

HISPABRICK 2008

The consolidation

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Captain's Brick log, star date December 5, of the year 2008 after the Dark Ages, the Hispabrick 08 begins, yes, that's right, it begins on Friday. I know that lot of you will say I'm wrong, that the Hispabrick took place on Saturday and Sunday, but we all know that it really began the moment we close the door of our respective houses to start on our way to that small village of the Catalanian coast whose name I remember, and you all know, since for the second consecutive year the Hispabrick takes place at L'Anec Blau. As I was saying, the party begins the moment that the trip begins, we all move all the way to the hall of the hotel, meeting point and reunion of the participants. During the trip we think about what the other participants will bring, especially the arvo (or don't we?), and where we are going to place the things, as well as some prayers in order that everything that we transport arrives as whole as possible (how angry and upset we get when we pick up something and it comes to pieces in our hands).

Arrival at the hotel, the first official act of the Hispabrick, greeting Mr. Pedro Cerdón, an institution, we all know that without him, it would not be the

same. After complying with protocol, we proceed to greet some of the others, to comment on anecdotes, to try to find out what each one has brought, and to leave our luggage in our rooms. Once we are all together, it is time for another one of the big moments of the Hispabrick, the convoy... a row of cars travelling approximately 200 meters and blocking one of the exit lanes to be able to access the loading bay.

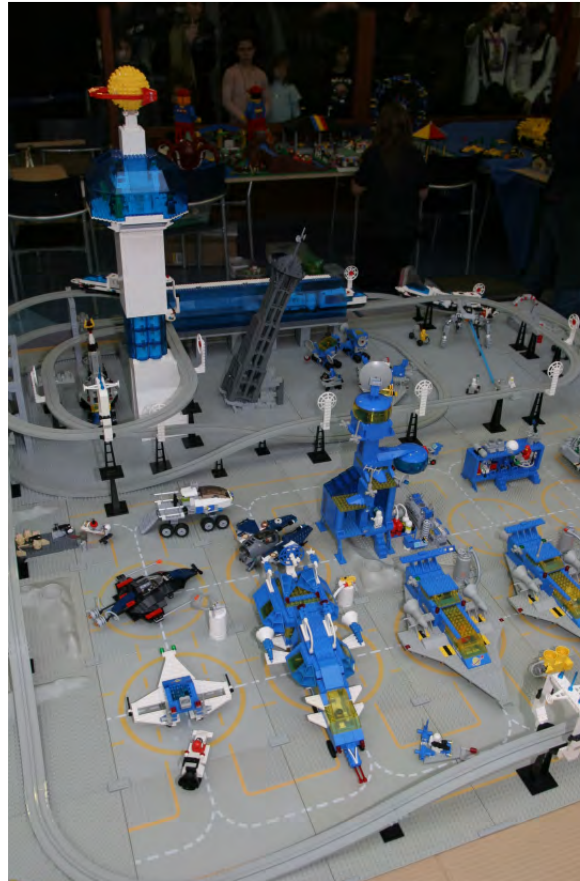
After dodging garbage containers and boxes, we park our vehicles, and we start to check out what each one has in his car, trying to figure out how each one has transported it and in what state it arrived. While this is happening, some of the participants look for a trolley or something similar to be able to move everything to the place of the exhibition/party. During the transport of the different boxes with MOCs commentaries arise on the things that can already be seen, like "what does this carousel look like", "whose is that Star-Wars's ball that has been spotted in the warehouse", etc ... After several trips up and down, everything is safely stored in the warehouse that the mall has kindly made available



to us, and everyone goes for supper, most of us in the mall. Tomorrow will be a great day.

Finally the official start of the Hispabrick 08 has come and we all gather in the lobby of the hotel to go as a group, like worshipers of the Brick religion, to build up the different MOCs and sets that will be exhibited. On arriving to the mall the ritual dance of the tables begins, but this year with the added surprise that some participants decide "to assault" the loading area and get cardboard and plywood, as well as a beggar (a great moment of José, aka satanspoet, wrapped in cardboard, hehehe). While everything is put in place, a 'shower' of pictures is taken while the surprises that have been prepared by the participants are revealed. But like last year, there was a moment that paralyzed all activity: the appearance of "the doll" by the arvo brothers. These fans of Noel and Liam Gallagher are from another galaxy. In addition there is the already traditional welcome meal that the mall has prepared and the distribution of ID cards and the different gifts to the participants.

