LEGO Architecture

21042

Statue of Liberty

New York, USA

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Liberty

The Statue of Liberty was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States, and has since become a universal symbol of freedom and democracy throughout the world. Dedicated on the 28th of October 1886, she was often the first thing people saw as they sailed into New York's harbor to start a new life in America.

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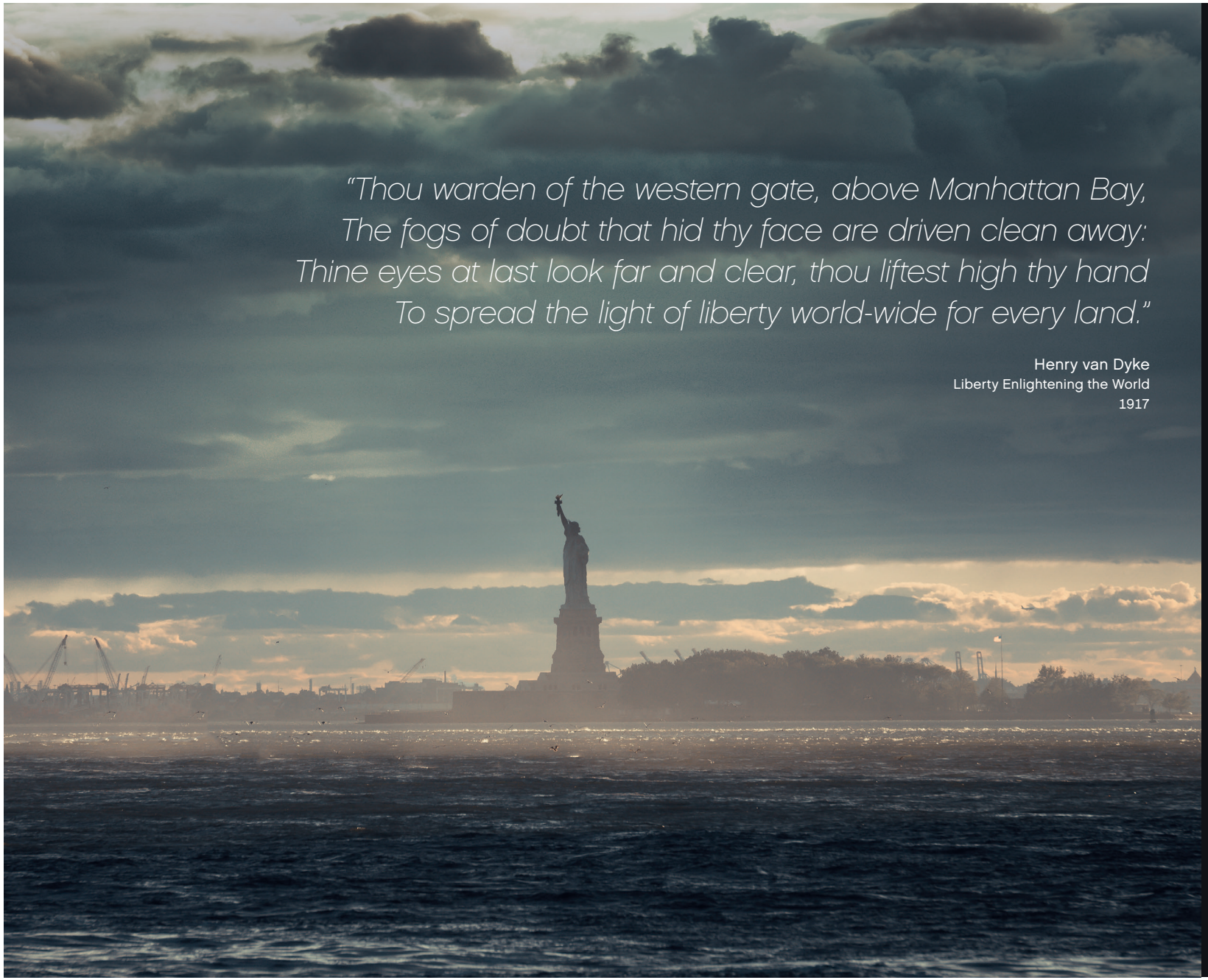

"Thou warden of the western gate, above Manhattan Bay,
The fogs of doubt that hid thy face are driven clean away:
Thine eyes at last look far and clear, thou liftest high thy hand
To spread the light of liberty world-wide for every land."

Henry van Dyke
Liberty Enlightening the World
1917

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The Gift

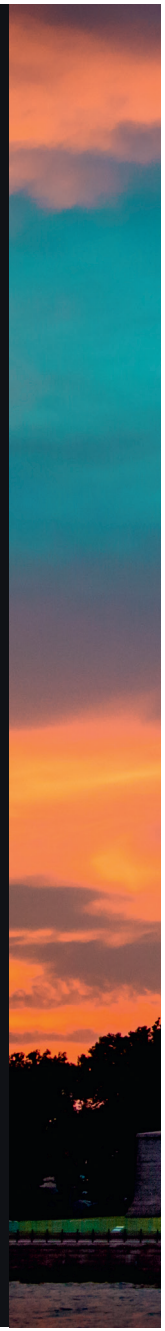
Édouard de Labouaye was a prominent French political thinker and a strong supporter of President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War. In 1865, he proposed creating a monument that would be gifted to the United States by the people of France in celebration of the recent Union victory in the Civil War and the abolition of slavery.

Ten years later, with the help of the sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, Labouaye turned his proposal into reality and founded the Franco-American Union to raise funds for the project. It was hoped that the French people would finance the proposed Statue, now entitled "Liberty Enlightening the World," while the American people would pay for its pedestal.

On one of his trips to the U.S. to help raise funds, the sculptor Bartholdi realized that New York was the gateway to America and spotted the perfect location for the Statue to stand.

Bedloe's Island was visible to every ship entering or leaving the city's harbor and Bartholdi envisioned his statue rising out of the star-shaped Fort Wood that already stood on the island.

The project soon caught the imagination of many on both sides of the Atlantic, and when the French had raised 400,000 francs the construction of the Statue finally began.



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"...a stream of light shall pierce the darkness
...until Liberty enlightens the world"
President Grover Cleveland
Dedication speech for the Statue of Liberty
October 28, 1886

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From Dream to Reality

In 1876, French craftsmen began forging the individual elements of the Statue. While the outer design and materials were given, the real challenge lay in the Statue's internal construction.

Bartholdi turned to the French architect and structural engineer, Gustave Eiffel, and he proposed creating a 92 ft. (28 m) skeletal central pylon upon which asymmetrical girders could be attached. Flat metal bars were then bolted to the girders to hold the copper skin of the Statue in place. Eiffel would go on to use the same pylon construction method in his famous Eiffel Tower, which was completed in 1889.

The entire Statue was completed in Paris between 1881 and 1884. It arrived amid great fanfare in New York aboard the French Navy ship Isére on the 17th of June 1885. Once the pedestal was completed in 1886, the 151 ft. (46 m) tall statue was quickly assembled. The last section to be completed was the Statue of Liberty's face, which remained covered until the official dedication on the 28th of October 1886. Rain and foggy weather did not stop over one million New Yorkers from turning out to cheer the unveiling of the new Statue.

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"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

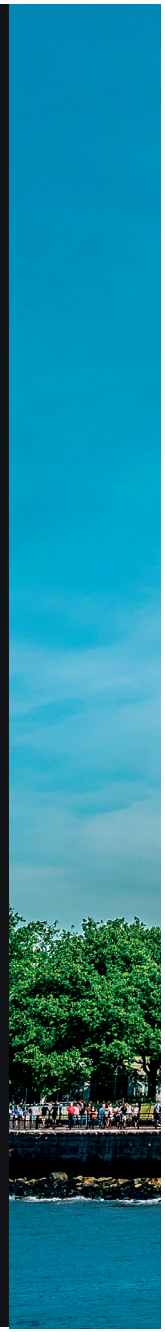
Emma Lazarus
The New Colossus
1883

A Universal Icon

The Statue of Liberty was intended to be seen as a universal symbol of enlightenment and freedom. The robed female figure itself represents Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom, and although you cannot see her feet clearly she stands among a broken shackle and chains, with her right foot raised, depicting her moving away from oppression and slavery. The seven spikes on the crown represent the seven oceans and the seven continents of the world, reinforcing the universal concept of liberty.

Over time, the Statue would also emerge as a welcoming symbol of hope to different generations of immigrants to the U.S. Between 1886 and 1924, almost 14 million immigrants entered the United States through New York. The Statue of Liberty was often the first thing they saw as they arrived by ship in their new homeland.

The American National Park Service took over responsibility for the island in 1937, and set about transforming the area around the Statue into a park. Bedloe's Island was renamed Liberty Island in 1957 to commemorate the completion of this work. The Statue was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 and continues to attract around 4 million visitors each year.



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Facts & Figures

Style	Neoclassical Sculpture
Materials	Statue: Copper & Iron
	Pedestal: Stone
Height	Statue: 151 ft. (46 m)
	Including Pedestal: 305 ft. (93 m)
Weight	224.9 short tons (204 metric tons)
Dedicated	October 28, 1886

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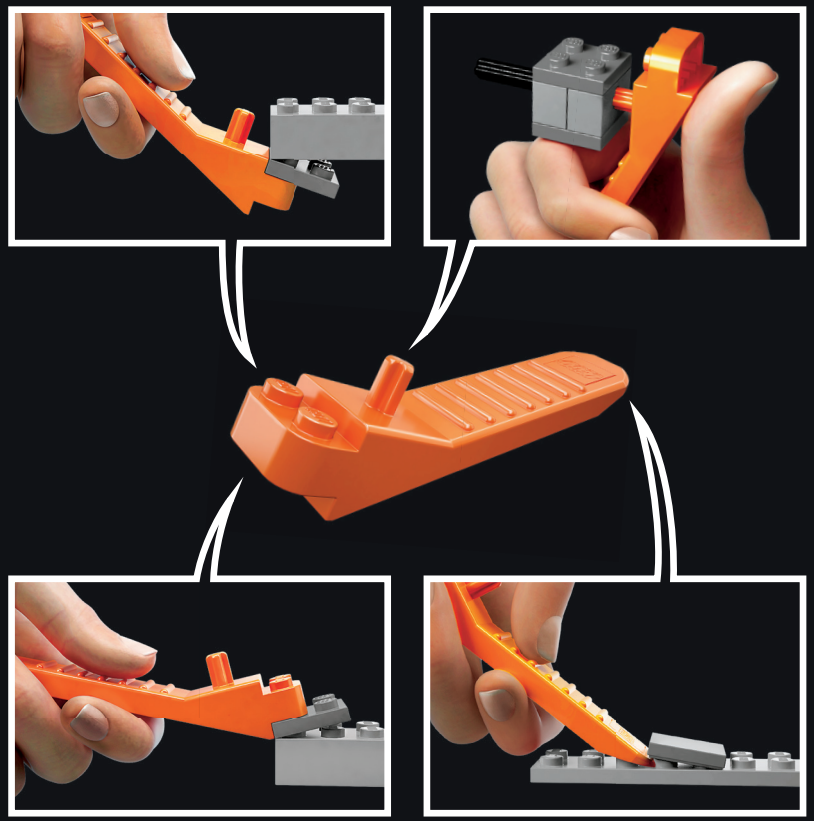

