



The long and short of Miniland

By Mariann Asanuma

If you've been to any of the LEGOLAND parks around the world, you've seen the heart of the parks that is Miniland. It's always been my favorite section of the park and for at least the past decade, my favorite scale of building.

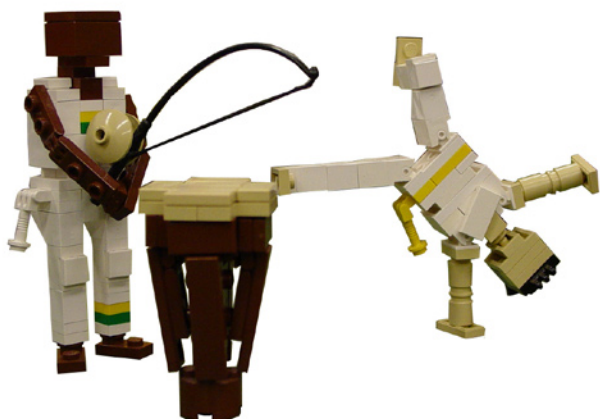
Sadly, for most adult LEGO® fans, Miniland is still an often misunderstood and confusing scale. As we have all grown up with Minifigs, most of us naturally build in that scale. But for me, once I began building in Miniland scale I never looked back.

So, what is Miniland scale? Miniland scale is roughly 1/20 scale. Meaning that the 10 brick (4 inches) high built Miniland figure is 20 times smaller than an average man. The math doesn't completely work out as that would mean the person would be 6 feet 8 inches tall, but needless to say the figure represents roughly a 6 foot tall person. You can vary the height by a plate or two if you want to make an adult. Children usually range in height from 5-9 bricks high depending on the age you want to make the child.

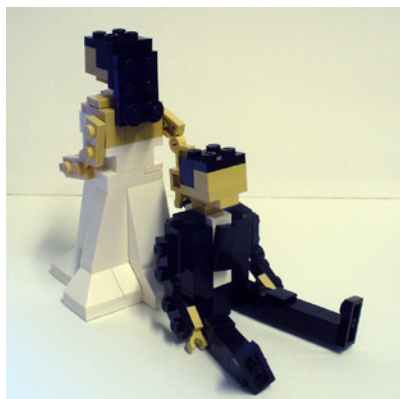


And that is just one of the reasons that I like Miniland scale. You can represent all manner of different people – height, weight, skin tone, hair color, etc. – the variations are endless. The skin tone is usually made with tan or brown bricks and hair color and style is whatever you want it to be.

Miniland people can be built to do all manner of cool things. My Superman, Batman, and Capoeira Girl are all good examples of this. Not only are they flying, gazing over the city and cartwheeling, but because their outfits are brick built as well, they are infinitely customizable too.



Although the figures are for the most part faceless, their lack of expression does not lack personality. The slight turn of the head or the way the body is positioned can make all the difference. The Groom being dragged to the alter by his Bride is clearly not happy, but is resigned to the fact that he will be getting married today. The father and son fishing shows the dad's pride in his son even as he catches only a boot.



But of course Miniland isn't only about the figures, they are only the beginning. It's the buildings, vehicles, and all the little details like trash cans and park benches that makes Miniland what it is. Yes, it takes a lot more bricks to make a Miniland building or car, but you can also get a lot more detail on this larger scale.



Miniland even made an appearance at this year's BrickCon. Steve Oakes and I created a Mini BrickCon with Miniland people checking out a micro display of LEGO® models. It was a lot of fun and a big hit with the public. I'm already thinking about a larger and even more detailed version next year.

So give Miniland scale a try and see what you can build.
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