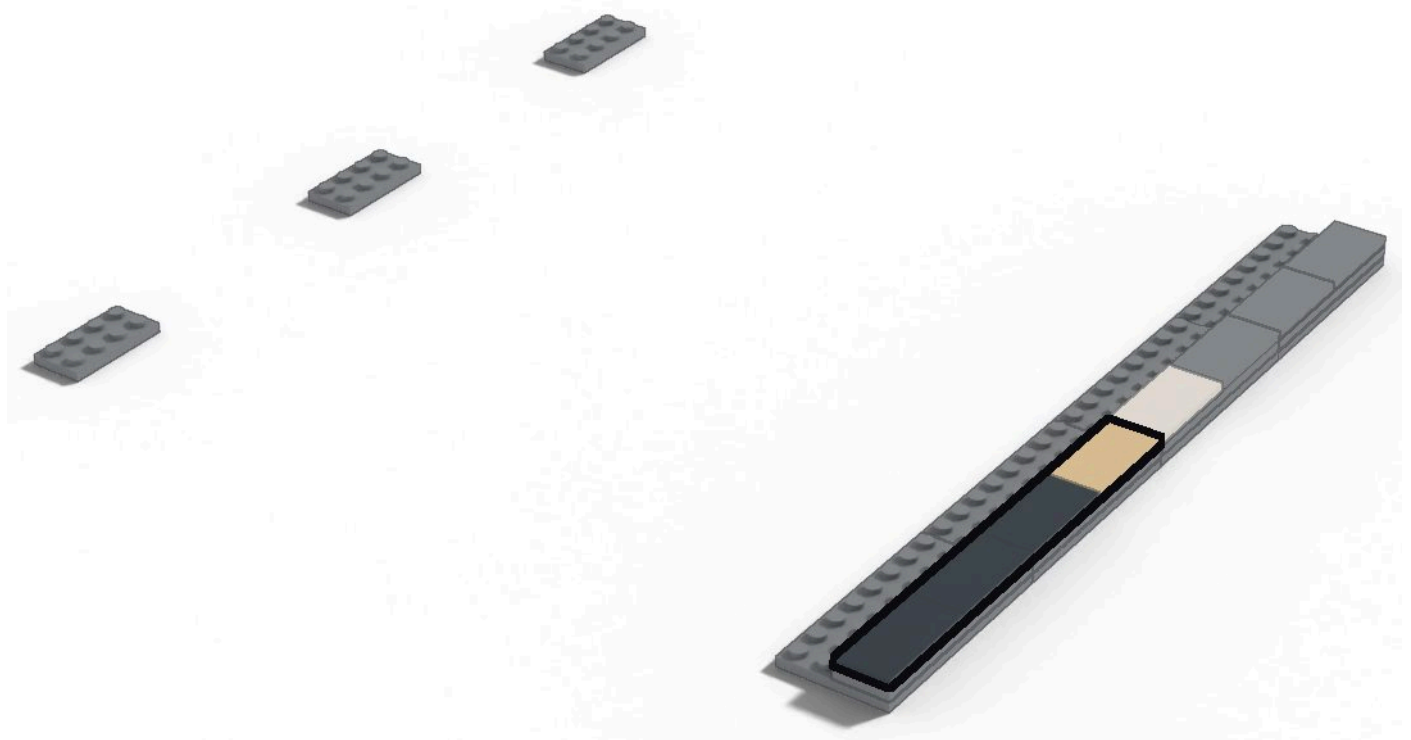


The display stand

5



turn the model around



Your nameplate

Print this page at 100 % (no “fit to page”), cut out a label along the grey line and stick it on the tan 2 × 8 nameplate of the display stand. Tip: sticker paper or a strip of clear tape on top makes it last.

Castelgrande

Bellinzona · walls on Roman foundations

Castelgrande

Bellinzona · walls on Roman foundations

Castelgrande

Bellinzona · walls on Roman foundations

Castelgrande

Bellinzona · walls on Roman foundations

Castelgrande

Bellinzona · walls on Roman foundations

Castelgrande

Bellinzona · walls on Roman foundations

Labels: three colours to choose from (tan, navy, Swiss red).