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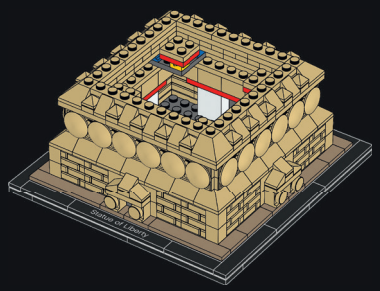

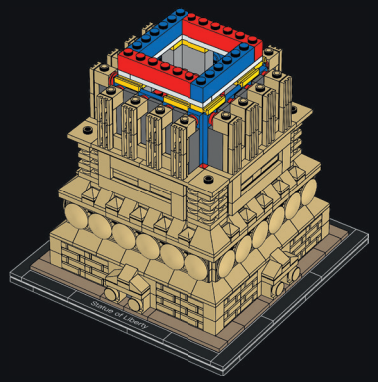

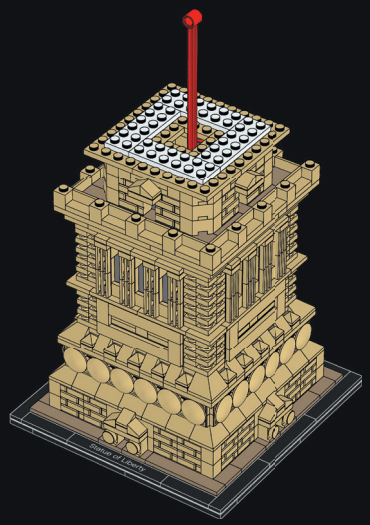

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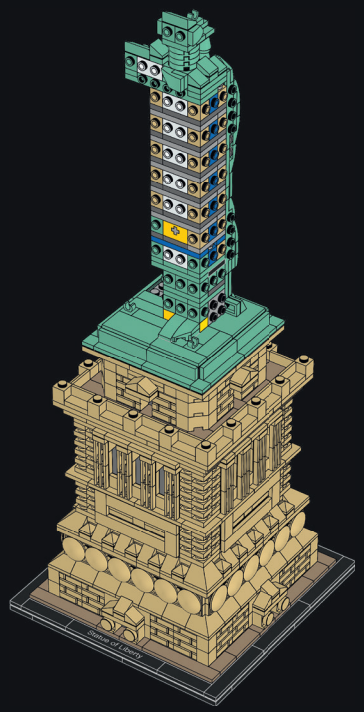

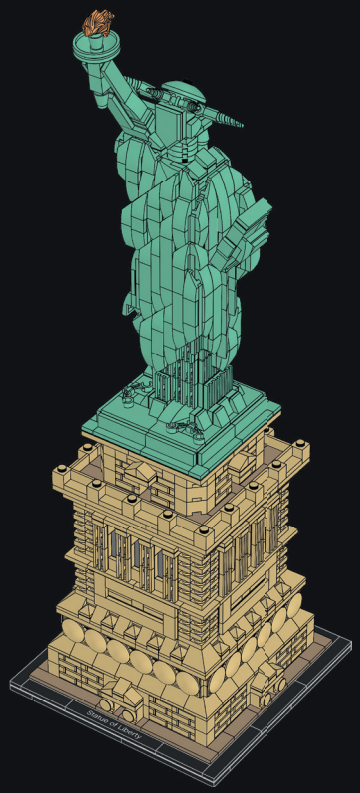

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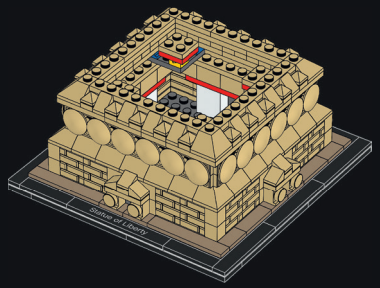

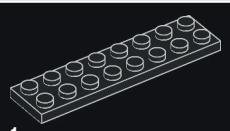

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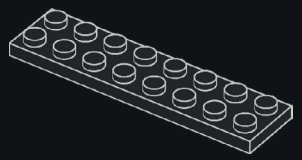

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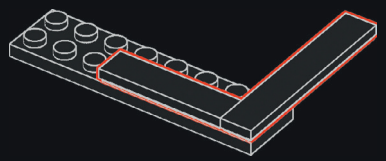

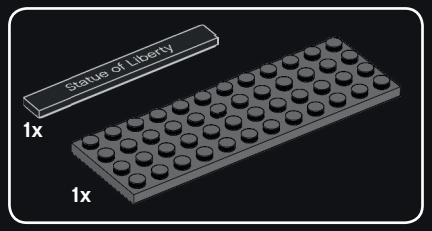

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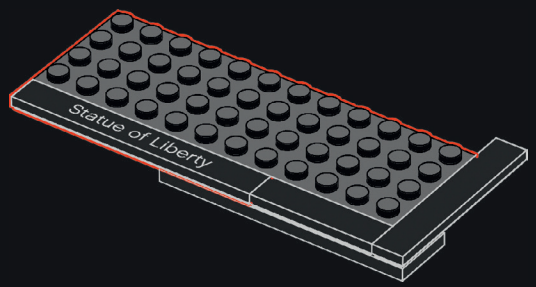

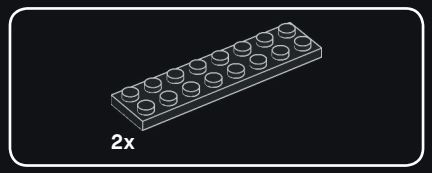

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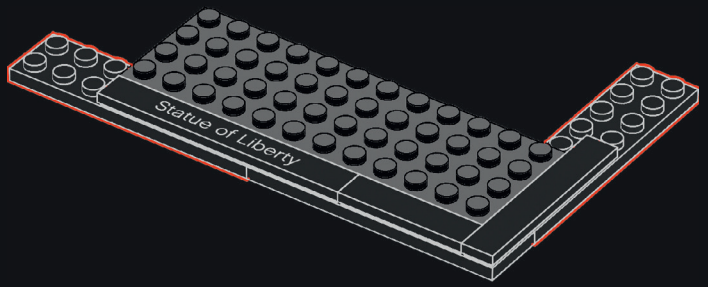

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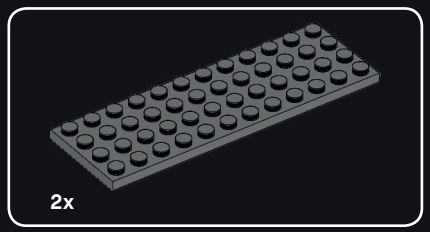

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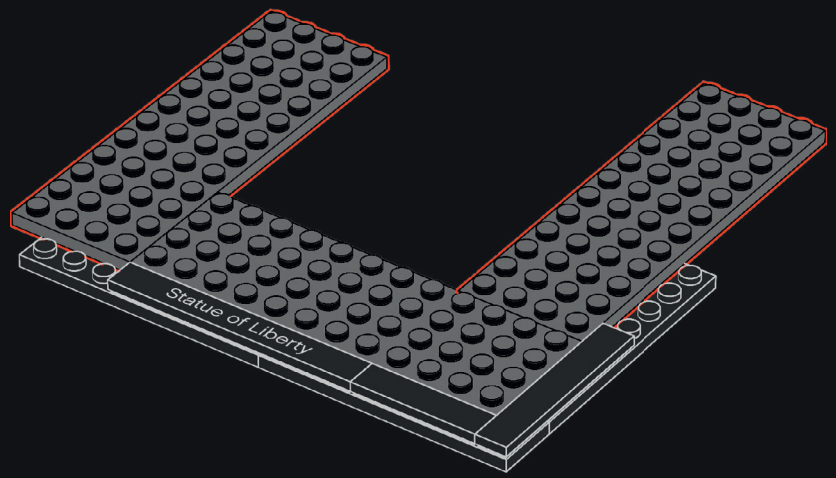

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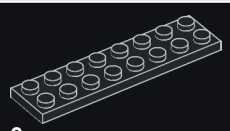

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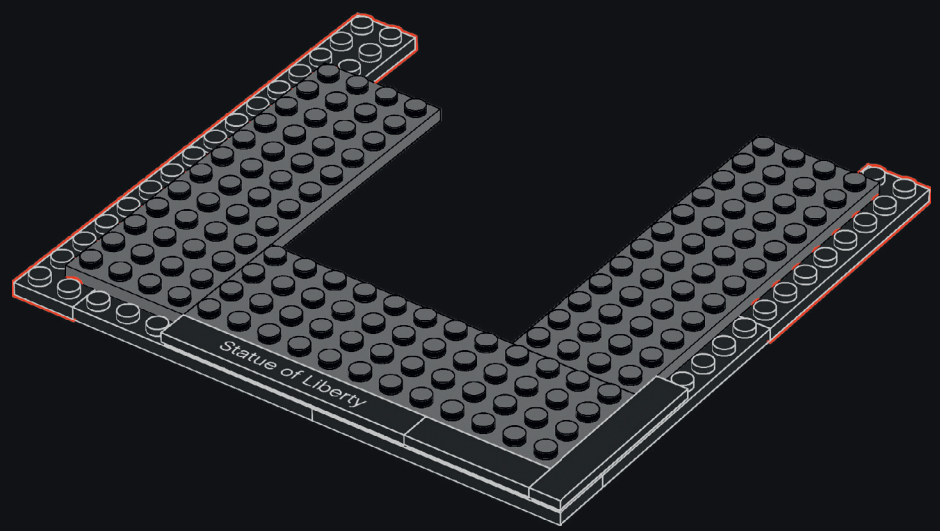

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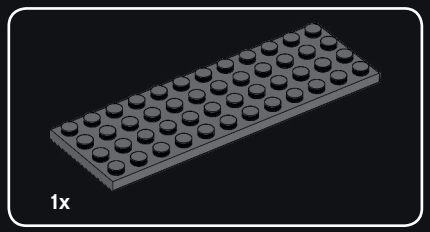

