

# Skaerbaek 2010

## Fanweekend in the land of the brick

By Otum

Images by Lluis

On September 24, 25 and 26 the Legofan Weekend was celebrated in Skaerbaek, Denmark. As the name indicates, it is a weekend full of bricks, organised by the Danish AFOL friends as well as by LEGO® itself. Additionally, this edition was also listed as the first EuroLUG event.

Four HispaLUG members had the opportunity to visit the event in this edition: Satanspoet, Rick83, our Ambassador Lluis and I, Otum. Enough introduction lets get to the part you are all waiting for...

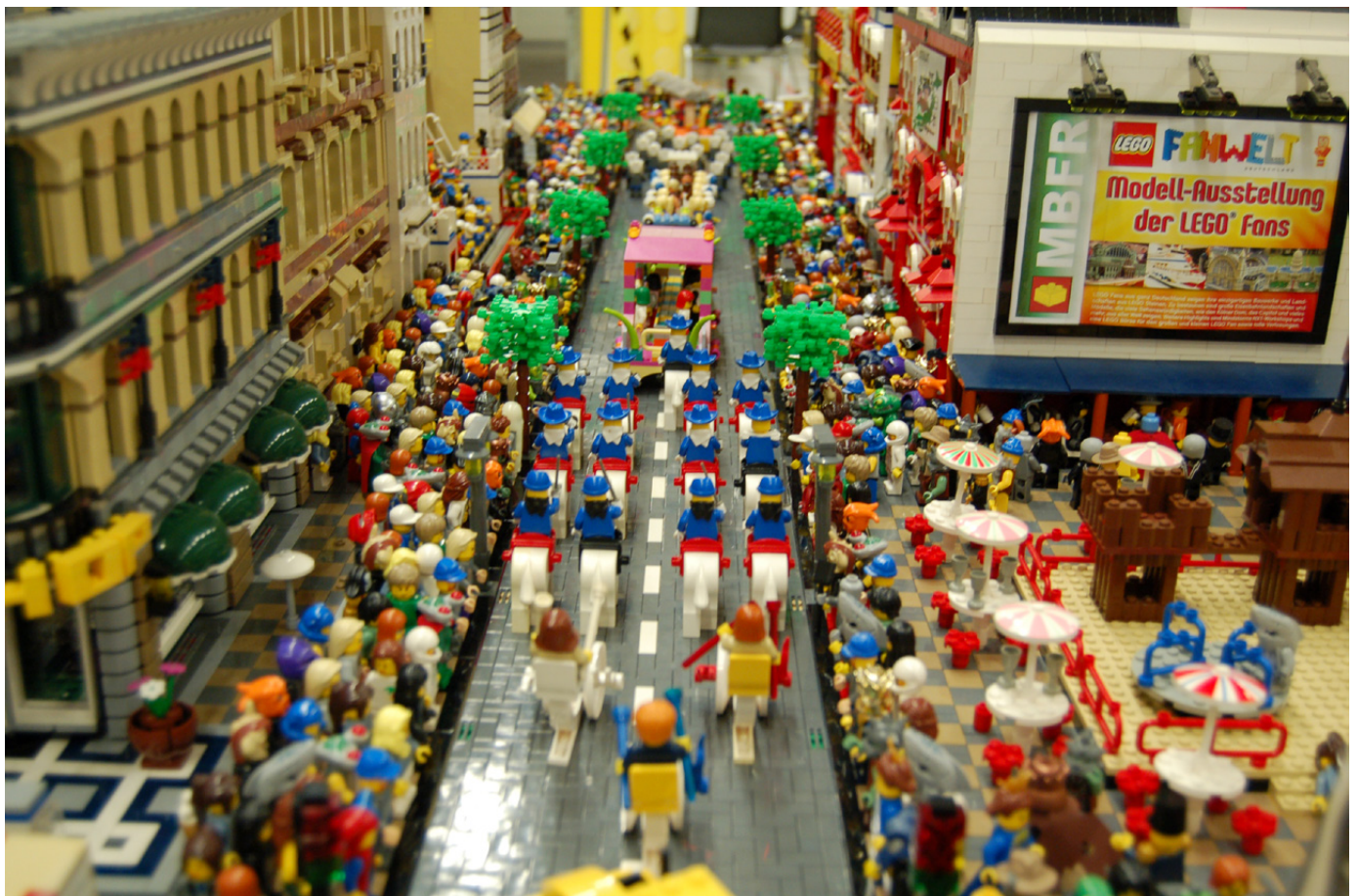
The first thing that causes a big impression is the location of the event: a bungalow park – like the ones where families like to pass their holidays, virtually taken over by the event, with the fans sleeping in bungalows for up to six people, which are located near the pavilions of the exhibition (you read that well: pavilions!!). We were fortunate to be in one of the nearest bungalows. In addition to the pavilions for the exhibition, there were a number of rooms for meals, strictly for those attending the event, an acclimatized swimming pool with slide and even a bowling alley. As you can see, it was the perfect place for a great weekend even if you get tired of bricks (¿did I say that?).

