

4th Hispabrick - mNACTEC 2010

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Another year Hispabrick has taken place, the premier event for LEGO® fans celebrated in Spain. The meeting took place on 4 and 5 December 2010, in the town of Terrassa, near Barcelona.

As in previous editions many of the Spanish fans, and some more from other countries, met to display some of their best creations to the delight of all attendees. Two major innovations of the Hispabrick 2010 compared to previous years were the location of the event, which took place at the Museu de la Ciència i la Tècnica de Catalunya [1] and the presence of members of EuroLUG [2], as it was considered a EuroLUG event.

The main change in the conception of the event by the organizing team was to get a location of the event in a museum rather than in a mall. This brings better prepared facilities for an exhibition, where you can perform the assembly and disassembly work more quietly. The facilities chosen for this purpose were those of the Museu de la Ciència i la Tècnica de Catalunya, in the main exhibition area of which were located all display areas and event activities.

It is important to emphasize the tremendous organizational effort it is to coordinate almost a hundred people including exhibitors and guests, search for hotels, coordinate access to the museum, etc.. A job of many months that go unnoticed by most, but without the selfless efforts of these people, this event would not have been possible. Therefore, this article is devoted to the organizing team and all the people whose cooperation made it possible to celebrate Hispabrick one more year.

Building up:

This is one of the moments of greatest tension, with the organization completing the final preparations, dozens of exhibitors moving boxes of material from one place to another and all checking if the material has arrived in good condition and nothing is missing. There was no lack of crowds when the most eagerly anticipated constructions began to take up their positions, and the little accidents that ended with hundreds of pieces scattered around the enclosure. It's a frenzy that occurs every year, but it is certainly a part of what happens at an event for LEGO® fans.

As new exhibitors were arriving at the hotel, greetings and the forming of small groups gave rise to another characteristic of these events: the LEGO gatherings. A meeting point for different fans where you can share various concerns about the event, activities and generally, all matters related to building with LEGO®.

The opening of the 4th Hispabrick - mNACTEC 2010, which took place in the reception area of the museum, was attended by a large group of people, including the event organization team, museum management, local authorities and the incoming and outgoing HispaLUG ambassadors. After the speeches and acknowledgements, the 4th Hispabrick was officially opened. In addition to the exhibition venue, the different parallel activities of the event, such as workshops and competitions were also inaugurated. Hispabrick had begun, it was time to enjoy the event.



The exhibition:

To begin the description of Hispabrick 2010, we have to say that it was held in a perfect setting, surrounded by exhibitions of industrial machinery, vehicles and vintage aircraft. Along the entrance hall, which gives access to the great hall of the museum we found the first stands of City and Medieval groups.

In this part of the exhibition we could enjoy a small town with all sorts of details, from the old town to an area of suburban houses, and this city came complete with rural areas, an amusement park and a train that kept all citizens fully communicated. An added attraction for this city was the feeling of life that the running trains and some working attraction conveyed. There were many attractions in the park that reminded of real-life attractions, an area with modular buildings consisting of a range of fantastic MOC's representing historic buildings, accompanied by a detailed replica of the Puerta de Alcalá. The area of houses with gardens gave way to farmland, well represented with gardens, animals and a farm, and far away from the city center, the observatory rose with one of the best telescopes ever built.

In the next stand you could see different scenes of the medieval-fantasy theme. The main one was a walled city with a spectacular, richly detailed cathedral where a royal wedding was being celebrated. The interior of the cathedral was more surprising than the outside because it was carefully lit. Along with the cathedral there were several very well recreated medieval houses and a small castle in which everything happening on the inside of the wall could be seen, banquets, parades of soldiers, witches gathering. The main concern of the medieval city were external attacks by hordes of orcs, trolls and skeletons who wanted to cross the mighty wall. A couple of scenes completed this group. A large white castle, soft lines, almost more like a palace, that everyone immediately identified as the Disney castle, no doubt. One last scene completed this stand representing two Viking ships attacked by sea serpents and dragons.

Magic and fantasy were present in every corner of this medieval-fantasy group.

Beyond the Medieval stand, to the right, we entered the area where most of the remaining exhibitions were placed. Right at the beginning stood the small EuroLUG stand, on whose behalf Svend Erik came to Spain on his first trip to a Hispabrick event. In this stand the small constructions that were submitted to the contest organized by EuroLUG were placed. Right



opposite this stand the new sets that were presented at this event were placed: 7895 "City of Atlantis" from the Atlantis theme and 2504 "Spinjitzu Dojo" from Ninja Go theme.