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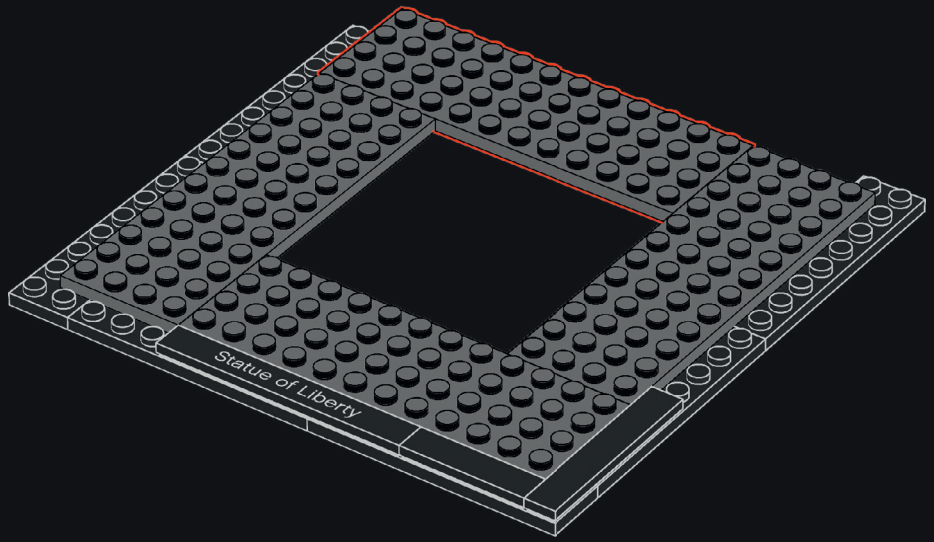

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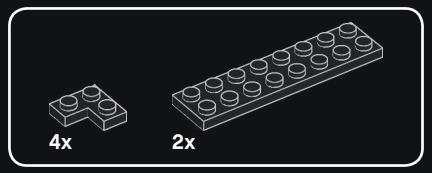

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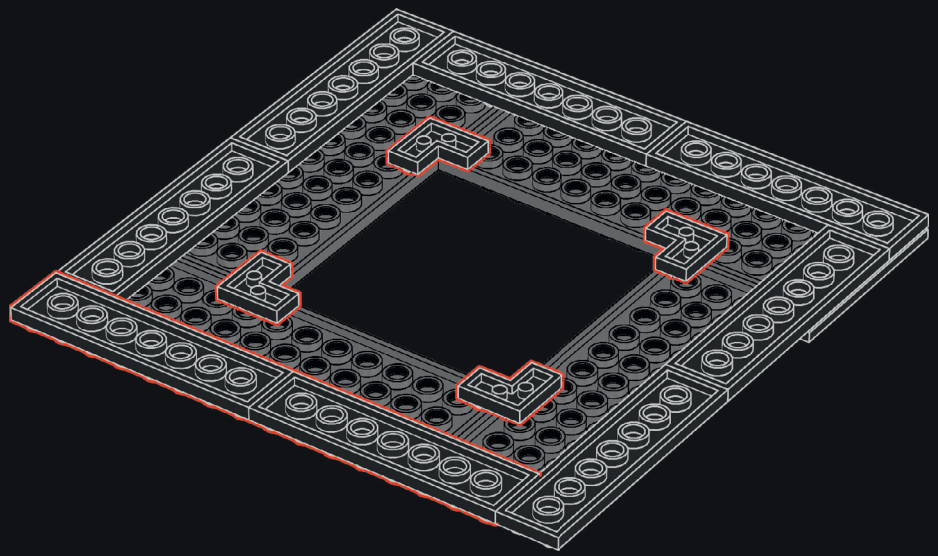

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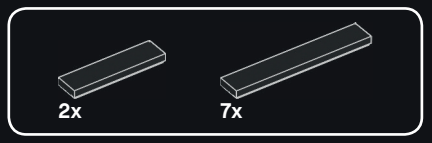

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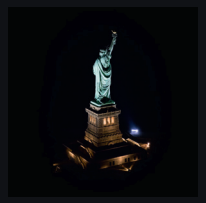
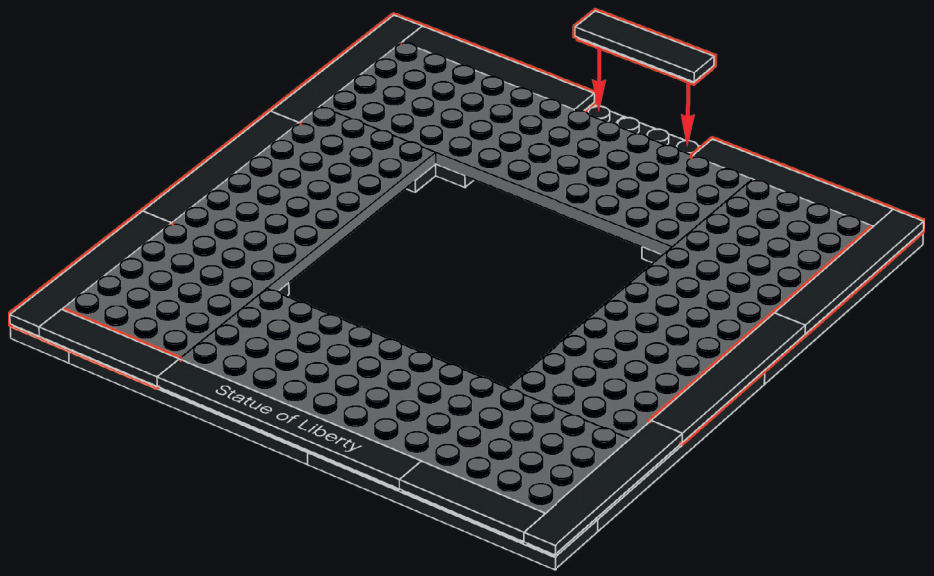
The Statue is thought to be hit by around 600 bolts of lightning every year.





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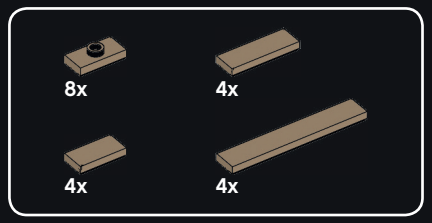

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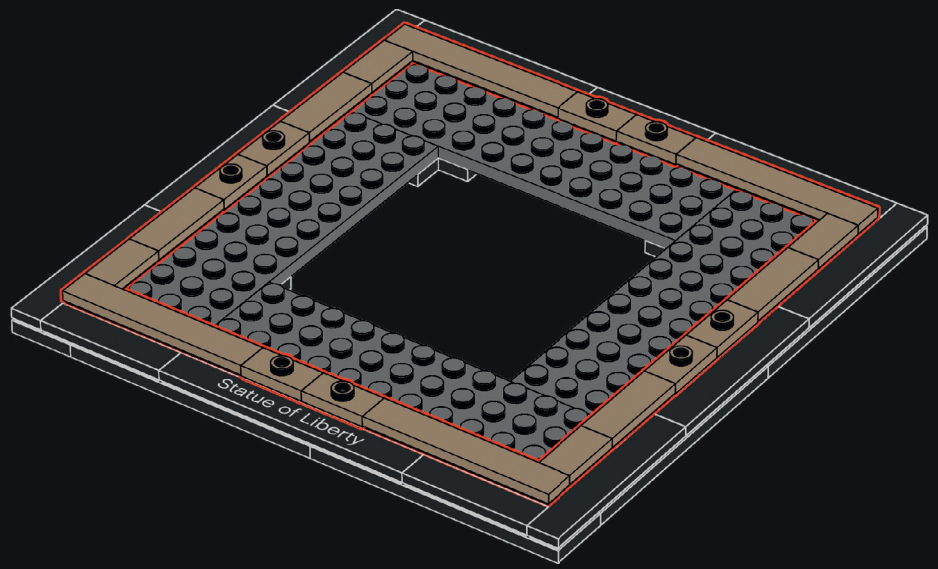

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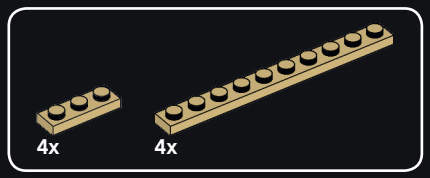

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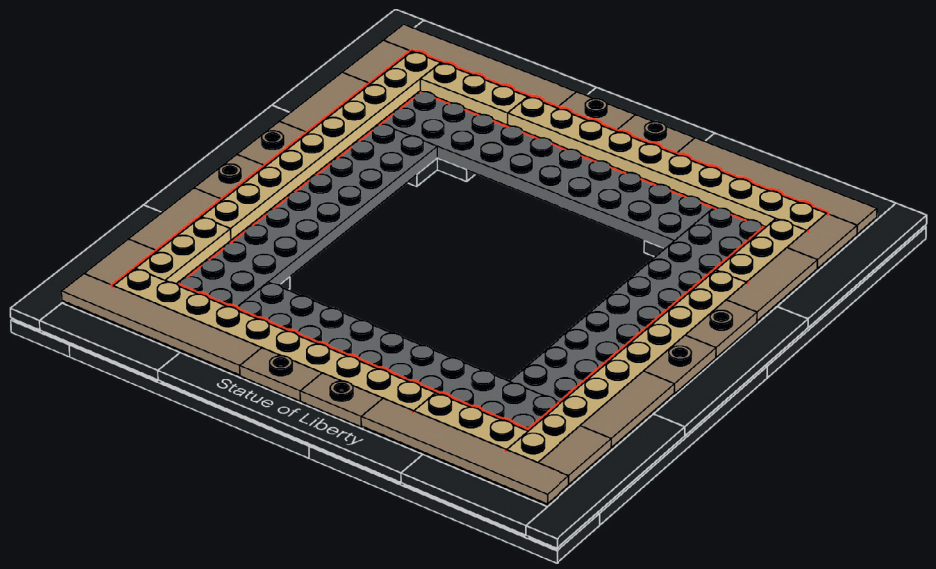

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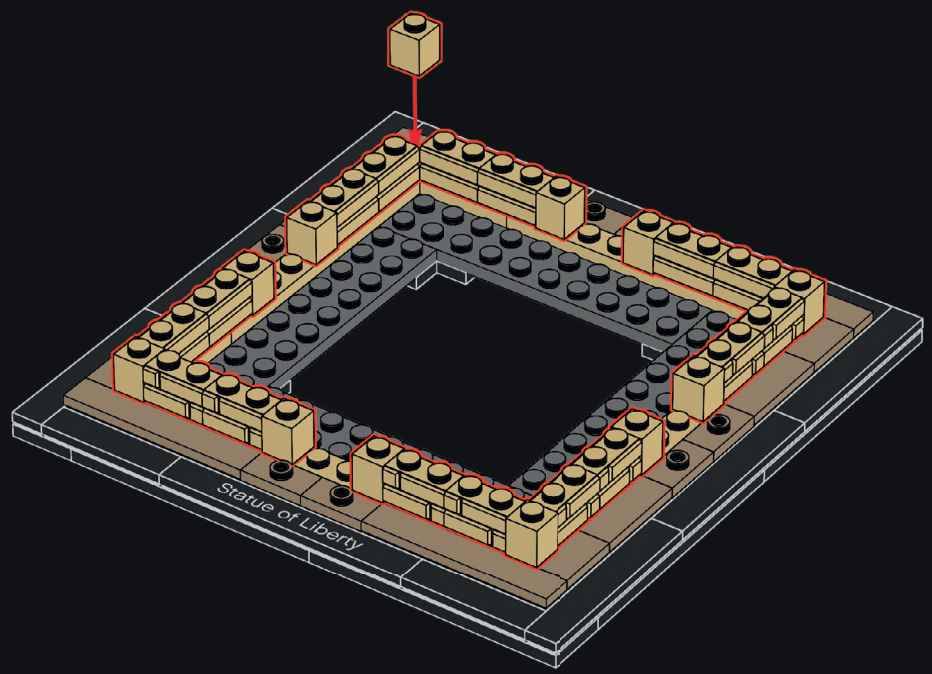

