

Kockice Convention 2019

By Oton Ribic

Building up on the predecessor in 2018, Kockice LUG has held its Convention in 2019 as well. Instead of opting for a small town, this time it took place in Croatia's capital city of Zagreb, on April 6th and 7th. While the convention location has changed, the recipe which had proven itself to serve well has not — just like the year before, this was a combination of a public LEGO® exhibition and an AFOL event with a range of various activities for the participants.

Probably the most exciting such activity was the speedbuilding contest, and the workshop the most creatively demanding; there was also a series of lectures on topics ranging from a deep analysis of official LEGO® design process, via obscure Technic gearbox design, down to comprehensive modelling of real-world buildings. Of course, all that with a good measure of Croatian cuisine (but also several others), visits to the LEGO® Store, Zagreb's center, etc. Altogether there were about 70 participants from almost a dozen countries, including as many as five representatives from The LEGO® Group. As already customary, an anonymous poll among the exhibitors decided on the best displayed MOC's, while there was also a rich raffle so that everybody could get at least a cute souvenir to take back home.

As for the exhibition itself, it was to a certain degree different to the 2018 edition. This time the emphasis has been placed on smaller and medium-sized MOC's as well, which is not to

say that there wasn't anything large (indeed, the huge Castle diorama in the hall center was spectacular), but rather that there weren't many very heavy exhibits. While the general population always likes being impressed by the sheer size of massive MOC's, the AFOL community appreciates small but clever constructions as well — and in that respect, this was an event for LEGO® connoisseurs. There was also perhaps a little bit less mechanical action, but compensated for with artistic exhibits.





Needless to say, this was a pure MOC event; no sets were displayed.

And while the exhibition as such was interesting, the main criticism for the Kockice Convention 2019 needs to be pointed at the premises. While the rough concrete floors, factory lights and segmented walls did give a certain "industrial" flavour to the event, which some people quite like, most visitors and partici

pants found it a bit too dark and grey, at least compared to the past year's cheery sport hall.

But altogether it should be considered a successful event, and overall, a better one than the year before. Now let's see: perhaps these, so far independent events, could be turned into a regular (let's avoid the phrase "establishing tradition"!) annual Conventions.

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