

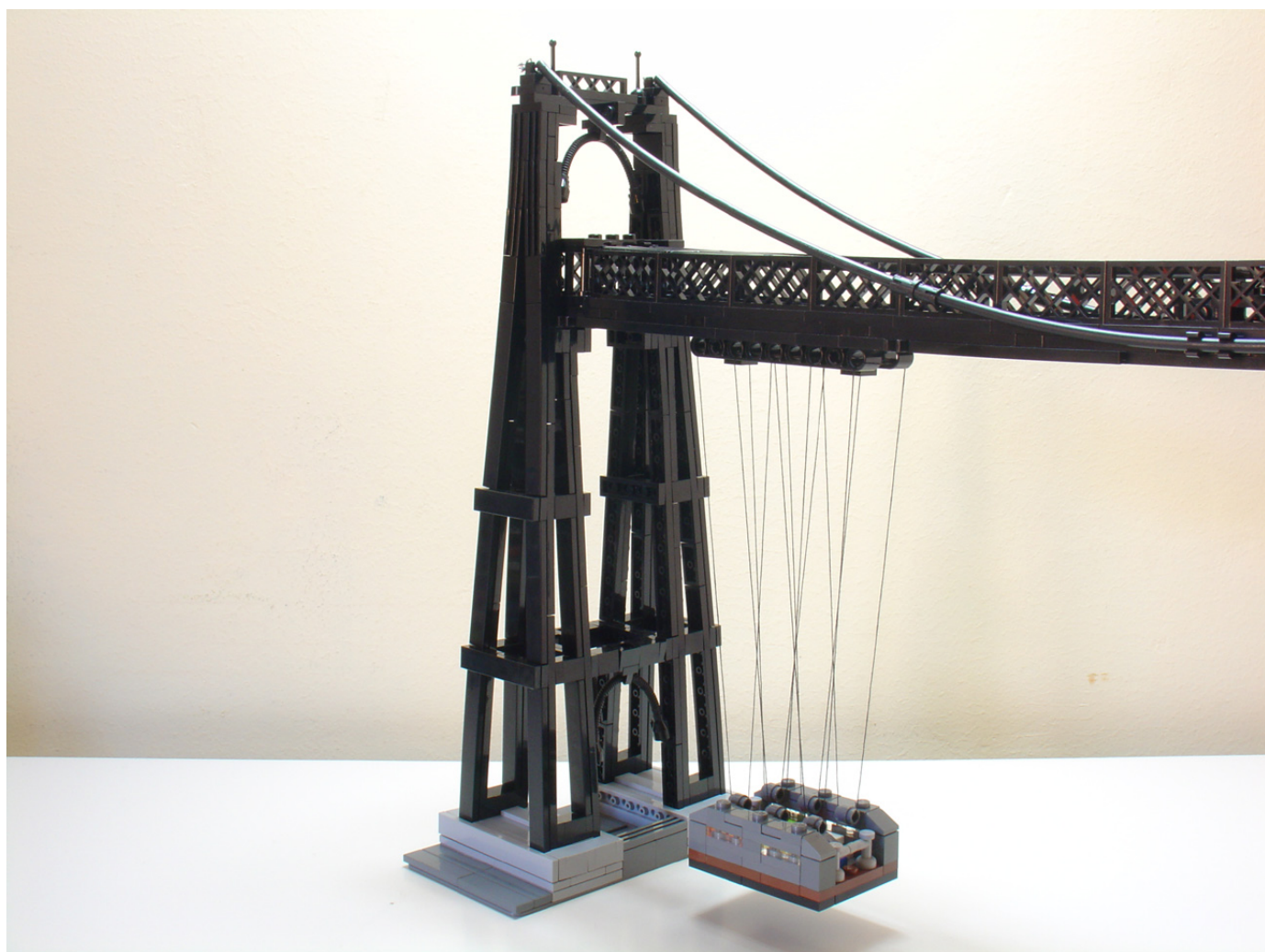
HispaLUG Contests

We present you a short interview with Hoexbroe, the winner of the best MOC of the second semester in our community

by Gobernador

Pictures by Hoexbroe

This is the second edition of the interview with the creators of the marvels built by fellow HispaLUG members. In this case the winner is Hoexbroe with the famous hanging bridge of Portugalete (Vizcaya)