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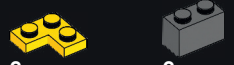

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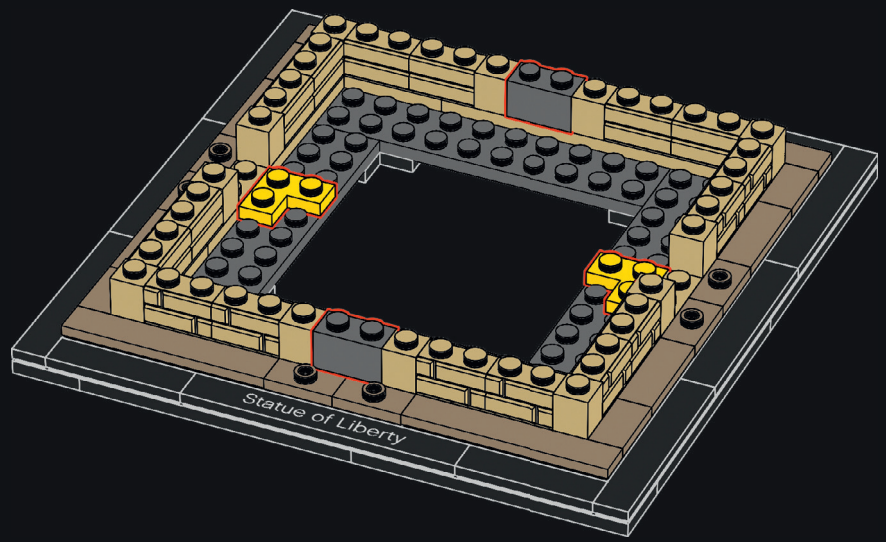

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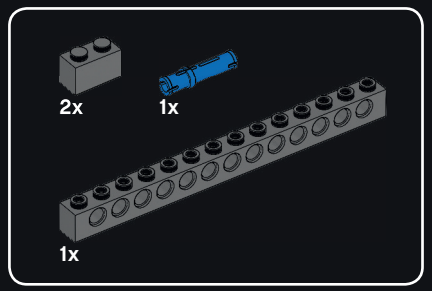

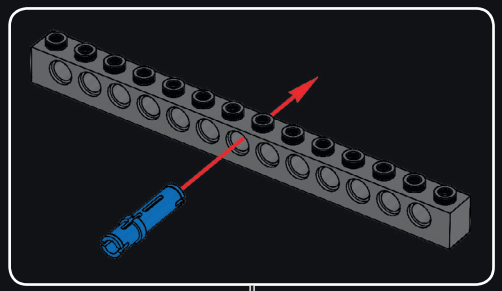

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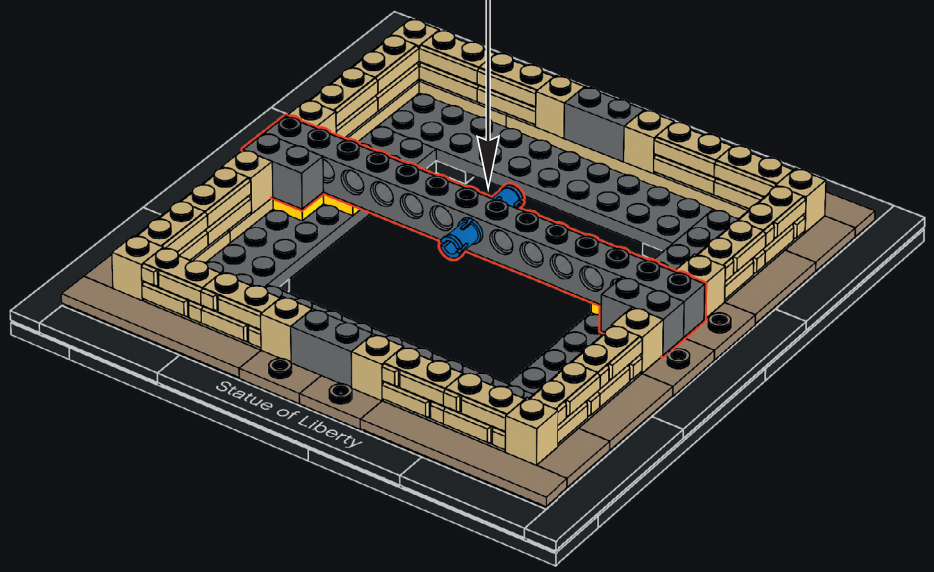

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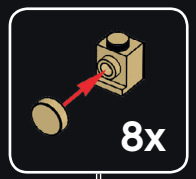

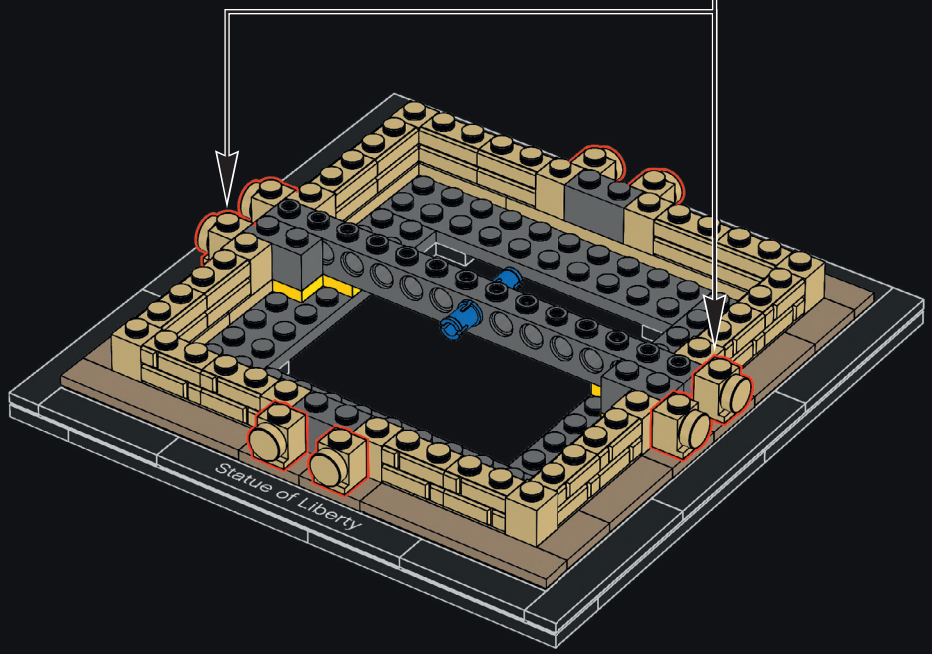

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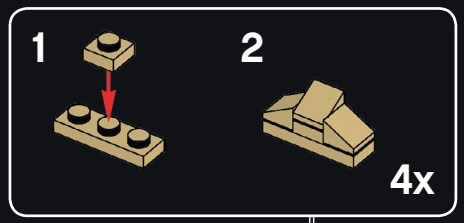

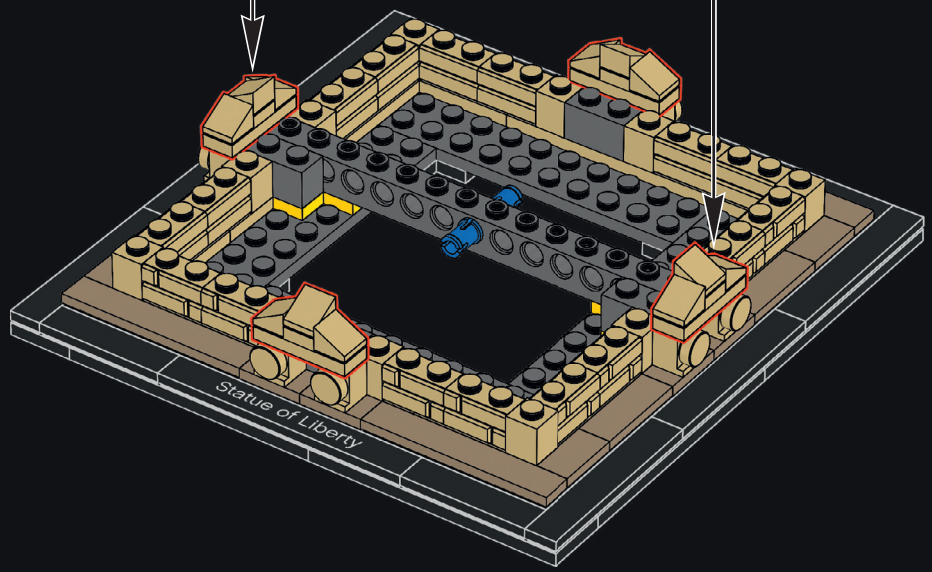

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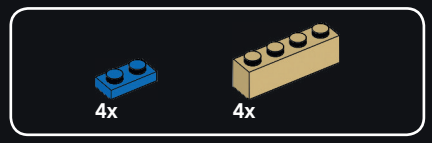

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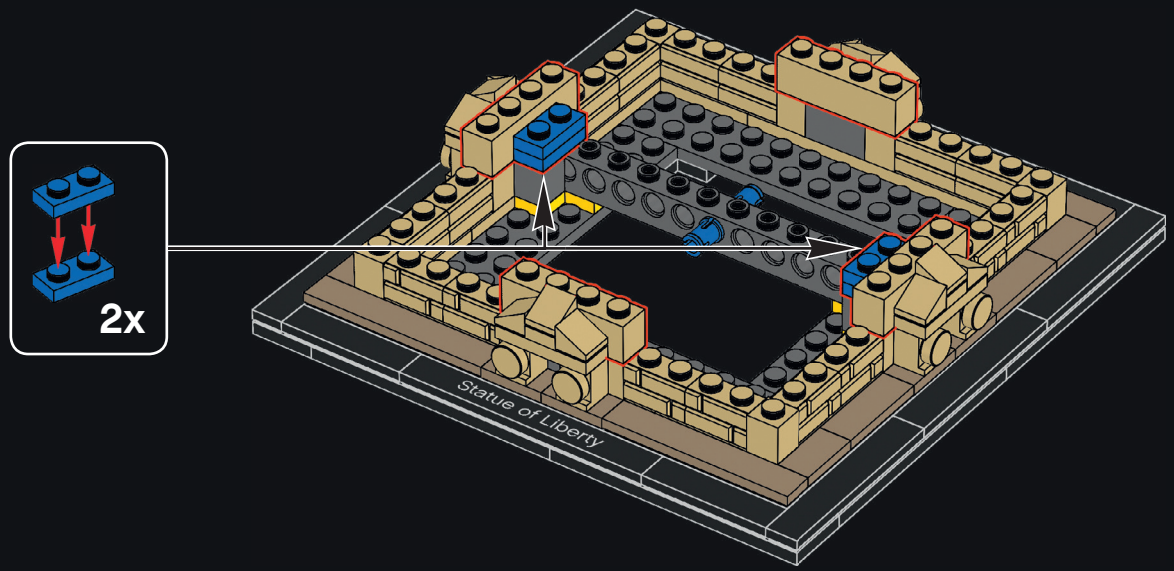

