

# 4999 - VESTAS Wind Turbine (2008) vs. 10268 - VESTAS Wind Turbine (2018)



by *luisgib*

*pictures by luisgib & LEGO® System A/S*

Many times, talking with Jose (aka satanspoet), one of the editors of the magazine, we have reached the conclusion that 4999 - Vestas Wind Turbine set marked a turning point in the LEGO® CITY theme. While it is true that it was an exclusive set for the company that makes these wind turbines, it was relatively easy to get one of those sets for a “reasonable” price. It was a set that had a bit of everything: a vintage style house, a purely 21st century CITY vehicle, a unique theme, Power Functions... We feel it was the “perfect” set and it has a special place in our memory.

Last year, when the new VESTAS set was announced I had mixed feelings. On the one hand I always dream of a diorama with a wind farm going at full capacity. And also with the fact that everyone can get a splendid set without having to pay the extra price of a collectors' item. On the other hand, I wasn't sure if the memory of that first VESTAS wouldn't be diminished by the new set. That is why I decided to do a side by side of these two sets to see the similarities and differences.

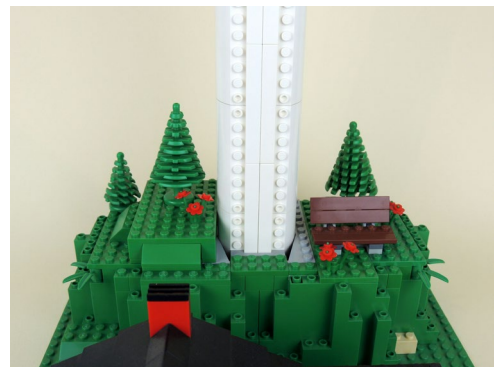
Editor's note: the 4999 set was “bricklinked” together so some colours may not match.

## Changes due to availability of elements

Some of the changes between the sets are due to the availability of certain elements in the LEGO® catalogue. The most striking example is the dog that accompanies the owner of the house. In 2008 it was a pretty simple German Shepherd, with no decoration except for the eyes that are marked in the plastic. In the new set you find the current German Shepherd, with printing and a rounder, more realistic style.



The other significant change is found in the vegetation, specifically in the flowers. The stems of the old flowers - an element with more than 30 years of history and that can be connected to a stud - were substituted by stems that a minifig can hold in its hand. This means you also need a Green Plate, Modified 2 x 2 with Groove and 1 Stud in Center (Jumper) to place the flowers on the stud. This increases the number of elements by one and reduces the ability to connect to a stud. The flowers themselves have also changed, using a more modern element that came out last year.



However, the most worrisome trend is the complete disappearance of flowers from CITY and Friends sets in 2019. Especially the latter tend to have quite a few.

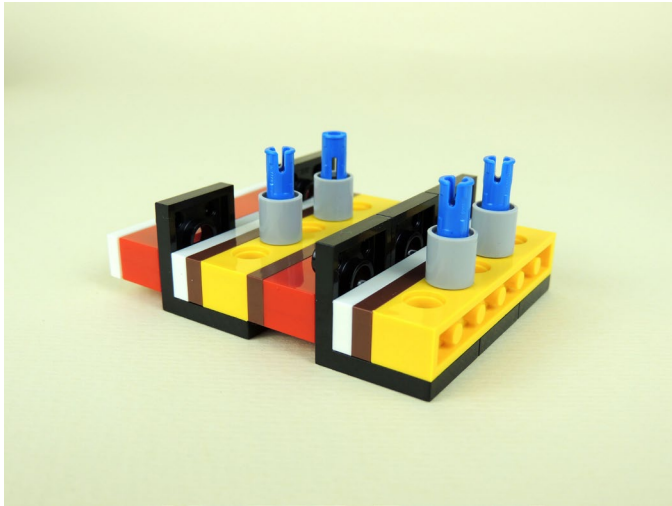
There have also been other small changes like the tools the VESTAS operators use, but those changes are less visible.