Most of the participants of the event arrive around noon on

Friday and the afternoon is spent building up – it's a coming and going of tables and lots of saying hello. As a personal note, I'd like to add that it was very enriching to meet members of other LUGs and talk with them as if we had known each other for years, for the simple fact of sharing the same hobby.

During the build-up there is time to walk around the entire exhibition and learn about building-up techniques, or even guess what is being built up. I will never forget our surprise at seeing a pine tree in milky white. At about 5 in the afternoon everybody stops whatever it is they are doing and goes to the area prepared by LEGO®. A number of boxes have turned up... About 20 boxes are placed on the floor and everybody tries to get a glimpse of what may be inside until suddenly, Hands up!! Five seconds later everybody was on the floor, pushing and shoving like during sales, trying to get as many parts as possible. I believe Rick managed to fill three bags and the rest of us got our fair share too. We may be well behaved, but not stupid, the truth be said.

Before the day is over, there is time to have a look at some bricklink shops that are present at the event, and find some rare parts and even vintage sets in good conditions. But everything stopped again when we caught sight of a





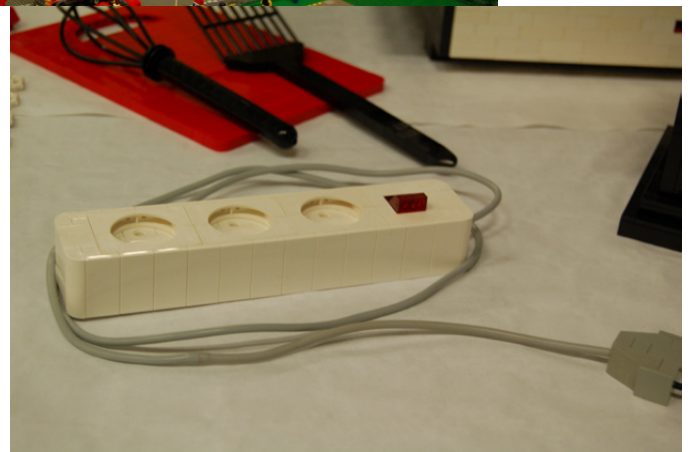


suspended bridge that was being built in the middle of one of the dioramas.

After dinner we wanted to go straight to bed – we had been up for over 40 hours – but our neighbours in the next door bungalow built a “small” party which inspired us to stay up for a little longer and share our first impressions and show off the parts we had gathered.

On Saturday morning you can already feel the ambience during breakfast and before the official opening of the event to the general public, the attendants have a couple of hours to continue enjoying the dioramas quietly. What really stands out is that about 95% of all dioramas are City, with the exception of a scene from “The attack of the clones”, and a very funny medieval diorama.

