

Review: 10937 Batman™: Arkham Asylum Breakout

By Jetro

Pictures by LEGO® Iberia S.A. y Brickset

Review 10937 Batman™: Arkham Asylum Breakout
Number of parts: 1619
Minifigs: 8

LEGO® markets the Arkham Asylum Breakout as an exclusive and does so convincingly. Firstly, there is a video available on the LEGO YouTube channel in which lead designer Marcos Bessa shows off some of the details of the set. Secondly, some very nice building techniques are used in this set. Thirdly, the set contains the considerable number of 1619 pieces, including no less than 8 minifigs. So let's look into at each of these three areas and find out what this set has to offer.

First off, there is the designer of the set, Marcos Bessa, a Portuguese AFOL turned LEGO Designer, who has been allowed to put his personal stamp on this set. As he himself explains, the licence plate on the van (28 MB 89) contains



strong references to Marcos. As he himself explains in the video, the number 28 is a family nickname, MB are (obviously) his initials, and 89 is his year of birth. What he doesn't explain is that the number of the set appear to have a special reference as well. Marcos was and is a member of the Portuguese LUG Comunidade 0937 so it seems hardly a coincidence that the number of this set is 10937.

In second place the set contains a number of interesting building experiences. While it is not the first time that LEGO uses this method (you can find another example in the battle



of helms deep which was reviewed in the previous edition of this magazine), the minifigs included in this set appear progressively as you follow the building instructions. Almost every bag contains one of them. The windows that help to give this building its characteristic look are built sideways, using trans-black panels 1 x 2 x 1. In honour of the set name (breakout), one of the windows is broken and in it some trans-black cheese slopes are used to create the jagged edges of broken glass. Other special constructions include the black guardians on the gates to the asylum, including the new piece used for their wings and the gargoyles on the roof corners, built with frogs, skeleton arms and axe heads for wings. In third place, not only does the set contain an important number of pieces (1619) and exclusive minifigs, it is very attractively priced with a cost of under 10ct per piece. So let's take a closer look at those pieces and how they are used.

Construction starts with the van, which has a nice classic look to it that fits in with the rest of the set. No less than 5 stickers are used in this vehicle, including the licence plates mentioned earlier, the logo on the sides of the van which are very nicely constructed using brackets to hold the 6x6 plate well in place, and a com console inside the cabin of the vehicle. The rear doors open to show two benches that are in fact used to keep the stretcher in place. This way the Joker (or for that matter any villain) can be securely transported to the asylum. The second bag contains the pieces needed for the gate and includes Batman with a new black wing and the new individual wing pieces I mentioned earlier. The gate is wide enough to let the van pass easily, but the traditional arch over the gate is missing. Instead, the name of the asylum can be seen over the main door.

We start construction of the building with the central entrance of the asylum. The building has been divided into three sections, which in turn are built in stages. The base of each section includes Technic bricks so they can later be securely put together. Outstanding elements in this part of the construction are red phone (a sticker is used for the dial) and the desk for the security guard that includes surveillance monitors (again a sticker) and a swivel chair. The top of this central piece includes the first instances of the windows which are topped off with arches. Attention has been



given to detail: behind each arch a trans black panel 1 x 4 x 1 is placed to give it a perfect finish.

Other outstanding details include the furnishing for the upstairs room, with a desk with an open drawer (using a hinge brick 1x2), bottles, syringes and a computer screen (a printed piece!) as well as an examination chair.

The base of the first wing of the asylum includes a cell block where another two printed pieces show up: the electronic locks of the cells. The technique used to open (and close) the cells with a sliding door is very nice, the only drawback being that you need to open/close both cells at the same time. A nice idea is the fact that attached to each cell there is a road sign clip on that gets a sticker with the ID of the villain who is in the cell. These IDs can be swapped out with another 4 IDs that are added on a panel in the other wing of the asylum. This way, you get to decide who goes into each cell.

On top of the cell block there is a special holding cell for Poison Ivy who also gets bars in her window. Next to that cell there is the broken window through which an escape rope comes out. The rope is fixed to the floor: the weakest detail in the set, but one that can be easily fixed with a little imagination. Next up are the attic chamber and the roof. This gives you your very first inkling that something might be missing in this set: the





ice inside and the sticker with the temperature indication that go over the door leave you wondering where the Mr Freeze is. However, the magnificent round window, built using the same technique as in Bag End (79003), and the two different techniques used for building the roof (traditional with slopes on the tower and using hinges and plates next to it) more than make up for this. Anyway, Mr Freeze can be easily obtained in one of the smaller sets from the DC Universe series (76000).

On to the left wing of the asylum which includes the panel I mentioned earlier. It includes IDs for all the (known) villains included in the set as well as for Mr Freeze and Two-Face who need to be obtained from other sets, but can easily be confined to the asylum. When you turn it around you find nurse Harleen Quinzel isn't exactly who she appears to be. On her dressing table with mirror (a sticker, including a kiss from the Joker) you will find her headgear to turn into Harley Quinn. You should have realised the moment you saw the black and purple under her nurse's uniform! A first time appearance in LEGO. The upstairs area of this part contains a nice desk with printed newspaper tile and a comfortable swivel chair.

Let's go back to the minifigs for a moment. In addition to the ones I have already mentioned this set contains a new version of Robin and a new design for the Scarecrow. The only other fig that appears to be missing is the Riddler, who was included in the previous LEGO version of the Arkham Asylum.

As you can see, the set is very complete while at the same time making you want to get more elements from the same theme. It is full of interesting pieces and building techniques and good value for money. Lastly, and most importantly, this is where the bad guys have their day! Welcome to the Arkham Asylum Breakout!!

Acknowledgements: LEGO® SYSTEM A/S and Jan Beyer for this set and Brickset and LEGO Iberia S.A., Joachim Schwidtal for the official images.

#