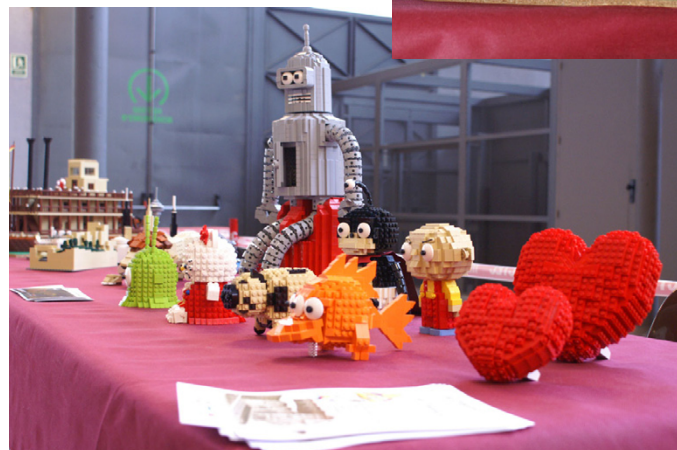
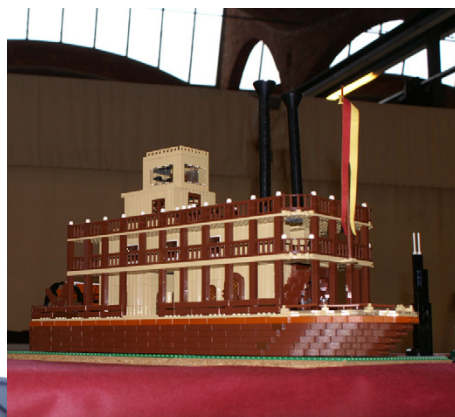
Continuing the tour we came to the next stop, which was the stand of the General group. This group contained all the creations that, due to their subject, could not be included in any other groups. This stand drew the most interest of the cameras, due to both the quality of the constructions and the fact that these were very familiar to children and adults. To begin with, visitors could see a collection of magnificent MOCs representing characters from series such as Futurama, Family Guy, Hello Kitty or the Simpsons. Many of these MOCs delighted the little ones who quickly identified the characters portrayed. At their side you could see several LEGO® Architecture sets, very attractive models despite their small size. Then there was a beautiful reproduction of a Mississippi River riverboat, whose lines and design were reminiscent of the ships in the novel by Mark Twain. Following





the row of tables was Panzerbricks tank collection, including most of his vehicles and a small diorama, an attraction for all fans of military construction. An excellent reproduction of the Cutty Shark was also on display, undoubtedly one of the constructions that attracted most attention during the event with a significant size and full of detail, highlighted by the smooth line of the hull construction and the complete rigging. From the Minifigs striking the sails to the details of the ship's deck, all was greedily taken in by the many cameras that photographed the ship continuously. Beyond the Cutty Shark there was a small nanoscale city inside a round plexiglass ball, which was very attractive because of its high level of detail and curious presentation. A brand new white Cadillac full of details stood out among the other buildings that gave way to the area of sets representing the Discovery theme and other themes related to space exploration.

Continuing with the tour, the stand next to the General group, was dedicated to Star Wars™. Obviously, this group was responsible for collecting all construction related to Star Wars. First you could find a series of displays from Gentle Giant LEGO® Studios, many of them limited editions and exclusive minifigs. You could also see some samples of the well-known Star Wars cube dudes from different events; a treasure for the eyes of the more veterans LEGO Star Wars collectors. Then there was a large diorama staging the battle of Kashyyyk, which was joint project of a large group of TFOLs, with dozens of vehicles and many minifigs, and full of details that recreated the battle. Along with the diorama there



was a reproduction of an R2-D2 at 1:1 scale - its size attracted attention from any point of the exhibition - and a collection of the Empire maxifigs (a bigger scale than minifigs), which have become a regular feature at the event and could not be missing in this new edition. Finally, we could find another diorama, this time of an Imperial hangar representing the arrival of Lord Vader to his command ship. This diorama is another of the veterans at Hispabrick as it has been present in all Hispabrick events held so far and it has grown in size with each edition.