At 12 a.m. sharp, with Spanish punctuality, the welcome speeches begin. Lluís Gibert, the LEGO® Ambassador of the Spanish community, starts off, giving thanks to everybody for coming, thanking the mall for its help for this event, and giving special thanks to Jan Beyer, the representative of The LEGO



Group Company, for his presence and support to this event. Representatives of LEGO Iberia, and members of the Portuguese community PLUG are also present. Before concluding his intervention, Lluís presents a commemorative gift, designed by Carlos (car_mp) to several participants and attendants to the Hispabrick 08, among others to Jan Beyer, to Carlos himself and to Alexandra, the representative of the mall.

After Lluís, Ricardo Cordón, "Rick83", a highly valued member of the Spanish AFOL community, and manager of the Spanish-speaking forum HispaLUG, speaks. Ricardo again thanks us all for our presence, and urges us to enjoy the party.

Doing a tour of the different areas of exhibition we find the GBC coordinated by Jetro, our most international member, which consists of a set of modules which are made with Lego pieces and using the Mindstorms system and that, connected to each others, form a circuit that automatically transports by balls from the Sport series all the way around. After that there is the Technic section, where the illustrious and mythical supercars can be observed, besides other official sets and a spectacular 4x4 truck by Sheepo, radio controlled by means of the Power Functions system.

After passing the access point to the interior of the



enclosure of the exhibition, we come to a table on which some of the new sets for the year 2009 are presented, courtesy of LEGO®. Among them the pirate ship, that our Ambassador has so patiently built with dozens of eyes looking at him doing this pleasant task, stands out. Right at its side, there are a few wonderful MOCs of a new participant to the party, there is a house of a fantasy world, a fig and the emblem of the forum of the Spanish community built with bricks.

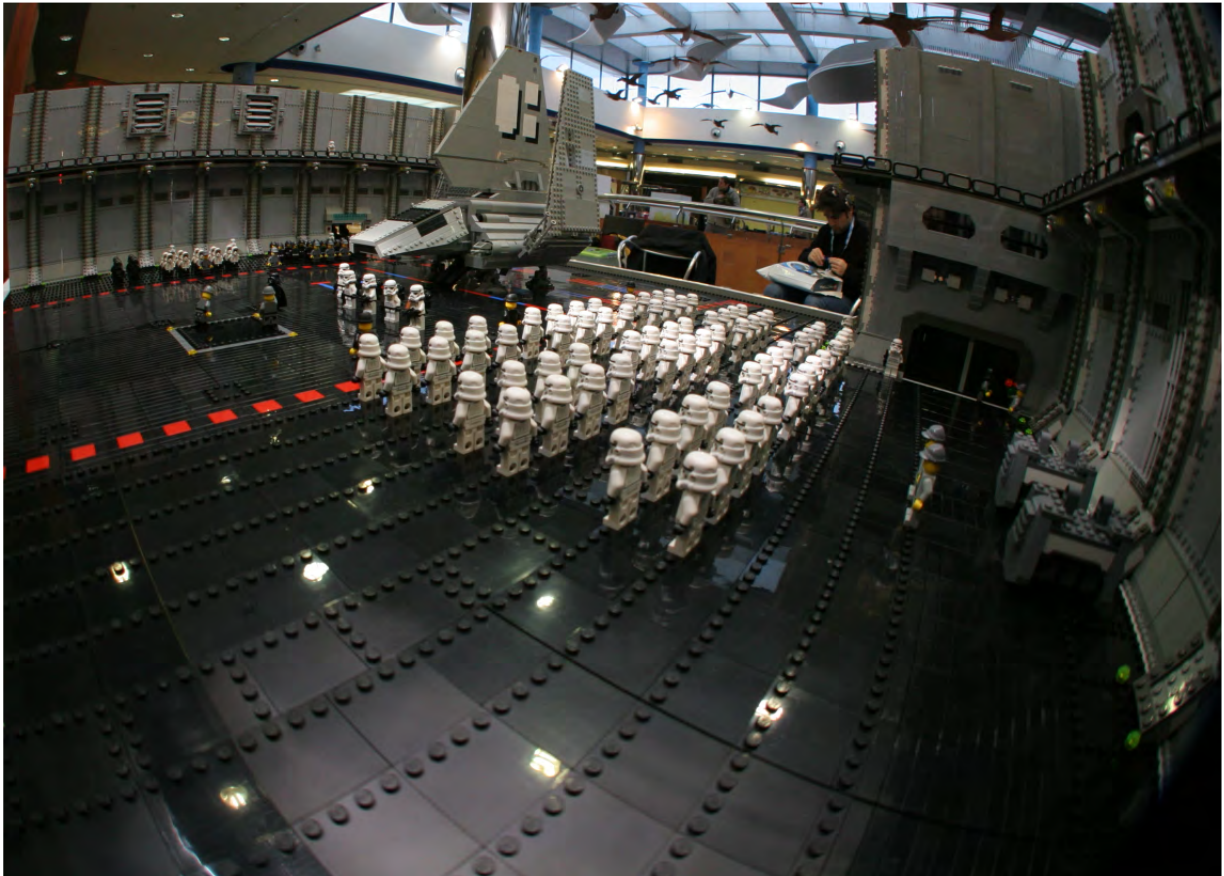
We move on to the MOCs exhibited by one of the illustrious ones of the Spanish LEGO community, and the creator of the Hispabrick Magazine, Carlos, better known as car_mp. His MOCs are a wink at science fiction and its followers. There is a great reproduction of the heads of Bender and Zoidberg (Futurama), as well as a radio controlled R2-D2 with Power Functions system and another R2-D2 in a smaller scale. There is also a small sample of different vehicles that can be built with bricks.