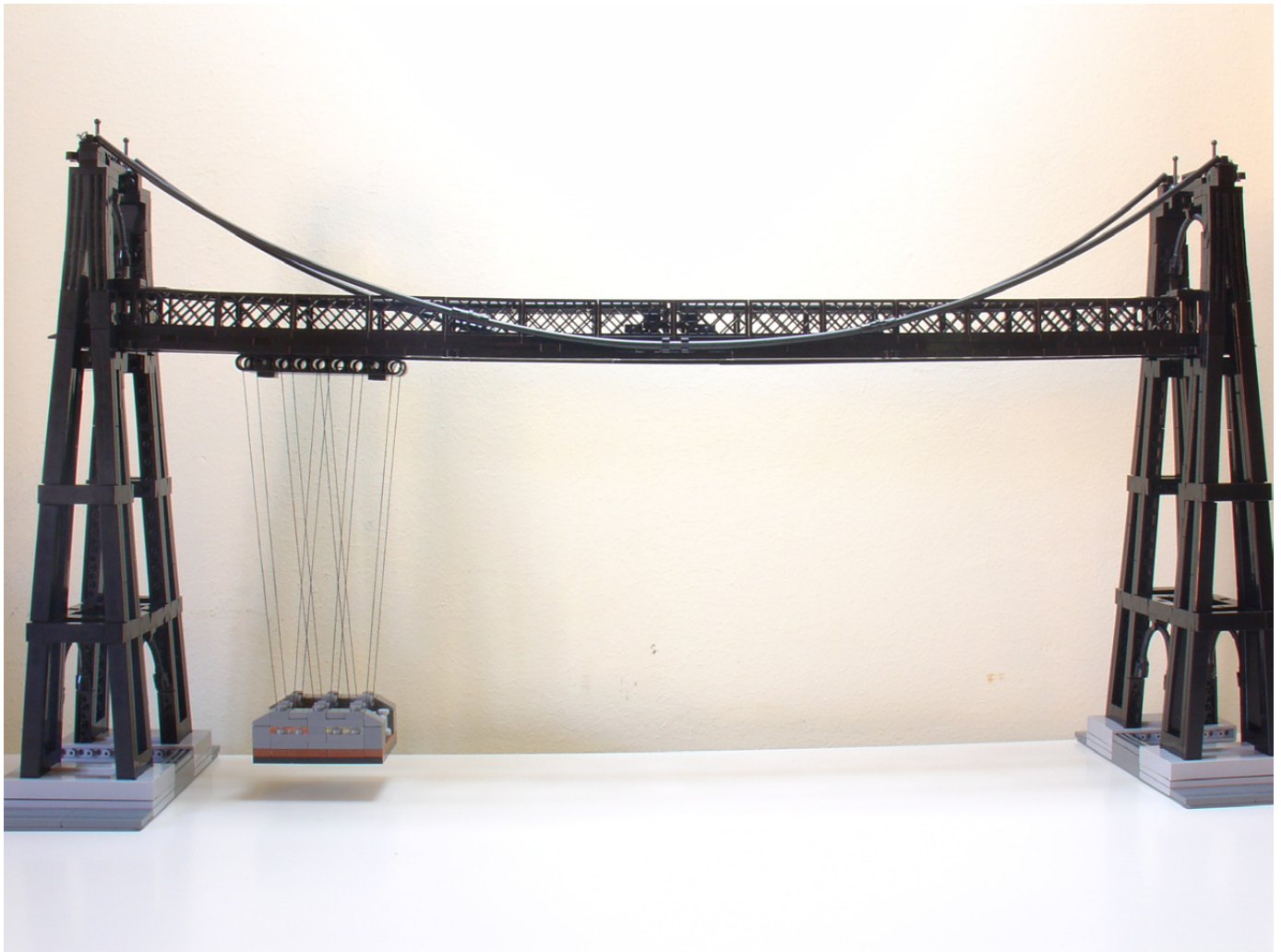
GB: First of all, congratulations for having been chosen and for the fine model you built. It is simply brilliant. To get a better idea of what we are talking about, what are the dimensions of your MOC? And talking of figures, how many pieces do you calculate you used on it?

HX: Thank you all very much for your votes and for letting me tell my story here. I am really thrilled to be able to participate in this still young, but already great community of Spanish speaking LEGO® fans!

This MOC is relatively small. It is about 53cm in long (66 studs) and 25cm tall. The size was determined by the "Boat Mast Rigging Long 28 x 4" of the pirate ship of which I have four. It is not a very large format (actually, people who have seen it in my house were rather disappointed with the small size as the hanging bridge in Portugalete, Bilbao (at about 25km from where I live) in real life is quite impressive.

At this reduced scale I have come close to the LEGO Architecture series which commercializes reproductions of famous and iconic buildings around the world. Despite the small size I have tried to capture the most important aspects of the construction; the feeling of an open structure/exo-skeleton, like the Eiffel Tower

The scale of the model is 1:300. (If I were to build it at minifig scale it would have to be 350cm long!)
As for the number of pieces, not too many. Probably around 500.
I spent about a week building this MOC.