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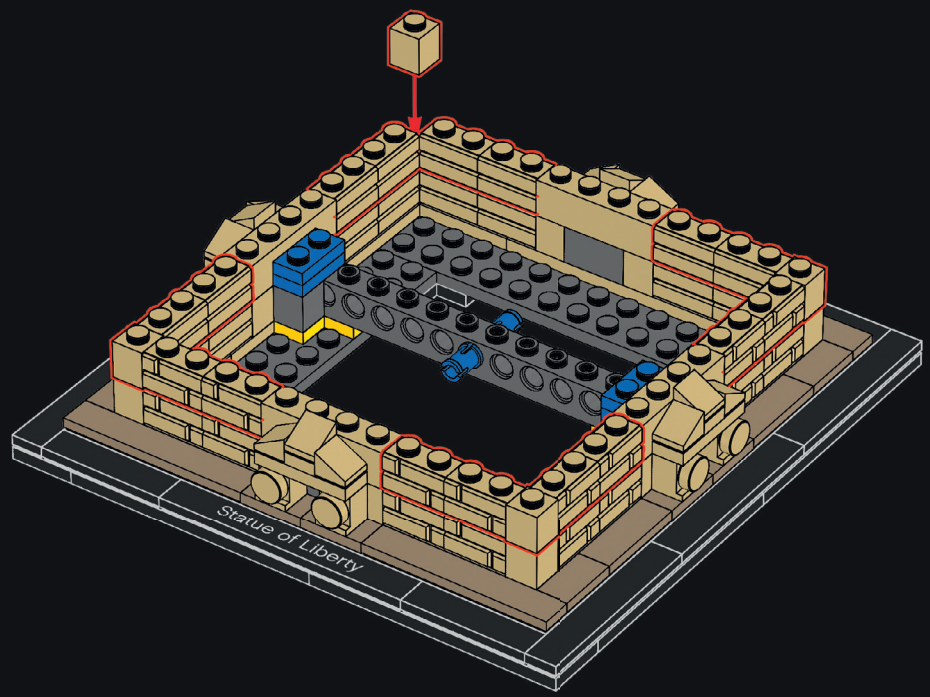

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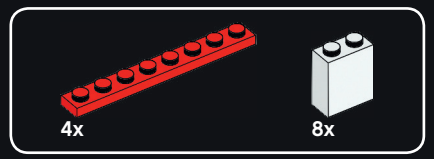

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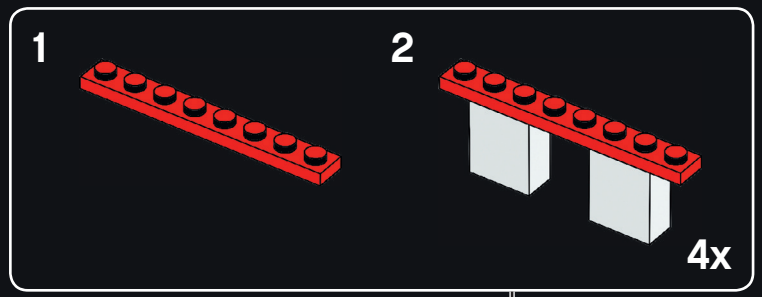

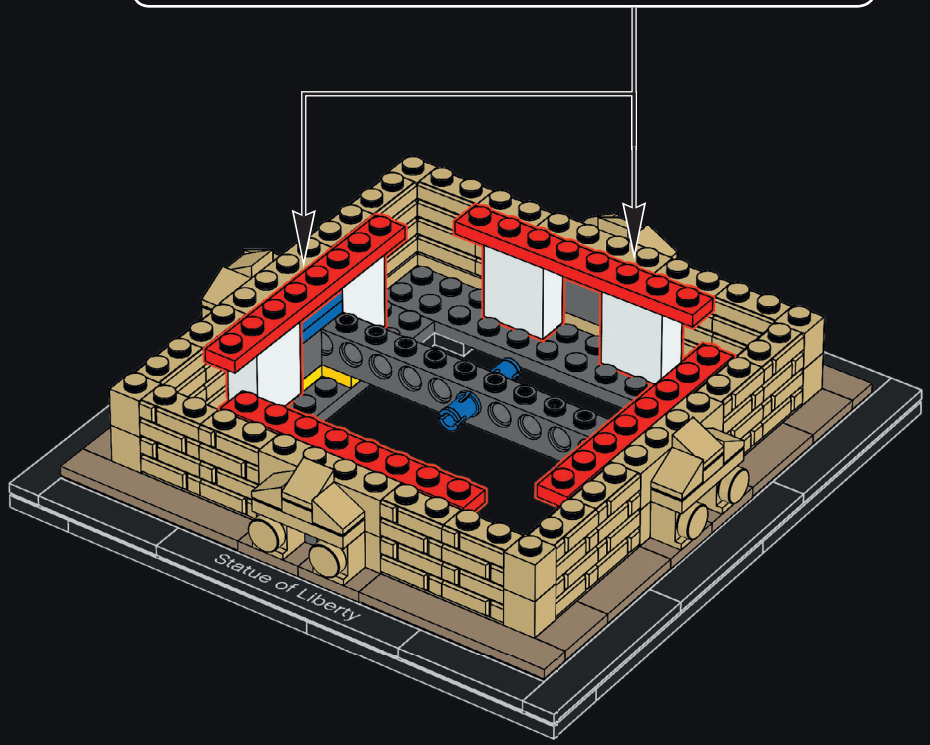

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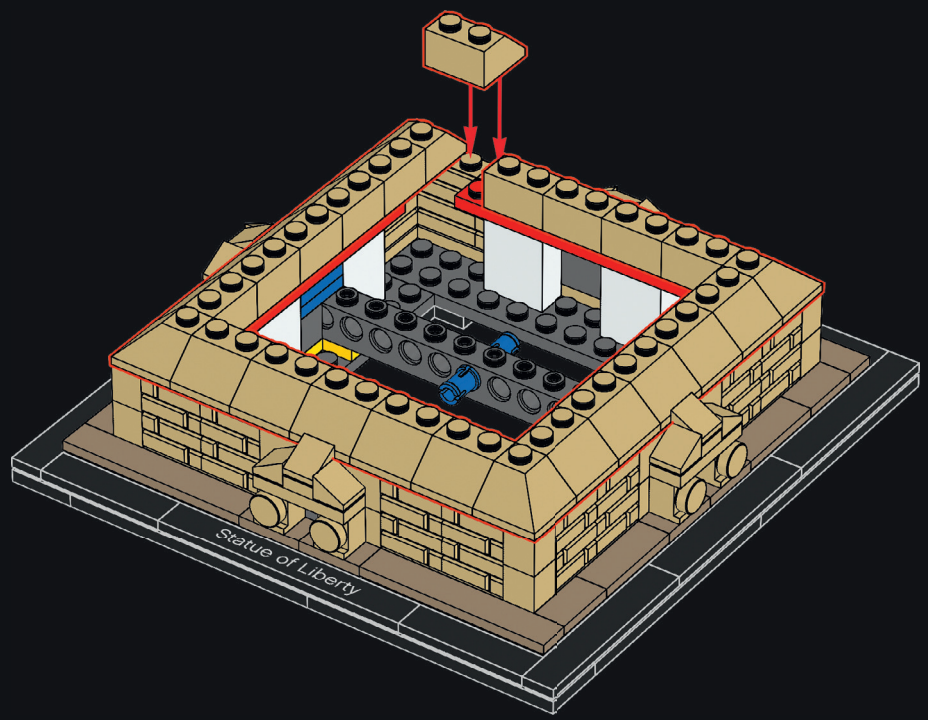

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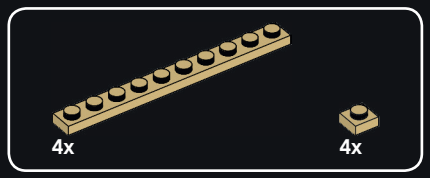

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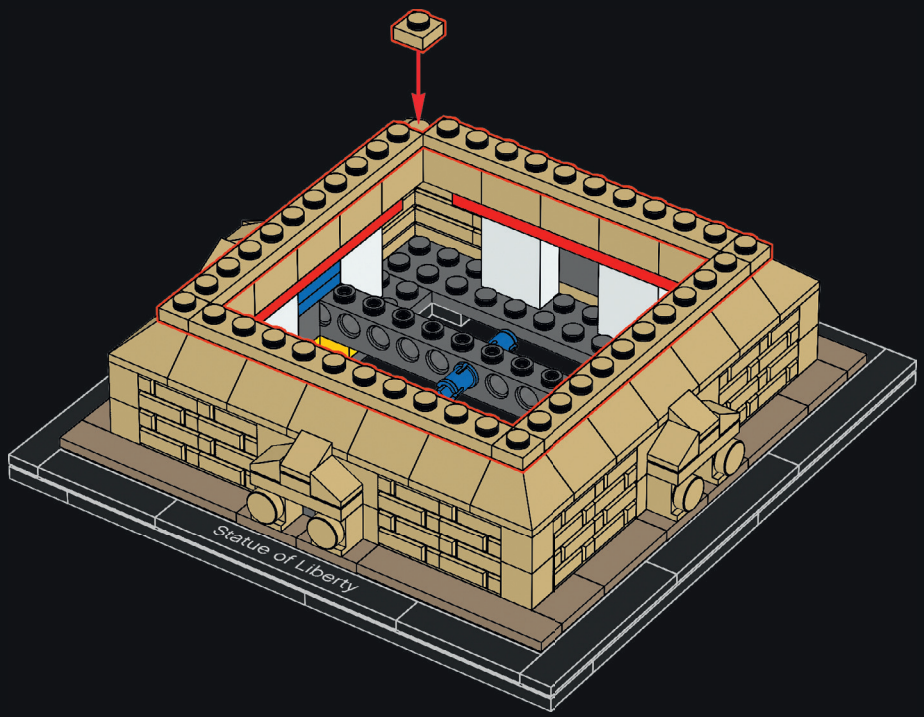

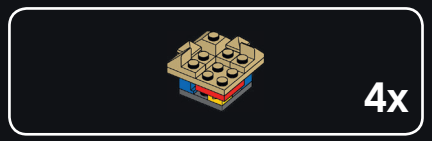

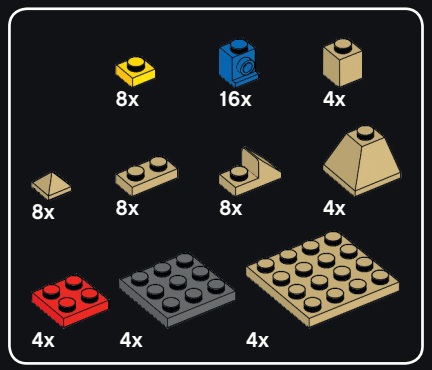

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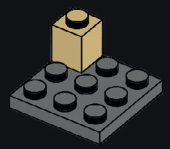

