

Review: 10234 Sydney Opera House™

By Car_mp

Pictures by LEGO® System A/S



Set: Sydney Opera House
Set number: 10234
Parts: 2989

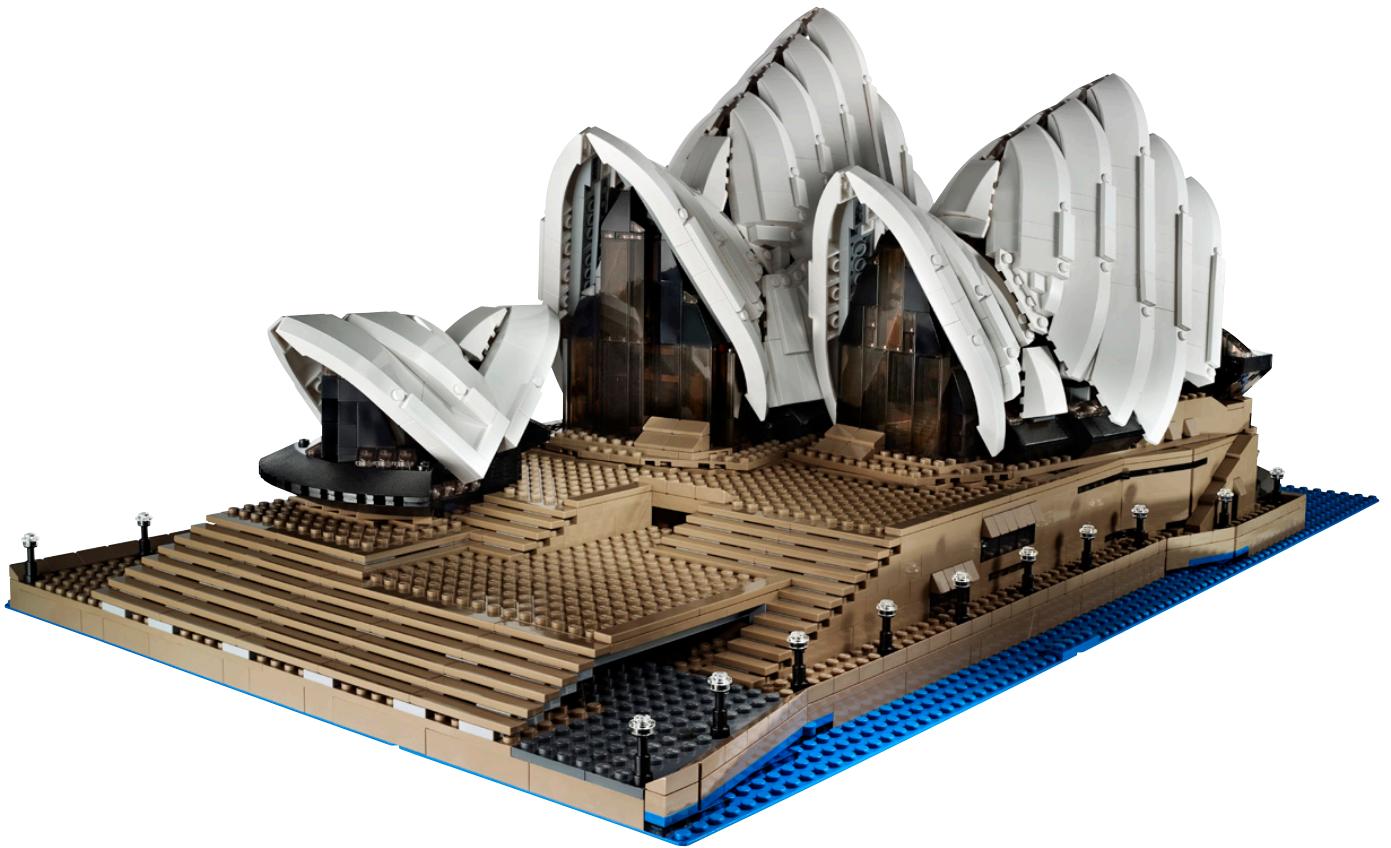
We were all expectant to see the set that would substitute the Taj Mahal in the hearts of the lovers of architecture. Leaving the Architecture theme aside, we were starting to miss a set that would represent a great monument at a scale that allows more level of detail. So the launch of the 10234 Sydney Opera House has arrived to fill that void. And it doesn't matter how big that void was, 10234 is capable of filling it. The set comes with some impressive numbers (2989 pieces, four instruction booklets and a total surface of 80x48 studs) and it represents one of the representative monuments of the 20th century. Its unmistakable silhouette is one of the symbols of the Australian capital, Sydney. Built between 1957 and 1973, it is the work of the Danish (talk about coincidences) architect Jørn Utzon (1918-2008).

But let's have a look at the set itself. As I have already mentioned, it comes with four instruction booklets. The first two describe the building of the base. Here we find the first

curiosity, since it is designed to be separated into two parts so as to be easily transported. In order to make disassembly easy some liftarms are used as guides and the parts are joined with Technic Pins and Technic Bricks. The following two booklets describe the construction of the two main wings of the building.

The construction of the first part is simple but entertaining since there are few repetitive steps; of course the result is simply a Dark Tan base on top of which the main buildings will be placed. The construction of those, on the other hand, is quite a display of design and constructive techniques. Work on the design of the roof of the main buildings must have given more than one headache. As the construction advanced I couldn't help but think the set was designed more like an AFOL would than with the classical LEGO® techniques. There is nothing specific I can give as an example, it's simply a sensation I had when building those fantastic white roofs and combining them on top of the building. For the windows overlooking the sea, more snot techniques. The buildings are joined to the base by just a few studs, as the irregular shape it has and the angle it is built at don't allow for more connection points. This kind of connection also makes it easy to disassemble the set for transport.





In order to fit the kind of shells the roof is made up of together, articulations are used that are more typical of Bionicle and Exo-Force than LEGO® Creator, but they turn out to be not only simple and effective, but also strong and easy to build.

The building isn't exactly colourful; dark tan and white are the dominating colours, with a touch of Black and Trans Dark. After finishing the set it may look a little minimalist, but as a source of Dark Tan parts is unmatched. Also keep in mind the baseplates are blue. This detail only AFOLs used to keep in mind is something LEGO is starting to highlight in its official announcements when launching sets, mentioning new or rare parts and colours, as if we were going to buy a set for its parts.

To sum up, this is a great set in every aspect. It uses fantastic SNOT techniques, has a very interesting bill of materials and a great resemblance with the original building. This last point is especially good taking into account the difficulty of the original building. The final result may be a little monotonous chromatically speaking, but that is something we have become used to with the white in the Taj Mahal or the grey in the Eiffel Tower. I keep it on display in my room for now, and that is a good sign.

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