The official opening of the event was done by one of LEGO@s bigwigs. Unfortunately this time Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen could not make it. After the opening speech it was time to enjoy. I will start with pavilion 1, where the official LEGO® stand was



located, a small scale model of the Legoland park and of a milk factory of local fame, followed by the Star Wars™ display I mentioned earlier. This was followed by a small sample of MOCs from our Brazilian friends (yes, Brazil was represented also!!) which depicted a minifig scale car cinema including a





real film. After that a train diorama with a spectacular statue and tramways.

Right next to the LEGO® shop there was an Octan truck at three times the size of the set, as well as a collection of household tools that could almost have been made by the Arvo brothers – we even thought the extension lead was real and someone had left it on the table by mistake. There were also a number of maxifigs of City characters, some of which were motorized, and a Vader. At their feet there was another collection of trains and tramways together with some scale reproductions of cars.

A large MOC represented a bowling alley with lots of activity, then a house on a cliff top. After that one of the, in my opinion, most spectacular dioramas: “the parade”. It consisted of a street of modular houses and between the houses a parade in the street. The number of minifigs that were used for it was quite incredible. And now we get to what HispaLUG contributed to the exhibition. We were located right next to our Norwegian colleagues, who brought some modular houses. We displayed the abducting UFO in a corn field together with the characteristic Osborne bull and the “castellers” by Lluís, as well as number 8 of Hispabrick Magazine, with the interview of Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen. On the other side was the EuroLug table where vignettes for the EuroLug contest were displayed.

Opposite HispaLUG there was one of the big displays of the event: a mosaic of Europe full of miniature representations of typical and famous places, like Big Ben in London, the Brandenburg gate in Berlin or the Kio towers in Madrid (by Carlos Mendez, car-mp, one of our own). Next to that there was a small diorama set in Arabia, where parts from the Prince of Persia sets were very well used. Finally there were was a rural diorama, full of trees, with a race and a cyclist who had suffered an accident. The last diorama was in the City theme again, and represented a city with buildings under construction and a mountain/island.

And that was only the first pavilion! In the second there were large tables, containing about 15,000 (again, no mistake, 15,000!!) red 2x4 bricks so visiting children could participate in contest to show what they were able to build in a given time with only those bricks. To be completely honest some of us would feel ashamed to show their MOCs after seeing what those Danish children were capable of building!!

After accepting our defeat as expert LEGO® builders, we had a look at the diorama that represented an amusement park and a zoo. There was movement and lights. Words can hardly describe how marvellous it was. To relax the eyes there was an



incredibly funny medieval diorama full of gags right after that, followed by a city in Legoland scale, showing a collection of MOCs of cars from the films: Ecto I, Herbie, a DeLorean, to just mention a few. Finally, the display that included the hanging bridge. This was a train display with 9V trains controlled by MINDSTORMS®, with a small pirate scene on the coast. Next to a house that looked like it was haunted. I almost forget the last diorama, small, but full of details, completely snowed under and reproducing a scene from the Chronicles of Narnia.

On Saturday night there were more surprises: the attendants received a free minifig from the 2nd collectible series, which was waiting on their plate at dinner time. During dinner there were several games and afterwards an auction (or should I say battle xD). Bidding was very aggressive which was hardly surprising taking into account what was being auctioned: an autographed Tower Bridge, three special edition airplanes from different airline companies or a Plexiglass box, limited edition (100 units) that contained a Han Solo minifig on one side and a Indiana Jones minifig on the other.

The night ended with a party for all participants in one of the bungalows, including (of course) Danish biscuits.

Unfortunately for us, the next morning we had to leave for the airport after breakfast, but we received a great example of Danish hospitality: a six hour delay at the airport in Copenhagen. J

To finish off I'd like to say we had a great time and learned a lot. That is what you get when you visit events. Two things stand out especially: the way the brick unites the community, no matter where you come from and the squirrels, the real stars of Skaerbaek.

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