

Review: 10243 Parisian Restaurant

By Manticore

Pictures by LEGO® System A/S

Set: Parisian Restaurant

Set number: 10243

Parts: 2469

Contains: 5 minifigs

2014 brings the tenth modular building within the CITY theme, the elite of their designs. Of course, back in 2007, when the first modular building was released, I was charmed by its design and its many details. However, given my love for anything that smells like “the 80s”, I decided not to be tempted despite its beauty. Yes, it is true, the houses that we could see in those catalogs of the 80s have nothing to do with these modular buildings. Maybe it’s just because that, those nice houses of my 80s minifigs are still too present in my memory to betray them with these great buildings. Logically it is a personal opinion that it should not take a shred of interest in these buildings. Also influenced by other factors such as the purely economic and space factors. When you live surrounded by LEGO® from age 6 (and that is now quite some time ago), you have to prioritize the themes to follow and the essential sets. Anyway, in my memories I will write that I gave the first modular to my wife for her birthday in a desperate attempt to get her to like this toy and thereby better understand my hobby. After building it and the usual question of “Now what do we do with this thing in the middle of the living room?” she quickly struck back giving me a purse for Christmas. Finally, I exchanged the Coffee Corner for a 4511 train and a few 9V tracks. And here is my story with modular buildings. But let’s make history...

It all began in 2007 with the Coffee Corner (10182). In the same year, as a product of the Factory theme (designs by AFOLs), the Market Street (10190) was released, designed by Eric Brok (AFOL sadly deceased). Starting with these two sets, each year we had the same mystery: which modular set will LEGO release this time? The announcement of a new modular is suspense to the AFOL community. Another house?, A museum?, A movie theater?, A department store? Chronologically, and since 2008 until today, we have the Green Grocer (10195), in 2009 the Fire Brigade (10197), which some perverse minds associate with the movie “Ghostbusters”... (me too). In 2010 the Grand Emporium (10211), in 2011 the Pet Shop (10218), in 2012 the Town Hall (10224), and in 2013 the Palace Cinema (10232).

What is it going to be next year? After a coffee shop, a fire station, a town hall, a pet store and a department store, LEGO goes to the adventure of designing a Parisian restaurant, the height of elegance and glamour. And given my elegant personality, I volunteered for the review of this beautiful set.

Let’s start at the beginning. The box is large, without reaching



the size of the Star Wars™ UCS or large Technic sets, boxes like that ensure lots of fun building.

As always, on the rear, along with scenes from inside the set, the combination of this set with other modular buildings is shown, in this case the last two, the Palace Cinema and the Town Hall. Watching this I start to question if my unconditional love for 80s sets can resist this hard test of fidelity.

The box is quite full. The many bags fill much of the interior space, and the three instruction books are very well protected by the typical cardboard included in the big LEGO sets since the legendary 8043 excavator.

The bags are numbered 1 to 4. The first two (book 1) serve to build the ground floor of the building and the terrace. Bags “3” are for the first floor (book 2), and those numbered with the “4” build the attic (book 3).

Construction begins defining the 32x32 studs baseplate with the terrace and the interior areas. Some white and dark blue



1x1 tiles show where the very detailed restaurant kitchen is located.

Emphasizing the romantic scene between two lovers ... He asks her to marry him giving the ring to the beautiful minifig, who accepts eagerly cup of wine in hand. Given this picture, I have to remind you that sentence... "One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them." Creepy...

Talking about the ring, it appears that there was an error at the presentation of this set, as it was stated that the set included a seagull. That item was eliminated in the subsequent versions of the set and replaced by a ring identical to the one from the LOTR sets. No one should buy the set for the seagull ... or for the ring.

Returning to the set, the terrace is decorated so exquisitely with those two pots and planters. And the Vespa scooter is just gorgeous. About the details of kitchen we will talk when completed.

We open the bags numbered "2" to continue with the ground floor of the building and fill the building with details. The whole structure of the lower floor is completed by adding real fancy stuff to the set. The bar cabinet in the main room of the restaurant is wonderful, as well as the entire kitchen in general. The fridge even has a milk carton, and our chef can choose from three different knives or use the rolling pin to make a good pizza. As if this were not enough, he is ready to cut a huge turkey. The detail of the blue curtains gives the restaurant a more noble appearance.





The rear of the building is the weakest in terms of details. But it is logical. We have the trash can and even the container. At least the back entrance to the kitchen it is decorated with a canopy so it does not clash so much with the front of the building.

Building the first floor is what I liked the most. We open the bags "3" and start the second book. The inside of the first floor is less elegant. This is an apartment with all comforts. Eat-in kitchen, fireplace, swivel chair and a folding bed to have more space during the day.

The best part of the first floor is the outside. Two windows with a balcony, and in each window a colorful flower box. Speaking of colors, the choice of the olive green with white is frankly good. I love it as much as the white with dark blue from the roof and attic. Speaking about the attic... we open the numbered "4" bags and the third and final instruction book. I almost feel sorry it's over, but the grand finale is going to be great. The inside of the attic can be seen opening part of the roof. This is the painting studio of an artist, certainly belonging to the Avant-garde style (vanguard and innovative) of the twentieth century.

The detail of the door of the stove-oven is great as well as the color palette and brush. Even better if possible is the finishing of the building. The main façade is impressive. From the terrace of the ground floor, to the attic's architectural details (shells included).

The side of the first floor is a charming terrace decorated with two pots. It seems something from the Friends theme. And the outer part of the fireplace using the 1x2 bricks with molding is extremely realistic.

Once the entire construction is finished, the back of the building looks a lot different. Aside from the terrace, the stairs, the flowers and the entrance to the attic and to the first floor housing give a more consistent look with the beauty that is presupposed to a modular. Especially a Parisian one.

Summarizing ... I don't know how to summarize the description of this set without anyone being offended by omitting some detail. Indeed the word "detail" is the one I have repeated most, because it is impossible to describe this set without praising again and again the multitude of details it has. The kitchen, the outdoor terrace on the ground floor, the restaurant (that bottle rack is more than realistic), the main façade is what catches the attention the most, but I could not stay just with a single zone or part of the building. The interior is more than a success, perfectly matched with the beautiful and elegant exterior.

I could not evaluate this set against the other nine modular, but certainly it will fit like a ring with the other sets... Did I say ring?

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