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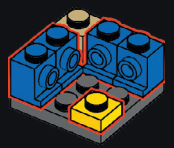

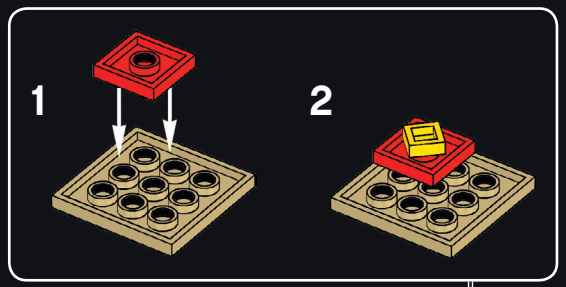

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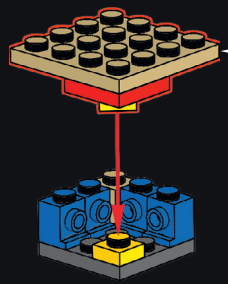

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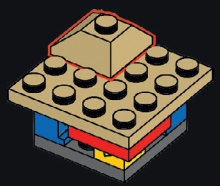

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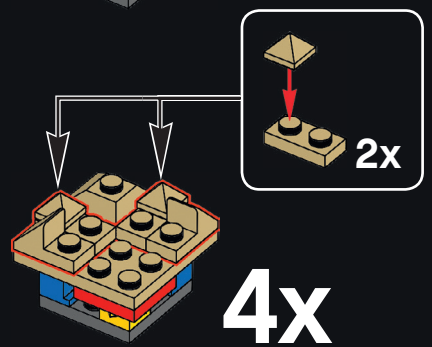

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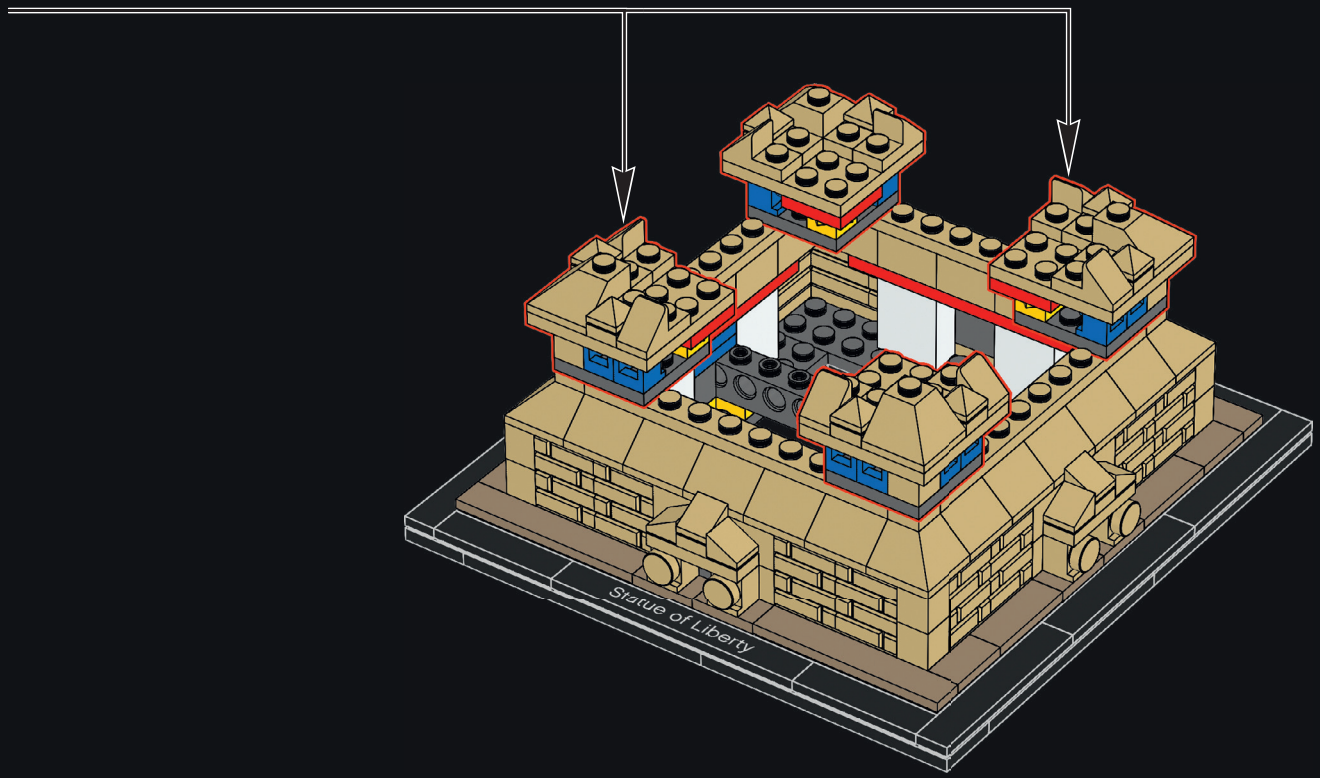

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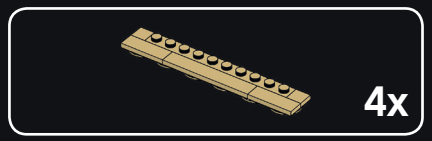

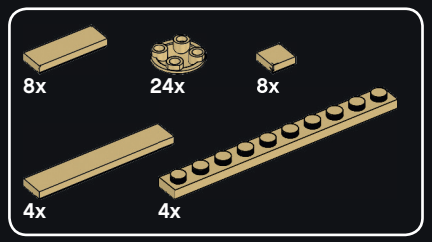

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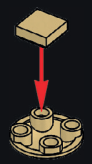

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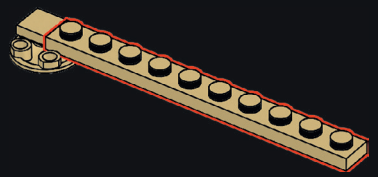

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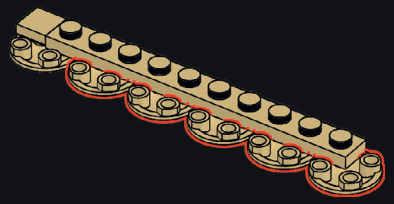

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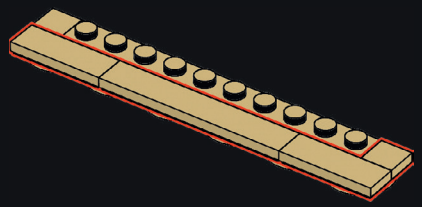

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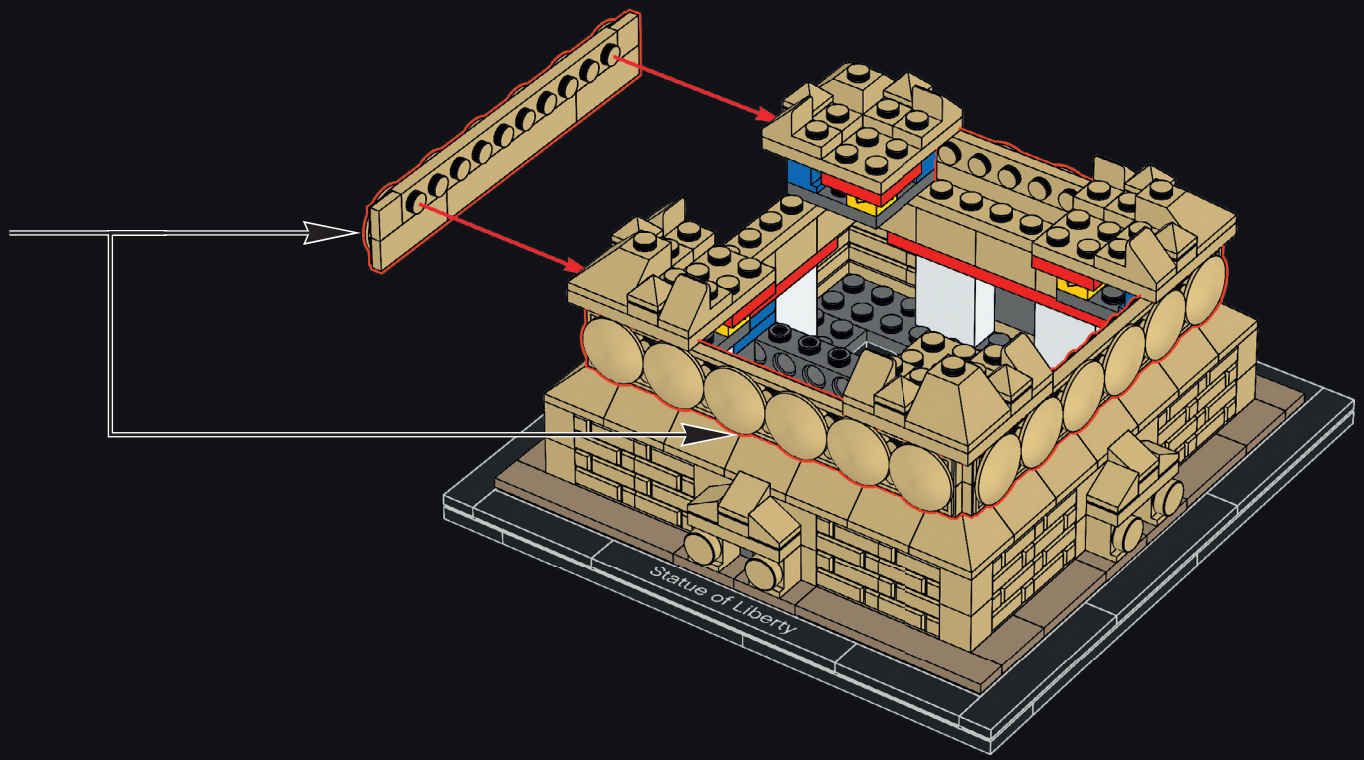

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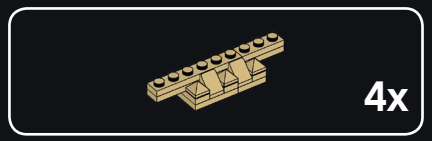

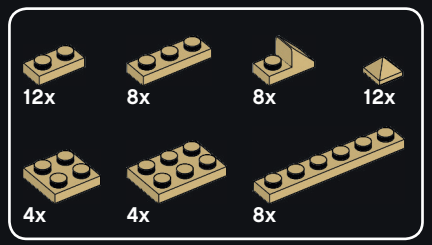

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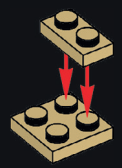

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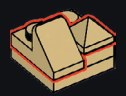