Parts list



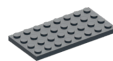
7x
3005 · Black



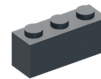
3x
3020 · Black



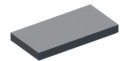
4x
3034 · Black



4x
3035 · Black



1x
3622 · Black



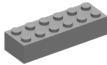
6x
87079 · Black



16x
32607 · Bright Green



16x
2431 · Dark Bluish Gray



85x
2456 · Dark Bluish Gray



2x
3001 · Dark Bluish Gray



12x
3004 · Dark Bluish Gray



4x
3005 · Dark Bluish Gray



64x
3010 · Dark Bluish Gray



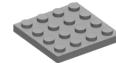
2x
3020 · Dark Bluish Gray



4x
3023 · Dark Bluish Gray



1x
3024 · Dark Bluish Gray



1x
3031 · Dark Bluish Gray



2x
3070 · Dark Bluish Gray



6x
54200 · Dark Bluish Gray



12x
98283 · Dark Bluish Gray



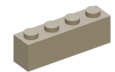
18x
3062 · Dark Green



16x
32607 · Dark Green



13x
3005 · Dark Tan



6x
3010 · Dark Tan



19x
2431 · Green



4x
3024 · Green



3x
3068 · Green



5x
3069 · Green



19x
3070 · Green



16x
32607 · Green



8x
3941 · Green



24x
87079 · Green



2x
15533 · Light Bluish Gray



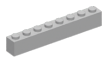
36x
2431 · Light Bluish Gray



39x
3004 · Light Bluish Gray



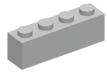
6x
3005 · Light Bluish Gray



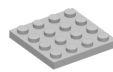
8x
3008 · Light Bluish Gray



5x
3009 · Light Bluish Gray



23x
3010 · Light Bluish Gray



1x
3031 · Light Bluish Gray



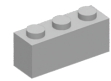
9x
3068 · Light Bluish Gray



13x
3069 · Light Bluish Gray



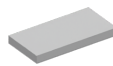
7x
3070 · Light Bluish Gray



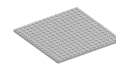
3x
3622 · Light Bluish Gray



54x
54200 · Light Bluish Gray



10x
87079 · Light Bluish Gray



4x
91405 · Light Bluish Gray



11x
98283 · Light Bluish Gray

Parts list



10x

3039 · Reddish Brown



4x

3062 · Reddish Brown



3x

3710 · Reddish Brown



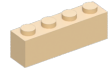
7x

3004 · Tan



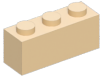
6x

3005 · Tan



8x

3010 · Tan



13x

3622 · Tan



2x

87079 · Tan



1x

3065 · Trans-Light Blue



6x

3005 · White



6x

3010 · White

A lift through the rock

Look at the foot of the rock, at the front: a small glass door.

During the restoration from 1982 to 2000, the architect Aurelio Galfetti cut a lift shaft right through the rock, so visitors can go from the Piazzetta della Valle straight up into the castle.

The castle's walls stand largely on Roman foundations.

Sources and credits

- Castelgrande (Bellinzona) (German Wikipedia): [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castelgrande_\(Bellinzona\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castelgrande_(Bellinzona)) (Wikipedia (CC BY-SA), used for facts only)
- History text written in our own words from the sources above; facts checked in at least one source.
- Maps: © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).
- Part geometry: LDraw parts library (CC BY 4.0). Instructions, model and renders: CC BY-NC 4.0, free to share with credit, no commercial use.
- An independent, non-commercial hobby project, not affiliated with any brick manufacturer.



Castelgrande

Bellinzona



Scan for this landmark online: the instructions, its story and the parts order (one BrickLink Wanted List for all the bricks).

<https://myswissbricktrip.github.io/my-swiss-brick-trip/landmarks/castelgrande.html>