

A different experience

By Legotron

There are many anecdotes in the world of events related to constructions with LEGO® bricks, and also many interesting experiences to talk about. Many of them are forgotten, but some of them leave a profound mark and are worth telling.

We received several requests to have guided visit for blind people to the HispaBrick Magazine Event 2012, held in Terrassa (Spain) on December 2012. They requested these visits individually or in small groups. At first, we were worried, because we didn't know if it would be possible to show them our constructions in a way they could enjoy them. But we went ahead, as it was interesting to share our creations with everyone. We understood that the best way to address these requests were guided visits with explanations and the possibility to touch some of the constructions available at the exhibition. This may seem to be an easy task, but that was far from true. The main problem was the large number of visitors that were present in the exhibition area. Many of them were children who ran and went crazy when they saw the LEGO MOCs from a distance. So we had to carefully plan the route and the places to make these visits possible, and coordinate all the exhibitors who assisted in the task. But it was worth it, because it was a great experience.

The attendees were organized to explain their constructions to the blind people when they visited the area with their constructions. They had to choose their most interesting MOCs in order to be part of the route. They were told to give an explanation and, whenever possible, to bring some of the constructions near the blind people, so that they were able to touch them. We established a small area free of visitors in every diorama or large construction that was marked for this visit, to ease this task. They were able to listen to the corresponding explanations while they touched the LEGO

MOCs they were shown. This activity was repeated in every part of the exhibition, so that they could have the same perspective of the event as the rest of visitors.

Personally, I think it was one of the most exciting moments of the event. When the group reached my area I tried to do my best. I wanted to explain my creations and to share them. Of course they needed to touch the MOCs in order to understand what I was talking about, and it wasn't any problem. At first I was a little nervous because I didn't know how to explain the visual aspect of my creations. But things went very nice. I was very satisfied when they began to ask questions about everything they touched while I was explaining. They could understand the details, and we had a very interesting conversation about the MOCs and the different techniques I use. I showed them my collection of military vehicles and some of the modules of my dioramas. They touched them carefully asking for every detail they found, the reasons I'd used every part and the way I transform the real objects in the scaled LEGO MOCs they touched. When you can see the constructions you are able to realize how big or detailed they are, but it is not easy to convey the same impression with words. Unfortunately we were not able to share some of our most interesting MOCs, because some of them were too big or fragile to be moved out of their place. But we were able to show many of the different constructions that were brought to the event.

This was an opportunity to share our hobby in a different way, and it was a pleasure to be part of it. I was glad to know that they enjoyed the exhibition and that they had a great time with us.

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