We move on to another one of the new participants of the party, Gobernador, in my opinion a name that isn't quite right given his tendency to support the most intrepid of pirates. His presence adds a new image and re-arising of the Pirates theme. A large part of the official sets of the pirate theme created by LEGO in the 90s is shown. At the sight of this fleet, which includes the greater part of the official sets of the

LEGO pirates line of the 90s, even Davy Jones would flee, scared, to his Flying Dutchman to saty at a safe distance. His only problem is that he would run into the medieval troops shown together with the library tower, in the purest style of "The name of the rose", that were created Pedro, our community member from Reus. Certainly Pedro, my congratulation to your lady for these monk's habits so well recreated. To this medieval setting we need to add a small dedication to epic fantasy in the shape of an Ent, or a stone Golem.

We come to the section honoring the superheroes or the guys in pyjamas, whichever you prefer, created by the two members of the forum who best know the world of comics, Joan (dirty) and José (satanspoet). The partner of the latter, Gemma (Bitxa), as knowledgeable about this world as they are, and the writer of this article, make a small presentation of the official sets dedicated to Spiderman from Marvel and to Batman of DC comics. After that, there is a small show of planes made by Ignacio, a flying Steampunk ship, next to the swing bridge, and a small representation of Exo-Force.

To rest a bit from the tour we are taking, allow me to comment on the numerous additional activities that existed in the Hispabrick 08. We have the area for children with thousands of bricks, supervised by monitors the mall has provided. In addition



throughout the day building contests are done for children, with a prize for the winners of the semi-finals and to the final winner, as well as a “shoot at the basket” contest with a set of the Sports line. These contests are supervised by the participants who selflessly lend their help.

Believe it or not, but this is still on Saturday, and after the official closing to the public, a new event begins at the Hispabrick, the pick a brick, or I should say “feed of the animals”, more than anything because we all look like farm animals being fed, down on the floor, in a circle around the TechBall field presented by the Portuguese members, waiting for the rain of bricks that Lluís has dropped from a distance.

The first day could not finish without another one of the unwritten traditions of the Hispabrick, the gathering of some members, equipped with some refreshments and something to eat, until deep in the night (security personnel had to ask them to please leave and go to sleep, hehehe), sharing laughs and opinions with regard to this great hobby that unites us.