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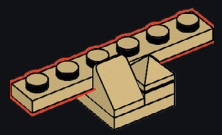

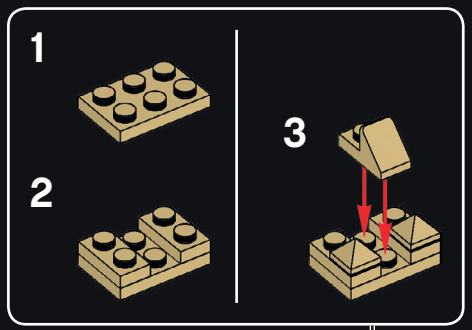

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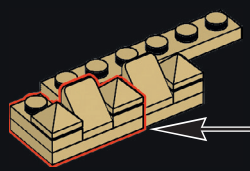

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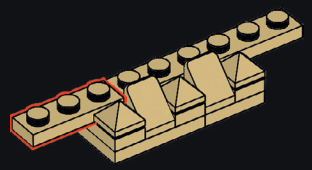

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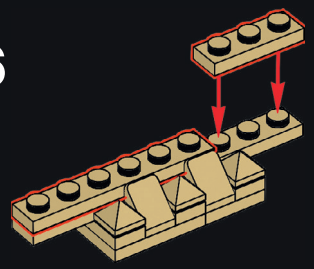

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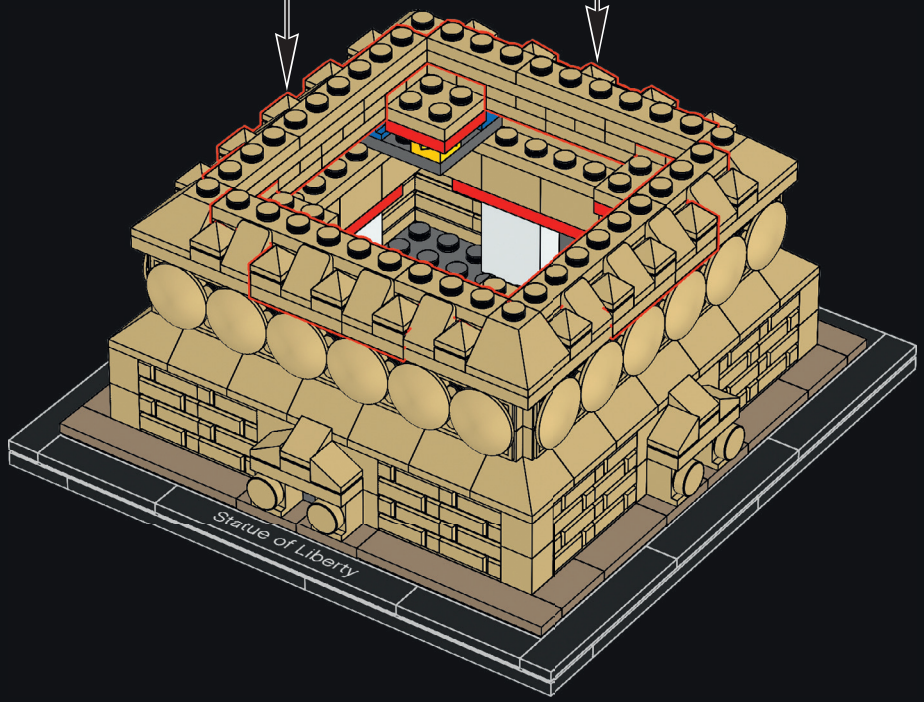

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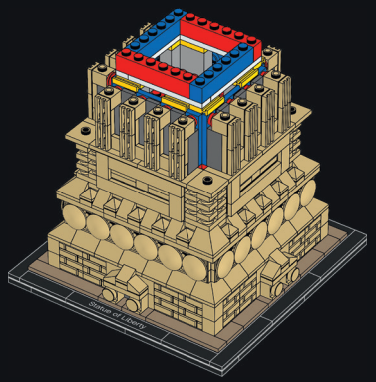

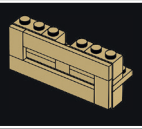

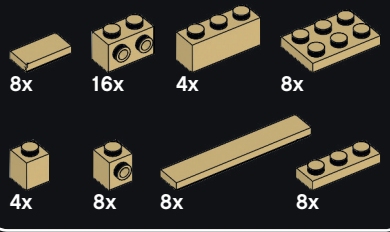

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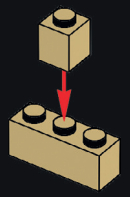

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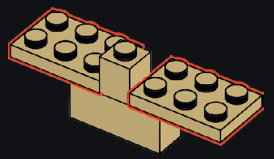

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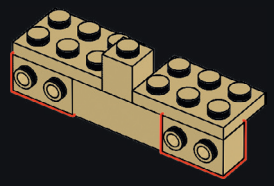

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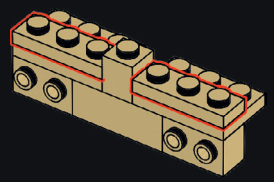

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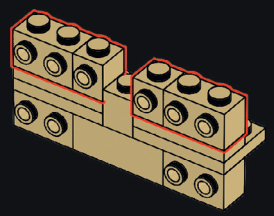

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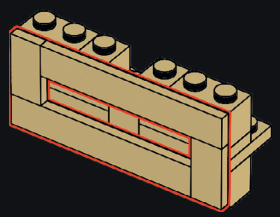

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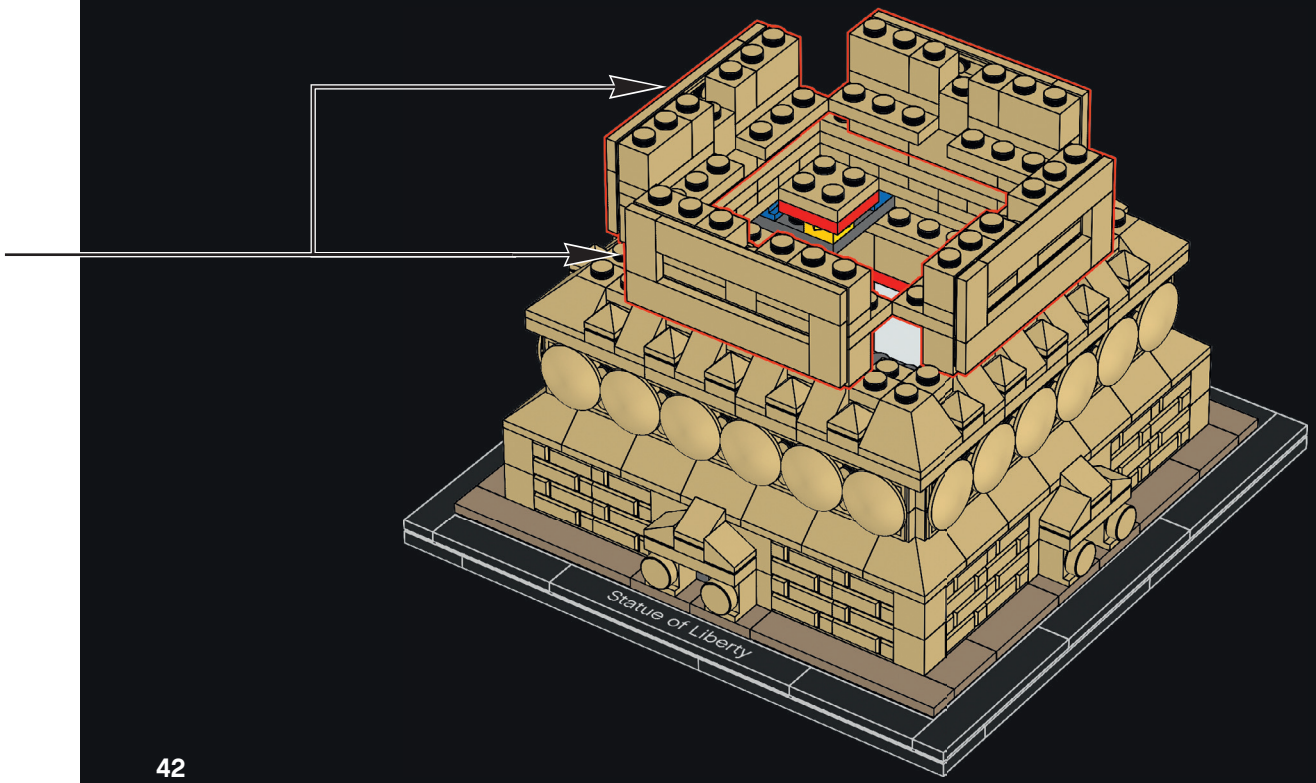

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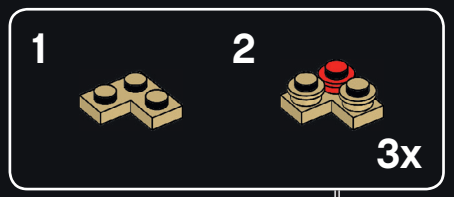

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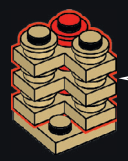

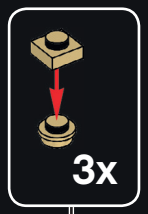

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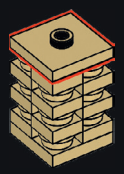

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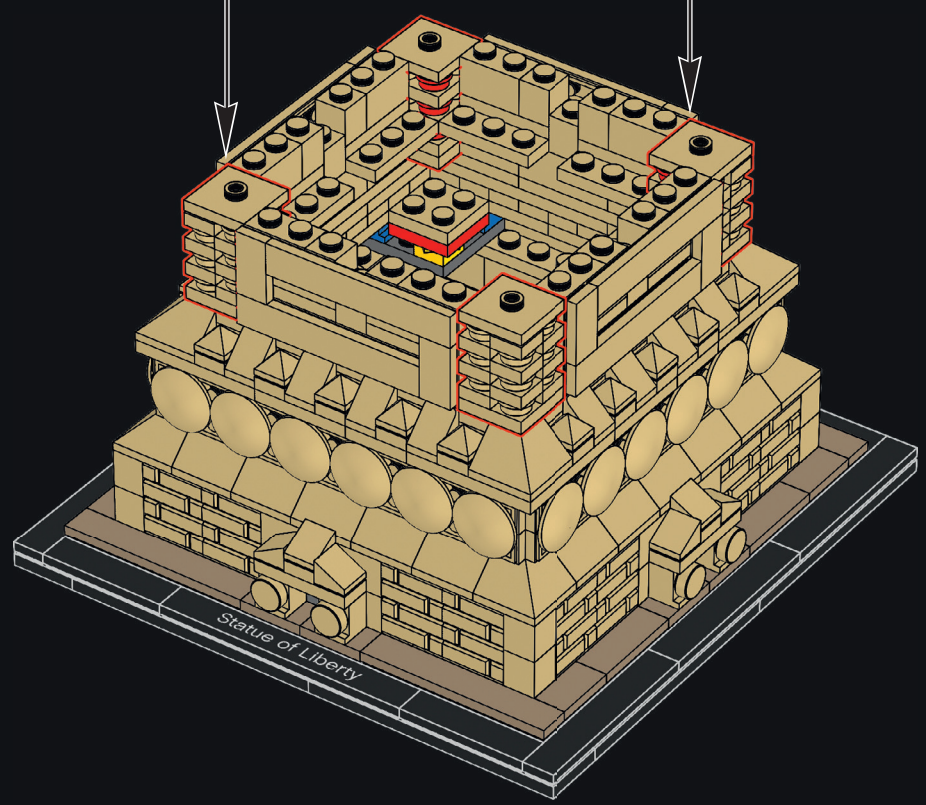

