







## LEGOworld™ 2008

### Paradise within reach

Text Iluigib

Images Iluisgib and Adri

Event: LEGOWorld 2008

From 16 to 21 of October at fair Ijsselhallen in Zwolle (Holland)

Visitors 70000

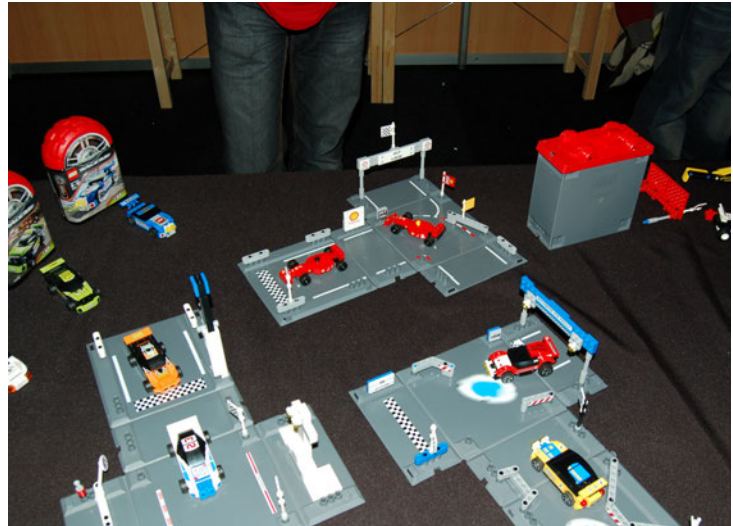
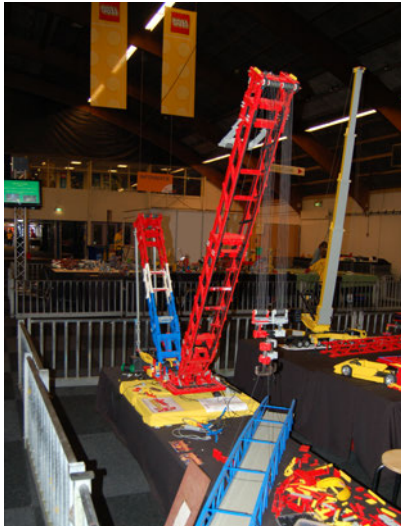
Next edition from 22 to 27 of October 2009 at Zwolle (Holland)

**T**erminal B. El Prat Airport (Barcelona). 5:30 in the morning of Oct. 18, 2008. I start to run. The check-in terminal of the airline with which I have to flight has changed and I have to run to terminal C. At the end I leave the luggage and get to the gate. This little anecdote was almost the only thing that went "badly" during the trip to LEGOWorld in Zwolle (Netherlands).

I came to the fair Ijsselhallen in Zwolle at 10:40 in the morning, after two hours by plane, and an hour and a quarter by train. There I met Adri, his mother, his

cousin and a friend who had arrived the day before. They spent it to visit Amsterdam. After that, we entered conveniently accredited to a paradise made with LEGO® bricks with our luggage and our illusions. It was full of visitors. During the six days of the event, there are a total of 70,000 paying visitors attending, at a rate of 10,000 per day (from 10 to 17h), and one evening open from 18:30 to 22.

The first hall we found, was where the fan clubs of LEGO showed their creations. It was the largest of the 6 halls which housed the event. Added to the



hundreds of MOCs, layouts and inventions of all kinds, there were some booths where you could talk with the designers of the different lines of LEGO®, and take a look to some new sets of 2009. For example, we could see some new boxes LEGO RACERS 2009. Added to a RACERS micromodel, the box unfolds and becomes a road. Then you can fold it again and store the model inside. There were also a number of stores (which are also in Bricklink) who sold loose bricks and sets, especially a lot of older ones. There were also several official Pick-a-brick shops and a Megastore of a Dutch toy chain, with all sets 10% discounted and some really interesting offers.

The other halls were more for "children" with building activities of all kinds, exhibition of models, some

similar to the models of the LEGOLAND parks. Saturday was a day, mainly for "public relations". We did not have the showground (previously booked) until the end of the day so we could admire all the models there, and talk with everyone.

We had a special closeness to the friends of BELUG (who I already met last year). They exhibited a CITY layout, 23 meters long. It is difficult to describe in words what we saw there. Thousands of details of all kinds decorated the huge diorama, with a dozen trains running, including the French TGV, in its traditional version (orange), Atlantique (blue) and La Poste (Yellow). The trains were running at 3 levels. There was also a beach, a haunted house, a theme park of Star Wars ... In my opinion, the best layout of the whole event by far.





We also saw smaller layouts of other LUGs and / or AFOLs. The CITY theme was the predominant over the others, though Technic, among the giant cranes, models and the GBC dealt a significant place. At lunchtime, we met Jan Beyer and we had a pleasant conversation. He confirmed that he would attend again the HispaBrick event.

After lunch, we made a visit to the shops that were there and we exercised our consumerist rights. Who can resist shopping in a place where they only sell our beloved brick? We, at least, no!

At about 4 pm our BeLUG friends borrow us a bit of their space for HispaLUG's first presence. We were able to mount a slot track and the cars began to whirl continuously... until 6 pm (1 hour after closing the show) when we all left the compound to go to dinner!

We arrived at the bungalows on a free bus rented by the organization (they were 17 km from Zwolle). It was an idyllic site, amid a green setting. Each of them had 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen/dining room. What a luxury. The dinner was about 1 km from there, and we had to make that journey on foot. Adri and I started to walk and engaged in an animated conversation. When we had walked about 25 minutes, we realized we had taken the wrong way! It was getting dark so we walked faster and we arrived at the restaurant around 20 minutes late, but with a ravenous hunger, after so much walking. After dinner, there was a show dedicated to all AFOLs. But the language barrier made us abandon early.

The next morning we began with the talks with a boy, who we met at the bus route the evening



before, and with whom Adri made friends. At the hall, we set the table so that HispaLUG had its first (and I hope not last) official presence at the event. Assembled in a hurry, at 10 (opening hour) all our stuff was in place. We arrived on time exhausted but happy. Everything was in order. On behalf of our community there were:

- A house made by Adri
- Slot cars made by lluisgib - MOCs with lights added made by lluisgib
- 3 models of the arvo brothers

Children loved the slot cars, as they were allowed to play with them, and that attracted them a lot. Adri's house was very successful among seniors, who stopped to observe the many details that had. Hisfabrick Magazine was also present with the two issues that have appeared so far. The magazines

caused some excitement among the public and a lot among AFOLs. They appreciated the effort of translation into English and some ventured that in the future, their LUG would also have a magazine. The hours passed so fast. It was an intense day and soon it was 5 pm, and we had to go to the station to take the train back to Schiphol, where Adri and his family would take a plane to Madrid, and I myself back to Barcelona. On the train we were reviewing photos and recalling what happened at the weekend. Upon arrival at the airport, Adri realized that he had forg ... Well, that is another story■