

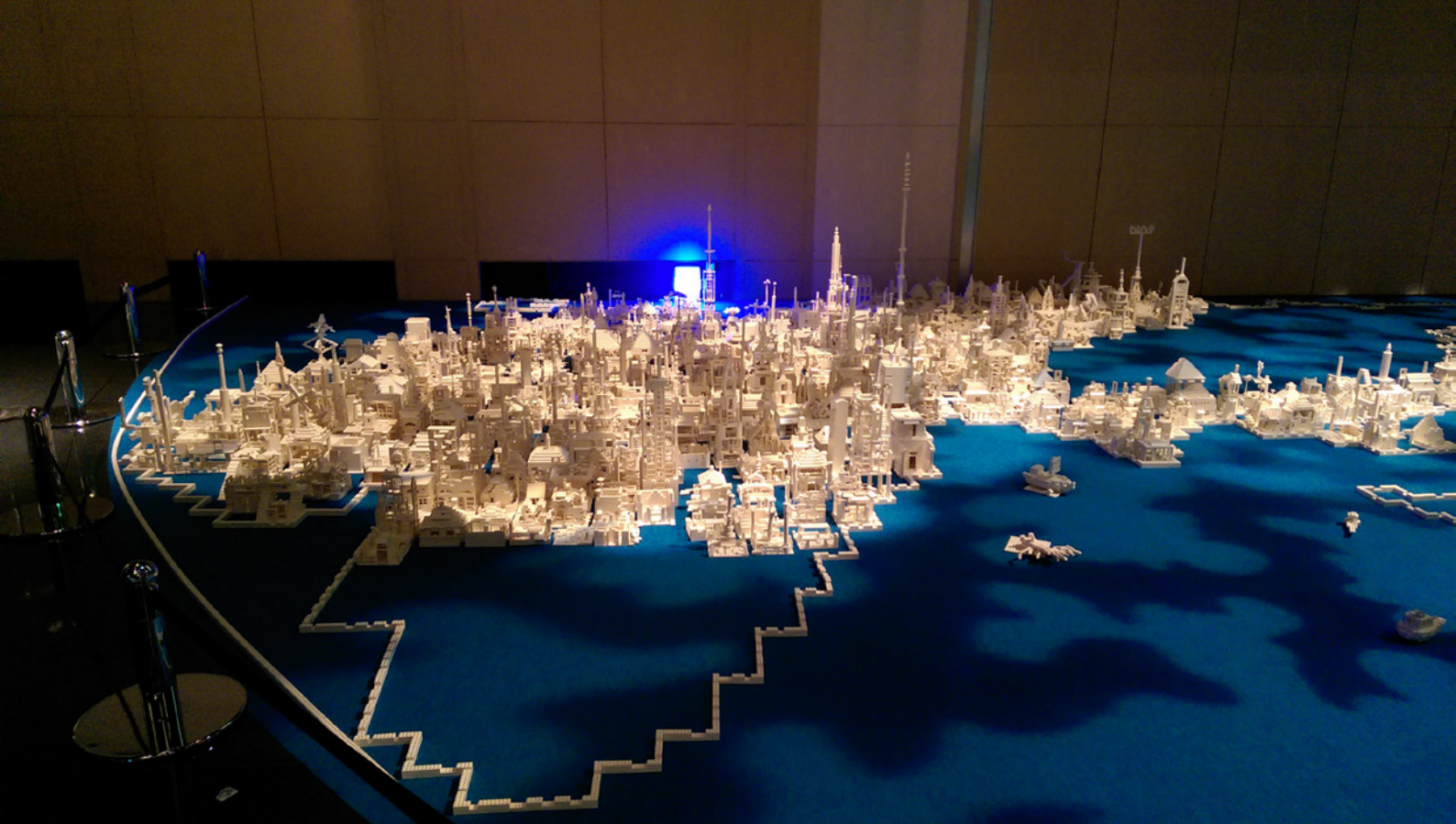


Piece of Peace

By Iluisgib

Pictures by Delia Balsells



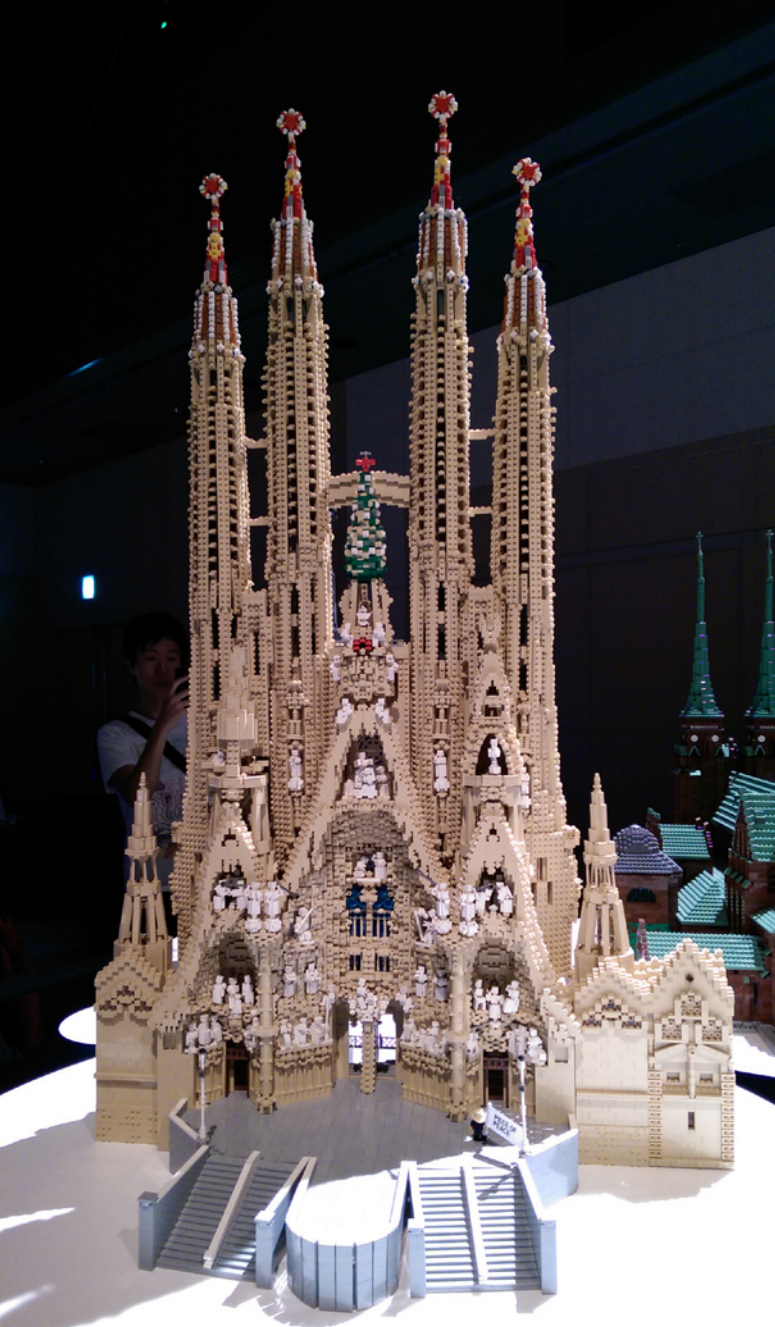


One of the nice things about having friends around the world is that they can inform you about the events taking place during your stay in their cities. Last August, the Exhibition “Piece of Peace” was taking place in Osaka, coinciding by chance with our stay in that Japanese city.

Megūmi Nakashima, a friend who lives in Osaka and with whom I spoke in the article “The Land of the Rising Brick” (HBM 019 and 020), let me know about this exhibition some weeks before landing in Japan. She knows that I like LEGO®, so she did not only provide me with the necessary information, but also accompanied Delia and me to the exhibi.

“This exhibition originated in Japan to support the UNESCO’s World Heritage activities and to promote peace through bringing the awareness of the World Heritage to the general public in all ages. From 2003, the exhibition has made more than 40 appearances throughout Japan during the nationwide tour and around 2 million people have visited. The exhibition will primarily feature a collections of World Cultural and Natural Heritage replicas made by LEGO® bricks built by a renown Asian LEGO® builder. These include Angkor, Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay, Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto, Sagrada Familia, Historic Center of Vienna, Sydney Opera House and the Nikko Toshō-gu, etc. In addition, there will be newly build Fujisan replica.”





The atmosphere was very welcoming. A large dark room with spotlights illuminating the LEGO® models clearly indicated who were the stars of the show. The exhibition was not crowded so it was very pleasant to walk between the tables and observe different models from all angles.

To complement the exhibition, there was an activity in which children had to build a building with white pieces and place it on a large world map. A small LEGO shop at the exit was the perfect complement to the exhibition.

In addition to Piece of Peace, this year I have also seen a train exhibit in Osaka, commemorating the anniversary of the Hankyu line (Private Railway Company). Among several models and railway-related activities, there was a LEGO display with reproductions of several Japanese trains.

We had the opportunity to see Nathan Bryan again in Kobe. He was our "LEGO" cicerone last year. We also had a delicious meal (in every way) in Tokyo with Hac Shac and Yoshihito Isogawa. I'm very thankful for the warm welcome given by everybody during our stay. We hope to see them all again soon.

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