GB: In order to get a glimpse of the thought process of a genius, can you describe the process that takes you from a good idea to a brilliant MOC like this one? Do you have any rules or do you improvise?

HX: I wish I were a genius – that way I could make a living with LEGO® ;-). Unfortunately that isn't the case. I have an inner NEED to build, create and do something constructive with my hands. It's as strong as the need to sleep or eat.

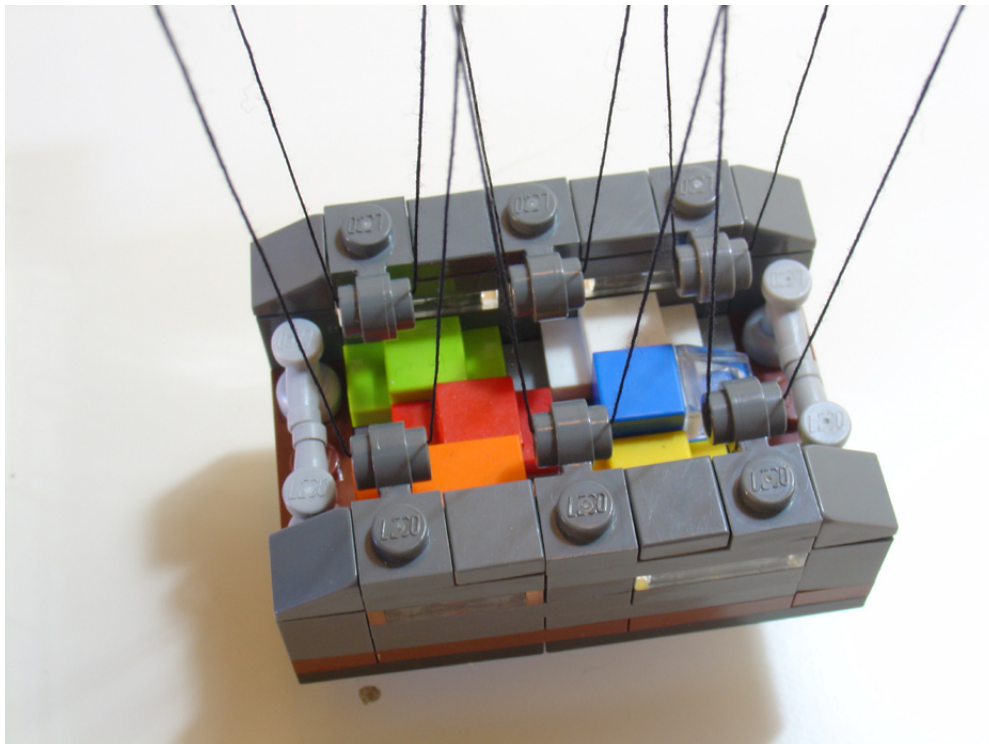
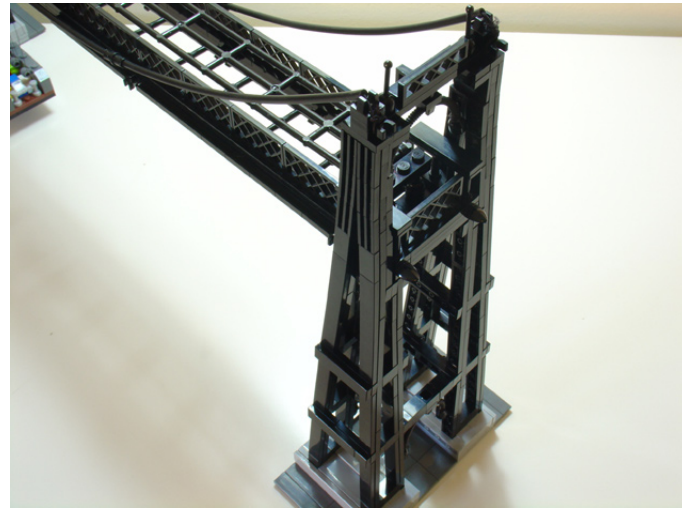
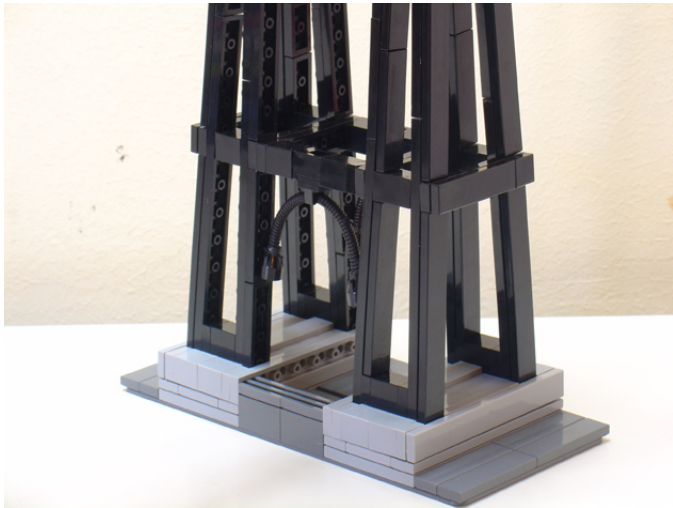
I prefer to make reproductions at an exact scale instead of original designs like space crafts, steam punk or other fantasies. I am very impressed by history and I like looking for information about a specific subject in order to make the best possible copy in LEGO. I spend a lot of time investigating possible projects, reading and learning about them. If I don't find enough information about a subject I am likely to abandon it.