Sunday begins with another big event, the auction of sets, where the most contended sets are the innovations for 2009. The rest of the morning passes without further surprises, a good moment to take in the details we couldn't see the previous day.

Continuing with the tour we were doing previously, we come to one of the most visited sections, Star Wars, where the participants have created scenes to integrate the official sets, enriching them and making the exhibition much more interesting. Of course the hangar of our master of the dark side, Legotron (Antonio), as well as his figs of the storm troopers from Star Wars™ are there as well, followed by small set inspired by World War II.

We come to one of the most pleasant surprises of the Hispabrick 08, the fairground: a series of MOCs which together make up one of the nicest shows of the exhibition, with a carousel, the treadmill, the octopus, literally speaking, the rapids, with its canoes, there are even bumper cars. Special mention must be made of the entrance to the park and the shops that adorn the diorama. Right at its side we find Juanma's (jm) submarine world and his Aquazones.

Now we come to one of the dioramas of the Hispabrick that has caused most expectations, the City theme, and its 9V train that travels around its perimeter and serves as a link between the different sections. This year it also incorporates a monorail, Manticore's (Jesus) mistress, and the surprise of the Mantinero Express, a train so long it makes the orient express look like a streetcar, which was also



built by Manticore who, for lack of the Sulaco, has decided to delight us with this show of wagons. Another great contribution to this diorama is the one by Legofan1974, who adapted a double crossing to make it work with 9V, as well as the interesting overhead power cables he has developed, without forgetting the lighthouse contributed by Carlos (car_mp). But this diorama would not be complete without the presence of the best knower of City, Ricardo (Rick83), and his big contributions to the LEGO® world in Spain. What would we do without our Legopedia in the forum.

Finally we have the Space diorama, which just like the City diorama, has a connecting element in the shape of a monorail. This diorama, which has been built principally by Carlos (car_mp) and Manticore (Jesus), contains numerous tributes to sci-fi movies, from the opening eggs from "Aliens", to an adaptation of the final scene of "Planet of the Apes" (that Eiffel Tower ...), including some Star Wars ships, a minifig size Bender and the obelisk from "2001: A Space Odyssey".

Don't worry, I have not forgotten, I know, I have not said anything about the arvos, but, sincerely, what can I say about these two brothers from the Manhattan of Castilla-La Mancha. I have no appropriate words. What Amador and Ramon present us are, once again, the most celebrated and admired

MOCs of the Hispabrick, beginning with every day things like a pacifier, a pair of diving goggles, a camera or a typewriter, continuing with their reproduction of Akira's motorcycles (special mention to the Canada one, I adore that motorcycle), and variety of cars, like the Beetle or the Seat. But the absolute winner is The Doll, this cybernetic being of docile appearance that from the anime movie "The Ghost in the Shell". It is impossible to describe this arvo creation with a few words, so we must read the article about it in issue 003 of this magazine. But in this case, its appearance did not have anything docile. Quite the contrary, it was scary to see its inside perfectly reproduced with bricks by the hands of these two brothers.

With this I conclude my tour of the exhibition at the Hispabrick, but this article isn't ending yet, as there are still many things to tell. Among them is the "build it in the bag" contest for the participants of the Hispabrick, with a prize for the winner and the finalist with Lego sets. Another activity is for the participants of the Hispabrick is the construction of the souvenir set without instructions, and the contest of the 50 piece MOC, both with prizes in the shape of official sets.

After the closing speeches, in which the participants and attendants are once again thanked, we proceed to gather everything together, much more quickly



than during the building up, since everything is put in big boxes ready to be organized at home.

Still a last activity remains before saying goodbye. During the closing dinner which we have all together there is a raffle of several official sets, and many comments evaluating these last two days. Now can we only travel back home thinking about the next Hispabrick.

With this I conclude my article about the Hispabrick 08, my apologies for the details that I have not

mentioned, which surely are many, and for the people I have not named, but I would like to thank you all for your participation in this event. Special mention must be made of the long-suffering organizers of the whole event, and also I want to invite you all for the next Hispabrick.

See you at the Hispabrick 09!! ■

