

MOC&A / BORIS'S POST OFFICE

Builder:
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As part of his Neo Fabuland project, Dale Harris has built a suitably colourful post office

Words: Graham Hancock Pics: Dale Harris

New build techniques and classic elements combine.



FABULAND HAS A special place in the heart of many LEGO fans. Throughout the 1980s, the world of animal characters provided an introduction to LEGO building for young children. Dale Harris aimed to capture the essence of the classic theme in Boris's Post Office, as part of a series of builds he is calling Neo Fabuland.

Blocks: What is your experience of Fabuland?

Dale: My younger brother Adam and I had a few Fabuland sets as kids. I specifically remember 3625 Sandy Seagull's Airplane,

3666 Billy Bear and Mortimer Mouse's Service Station, as well as smaller figure sets like 3603 Boris Bulldog and Mailbox. I don't really have much of my original Fabuland anymore, though I do have my original Mortimer Mouse fabu-fig. I have been gradually rediscovering Fabuland over the past few years, finding some pieces in bulk lots I purchased and at our local pop culture fair.

What is your goal for Neo Fabuland?

I have been thinking for some time about a way to approach Fabuland as a design style, rather than as a collection of specific pieces, in much the same way that Neo-Classic Space

looks to Classic Space as a colour scheme and a set of design conventions.

I really want Neo Fabuland to capture what makes Fabuland great but take the level of detail up a notch. I know that some people will say that it isn't Fabuland if it doesn't use flat wall panels, but I am not seeking to just build a Fabuland display. My aim is to explore how Fabuland might be approached in 2019 with all the great pieces and building techniques we have at our disposal.

The 1970s picture story book world inhabited by the anthropomorphised animals of Fabuland features buildings, vehicles and implements with an exaggerated, whimsical

Fabuland was full of unique characters such as Boris Bulldog.



Yellow, blue and red are all classic LEGO colours.



style like other childrens' books of the time. Door and window frames appear rounded; vehicles have exaggerated, rounded features reminiscent of classic cars; and implements are decoratively styled, rather than the more utilitarian designs of standard LEGO Town tools. I want to make sure that Neo Fabuland pays tribute to the exaggerated style of the original Fabuland sets.

Where did the idea for Neo Fabuland come from?

I am not sure exactly; I had been trying to decide which classic theme from my childhood to explore for my next Brickvention-worthy display, but when exactly the spark came I do not know. The first thing I did when it did come was to build a quick proof of concept model in LDD and get some feedback from

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actual dyed-in-the-wool Fabuland aficionados through a few Facebook groups, and their feedback was enough to make me think that it might be worth exploring the idea further.

What restrictions have you put on yourself for these builds?

The buildings and vehicles of Fabuland are primarily made up of four colours – red, blue, yellow and green, with some rare instances of white, black and grey mixed in. The full Fabuland colour palette is much broader and includes oranges, browns, lime green and tan. Neo Fabuland will retain the original colour scheme as much as possible, mainly using just the three primary colours in buildings and vehicles (reserving green for grass and foliage), but also incorporating the other more natural colours to represent wood, stone, sand and so on. It is important for me that Neo Fabuland reads as Fabuland at first glance, and I believe that keeping the same balance of colours as the original sets is key to this.

How many models do you have planned?

I am building a large display to exhibit at Brickvention in Melbourne next year. It will incorporate 10 buildings along with vehicles and fabu-figs in a fully landscaped environment, including terrain, roads, paths, rocks, trees and more. ■