Before I start a new project I usually investigate several (totally different) subjects. In the end I decide to build the one I believe I can reproduce best or the one I am most excited about (because of its history)

However, the hanging bridge did not come about in the usual way. It was more "Arvo" style: you see a specific part and suddenly you see the whole creating around it. I'm referring to the "Boat Mast Rigging Long 28 x 4" of the pirate ship I mentioned earlier. It's people like the Arvo brothers who make me want to excel and learn more about building with LEGO. But this method is an exception in my case. I normally build like I described before...

GB: Did you have any special difficulty while building this MOC or did it more or less come naturally?

HX: The towers! It's like four legs of an open construction which are very delicate work (again, like the Eiffel Tower). I made



several attempts to build horizontal beams with Technic parts, but the result was too thick and clumsy. After a long struggle I finally found the right style. The diagonal lines have disappeared completely, but the result is more faithful to the prototype.

Using my experience in bending (actually forcing) a series of small parts, I built the curved legs of the towers moving from a vertical to a diagonal structure. What is new in this case is that I forced the parts into two directions in order to obtain volume in each leg of the tower. As there is a large succession of parts, the stresses on each one of them are really small and they don't damage any parts.

In real life, the bridge is anchored with several metallic cables, but in this case it is rather the bridge that supports the cables, although within the 'cables' of this MOC there is an elastic wire that prevents the MOC from collapsing.

GB: Of course we need to ask if this MOC will survive or will shortly be returned to the parts bin and in case it survives, if we will be able to see it at an AFOL event.

HX: Unfortunately, the MOC no longer exists. Just like none of my MOCs make it beyond a couple of weeks. I really need the parts. There are always key parts I need to finish build another MOC. For me, the fun with LEGO is in the building process. Not so much in the finished model. What can I do with a finished MOC? Look at it? For how long? In the end I will only see my mistakes and limitations etc. Enjoying the well built parts has its limitations.

To me it's the TRIP, not the DESTINATION.

With digital fotos, the internet and forum, any MOC is immortalized and visible to the whole world, which is a big advantage, so I

don't feel any pain when I disassemble a MOC. That way I can build another better one!

GB: We are used to seeing your great MOCs, some of considerable size, and we are proud to have you on our forum. You have shown us a marvellous steam boat in the previous issue and you have also built some great tanks to rival with the ones built by Legotron and many other things I cannot now mention. What will be the next thing you'll surprise us with? And what would you really like to build but have not yet been able to?

HX: Many thanks for the compliments! ;-)

Size always impresses. I like building big. A large construction gives you more to talk about and see. It can (more easily) include many details. That is not to say that smaller constructions are worse. Probably it's the other way round. It is much harder to get to a high level of detail with a small construction. You need more special parts and/or to be more creative with them. In a large construction even small details can often be built with simple bricks..

I love Legotron's German tanks, but for the moment I don't want to build at that scale. First of all because there are MANY people who do, even commercially, like for example Daniel Siskind of Brickmania Models. Secondly, because builders like Legotron have a very specialized LEGO® collection specifically for this kind of construction, whereas mine is very much unfocussed; I try to always be ready for any MOC at any scale!

At the moment I am preparing a rather large MOC: 150cm long, 100cm high, minifig scale... for HispaBrick 2010. All right, it's another boat. That's all I will say for now ;-)

And yes, I do have a dream project. I gave it a try at the end of 2009 but had to give up. I have not given up on the dream though. One day I'll build it, but I will probably need an NXT for it. That will be another story, for another day...

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