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NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK MODEL

Lego's not just for kids any more.

At least that's what staff at Mintec's Perth branch are discovering since they took delivery of a replica block model made of Lego.

"As soon as we got it, one of the engineers in the office wanted to take it away and play with it," said Ian Whitehouse, branch manager of MineSight Applications Australia. "It can't help but attract attention."

About seventy centimeters long by 40 cms wide and 20 cms high, the model weighs 17 kilos and is built to scale based on a computer-generated block model.

"It's color-coded using RGB colors from Lego, and every block represents a grade," said Whitehouse. "To create a cross-section view, it's cut down the middle and separates into two halves, which is just as well because it's quite heavy."

MineSight commissioned master Lego builder Ryan McNaught, a father of two from Melbourne, to create the block model for its recent annual seminar in Brisbane.

"We're always looking at ways to do things differently, and this helps to make something surreal more real," explained Whitehouse.

"When we contacted the guy, he really didn't know what the heck we were talking about at first. But we explained it all and it took him about a week and a half to do."

That's considerably quicker than the eight months it took McNaught to build a replica of a Qantas A380, the world's largest passenger jet. And Mintec's Lego block model must have been a surreal leap from his most recent assignment.

"When we contacted him, he'd just finished making a lifesize model of Justin Bieber," said Whitehouse.

About Mintec, Inc.

Mintec is a global software and service provider for the mining industry. Its pioneering end-to-end software system, MineSight, comprises powerful analytical, planning and design tools. Hundreds of sites and thousands of users manage their mining lifecycles with MineSight. Since 1970, Mintec has grown to more than 180 employees staffing headquarters in Tucson, Arizona, and nine regional offices on six continents. After 40 years, Mintec's commitment remains the same: To make every MineSight user successful.

Contact

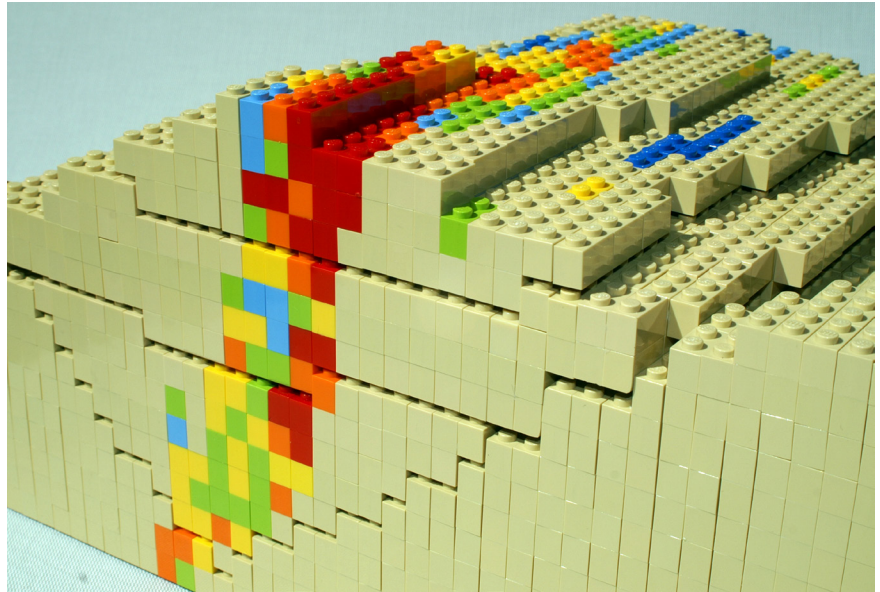
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The Lego block model: Irrestible to engineers everywhere.