In that same corner of the area the Technic group was located, which arranged its stand divided into several areas. To start off there's nothing like a little GBC circuit. Every time it was turned on there were many people who came to watch the movement of the balls between the different modules, the highlight being a spectacular ball shooter. The next table showed series of Technic cars, among which was a spectacular vehicle/bridge launcher and an all-terrain vehicle that had a lot of attention with all the requests from visitors to see them in action. There was a small obstacle course to demonstrate the abilities of these motorized vehicles. Finally, on the other end of the Technic stand, along with a new series of spectacular creations, one of the jewels in these constructions was displayed: the Bugatti Veyron, one of the most appreciated among the followers of Technic.

The next stand in the trip was the Sci-Fi group. This group was responsible for collecting all the MOCs with a futuristic, apocalyptic or steampunk theme. First of all there was a detailed diorama that could be a hypothetical set of a futuristic city with a building and its underground levels, with numerous nods to famous movie scenes, in which details such as vehicles and air traffic lights seemed to transport us to Blade Runner. Also you could see an exoforce diorama, a representation of the Red Army, with combat armor and war machines on guard against a detailed hangar and other steampunk style buildings. Finally, this group presented some replicas of the ships from the Battlestar Galactica series, with great detail. Also, with them you could see small groups of small-scale vessels ready to be used in space combat games.

As in previous years a small representation of our Portuguese neighbors was present at Hispabrick, next to the Sci-Fi stand, and they brought some constructions among which a beautiful building full of details, the beautiful architecture of which caught our eye.





Next there was the Space Group, whose stand was almost in front of EuroLUG, closing the bend in the main exhibition area. His stand was composed of a large diorama, where the Sulaco III was deployed, one of the most striking buildings of the event. This huge ship, which covered almost the entire size of the diorama of 4 meters, included inside a monorail double-circuit where two separate trains were circulating. Its size attracted the attention of visitors, who asked data about its size, weight and number of parts used in its construction. Throughout the ship numerous details and winks that recalled Space Classic line could be seen, like the striking lateral ramp the Classic Space minifigs, in the 5 colors they were built in, were charging up. Surrounding the huge ship there were a number of ships belonging to the classic sets of the theme.

Finally, located in a nearby area, was the large diorama of the Vintage Group. The group prepared a giant diorama, in fact the largest area of the exhibition, which included sets of the 80's and 90's from the old lines related to City and MOCs in accordance with the aesthetics of these sets. The entire diorama was surrounded by a monorail and a train that traveled from end to end.



It consisted of numerous areas in which sets and constructions of different themes were located. There was a mountainous area that bordered one side, where wind mills were located. The center featured an incredible amount of old sets of houses and urban elements that formed the city. An extensive and varied collection of classical sets that have come out of the LEGO® factories in the last 30 years. Not a single detail was left out. At the opposite end there was a port and the airport, where we could find again a number of LEGO® relics. The whole stand looked great, and added to the movement of the train and the monorail that toured it incessantly, it provided an excellent end to the tour of the exhibit.



Other activities of the event:

During the Hispabrick the exhibition of constructions wasn't the only activity. On the one hand there were activities organized for visitors, including educational and construction workshops. On the other hand, there were activities for the exhibitors which, like other years, were focused on the classical MOC contests or pick a brick, which like every year was not without crashes, races and massive overcrowding around the boxes with parts. Other activities included the LUG dinner, where participants and guests gathered to enjoy various activities and competitions. And the tour of the town, which, by courtesy





of the council, was offered to all exhibitors and guests of exhibitors, so that, for a few hours, they could break free from all those LEGO® parts.

Conclusions:

The possibility of organizing an event outside a shopping center has been proved possible with the commitment of the organizers, going beyond even the best estimates of the museum itself, which had to limit access at specific times to avoid crowds. Once again, the community of LEGO®

fans showed thousands of visitors what can be built and the possibilities of LEGO® parts. And the exhibitors themselves could enjoy the pleasure of returning to meet and live those incredible days enjoying our hobby. Now we only need to wait for the next event to relive the experience, with some more LEGO® parts ...

References:

- [1] Museu de la Ciència i la Tècnica de Catalunya (www.mnactec.com) in Terrassa (Barcelona)
- [2] Events EuroLUG: <http://www.eurolug.eu/>
- [3] Web Hispabrick: www.hispabrick.com