## Structural Changes

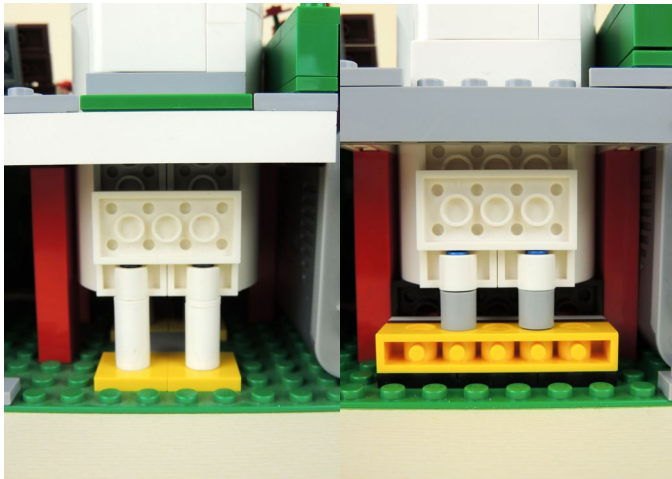
Structurally there has been an important change. The way the tower is connected to the base. In the 4999 set this was done using only 4 Yellow Tile, Modified 2 x 2 with Pin which were connected to the tower with 4 Technic, Pin Connector Round 2L with Slot (Pin Joiner Round).

This made the connection to the base quite fragile. Picking up the set by the tower of the wind turbine was scary since the weight of the base meant you could end up with just the tower in your hands.

In the new edition of the set this connection has improved substantially using a structure built with Technic bricks, System bricks and brackets, as can be seen in the following picture:



The set is now more stable and safe to transport. This is how the connection compares between both sets:



## Aesthetic Changes

This is probably the area that has the largest number of changes. The company that manufactures these wind turbines (VESTAS) changed its style guide between the two sets and this is reflected in different ways.

The blue line and white letters on the generator nacelle disappear to make way for a cleaner design, all in white with the VESTAS logo in dark blue letters. In addition, as a novelty, there is no sticker sheet and all decorated elements are printed.



This change to a cleaner design also affects the VESTAS repair van. The dark blue elements disappear completely and the van is now completely white except for the logo of the Danish company on both sides. The logo on the rear of van that was present in the old set also disappears.



## The Minifigures

There are also changes in this department. As a matter of fact, only one of the three minifigures could be considered a direct evolution from the previous set. The only change in one of the operators is the colour of his hard hat.



On the other operator the facial expression has changed and instead of looking for a similar expression he now has a new personality, with a striking moustache and a more friendly face.



Just like in the rest of the decorated elements, the V for VESTAS has been printed on the torso of the new minifigures, instead of relying on stickers like in the old set.

The owner of the house has changed completely. She now wears a colourful shirt instead of a white torso, the colour of her trousers has changed as well, she is wearing makeup (lip liner and mascara) as she has a new hairstyle. While this is not really an inconvenience, it does break with the continuity of the rest of the set.



## Conclusions

After analysing both sets, you can see there are no substantial changes from one to the next and most of the changes were in one way or another “forced” by the circumstances, because of the availability of elements and because of the company style change.

As you can see in the following images, when you compare both sets side by side the differences are minimal.



The spirit of the set and what it represents and has represented in the history of LEGO® has remained unaltered, leaving you with no excuse to let the set pass, especially if you couldn't get one back in 2008.

As for the price, I have to say that back in 2008 while talking about the set with a LEGO® employee we tried to estimate the price. At that time we supposed it would have a retail price of around 150€.

The price of the 2018 set was 180€. Maybe the price per element rate is a little high, but bear in mind that many of the elements are big, compared to sets with 3000+ elements that contain many 1x1 and 1x2 elements. Also, the Power Functions elements add to the cost.

I believe the set hasn't lost any of its virtues and look great in any CITY diorama. As I mentioned at the beginning, it is a set that has a bit of everything. When you turn on the generator, the movement of the blades is hypnotic, majestic. And with the new curved slopes you could finish off the curve of the column and make it even more realistic, if possible.

We would like to thank LEGO® for providing this set for review. However, LEGO® neither approves nor endorses the opinions we publish.

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