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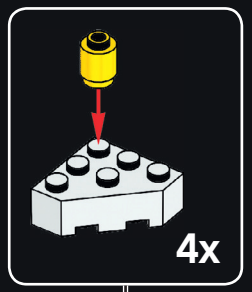

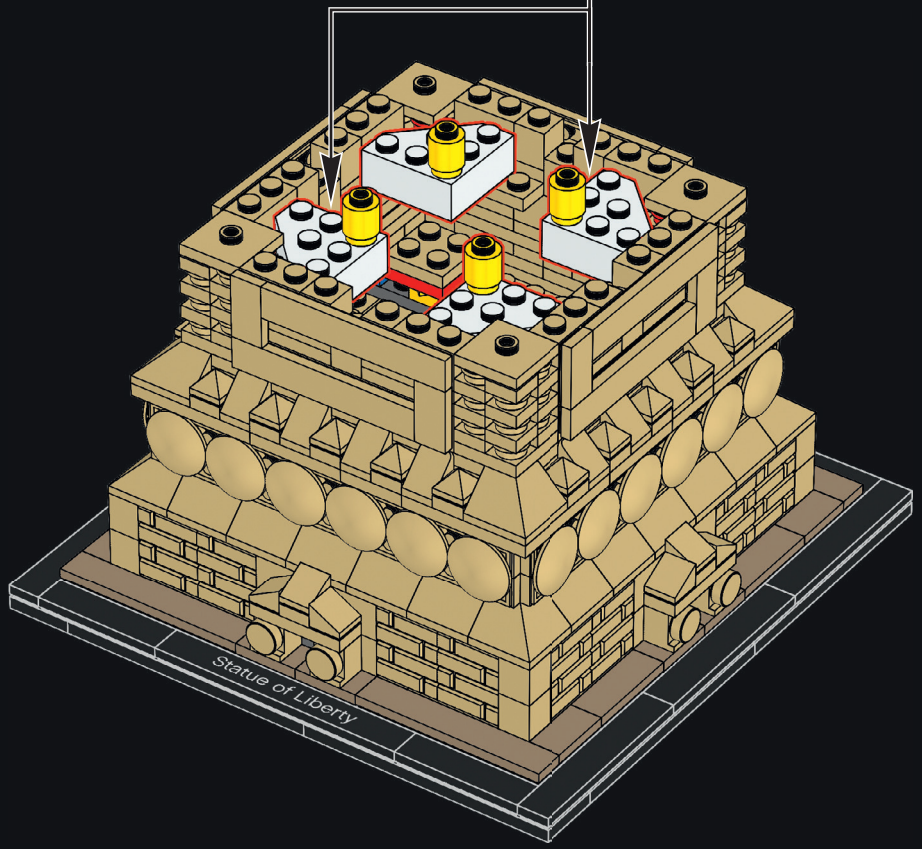

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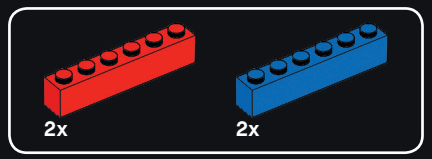

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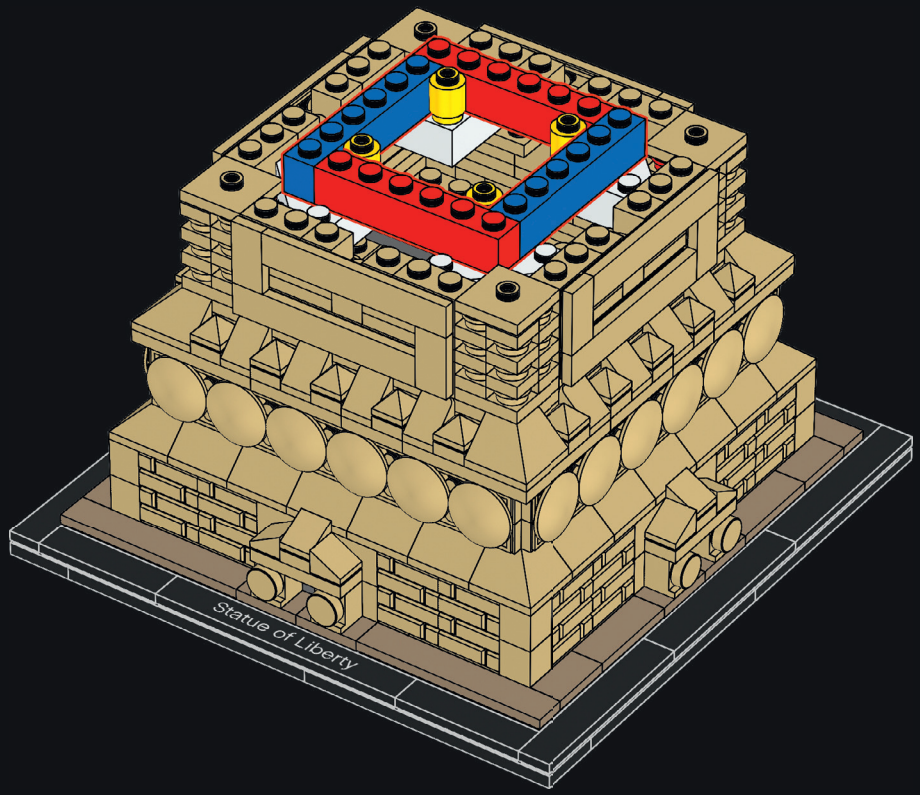

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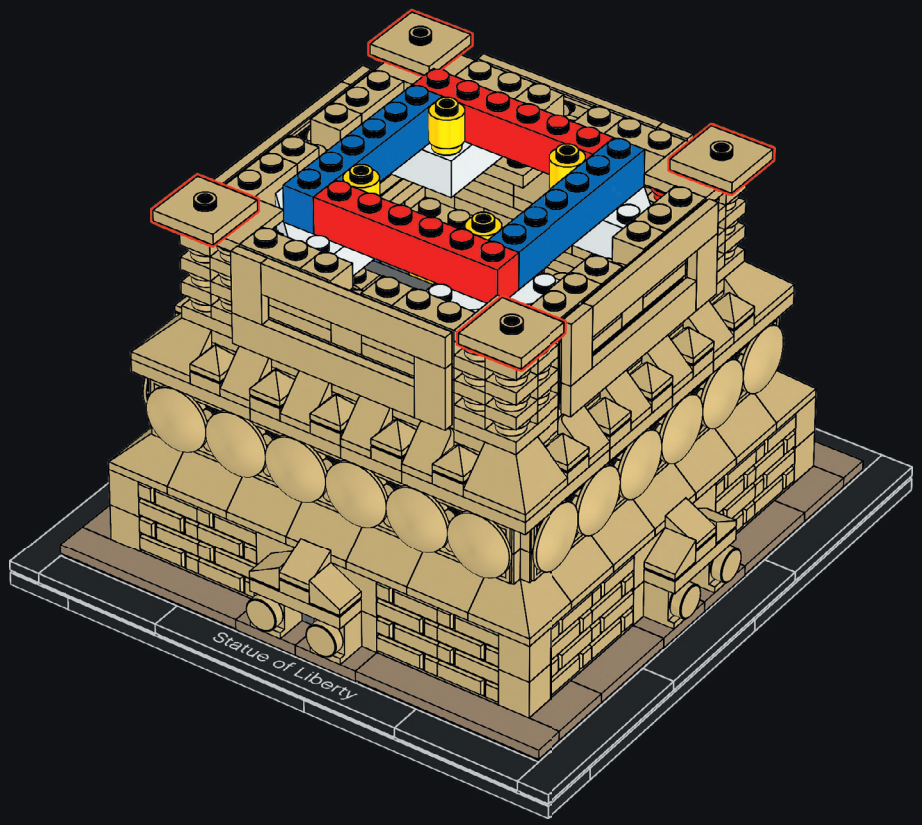

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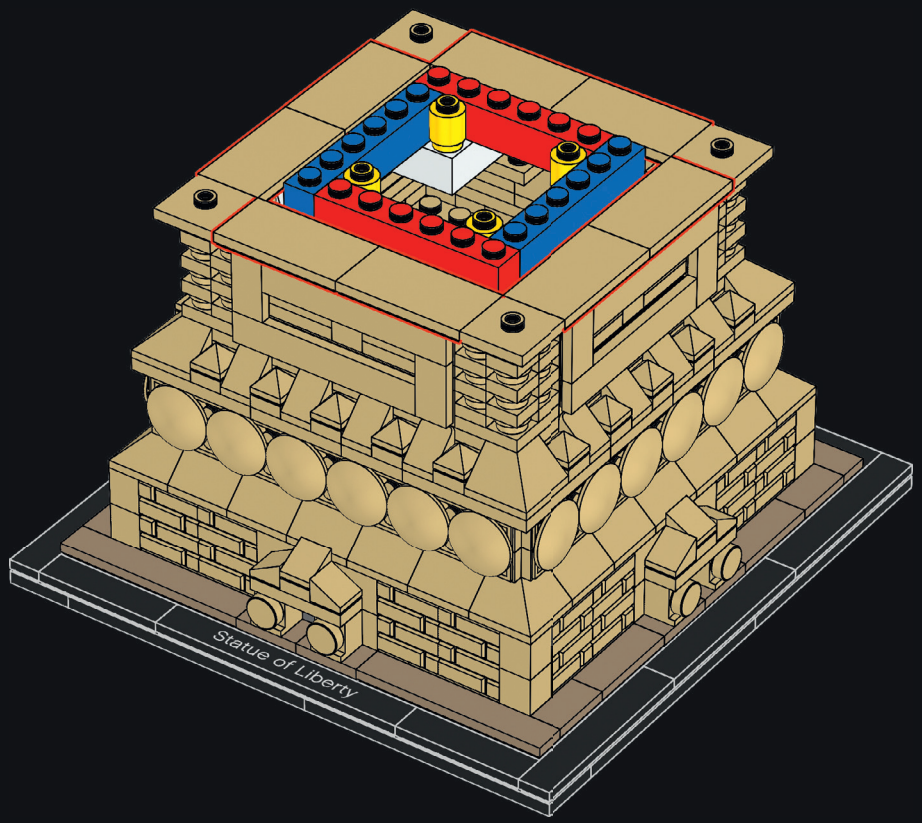

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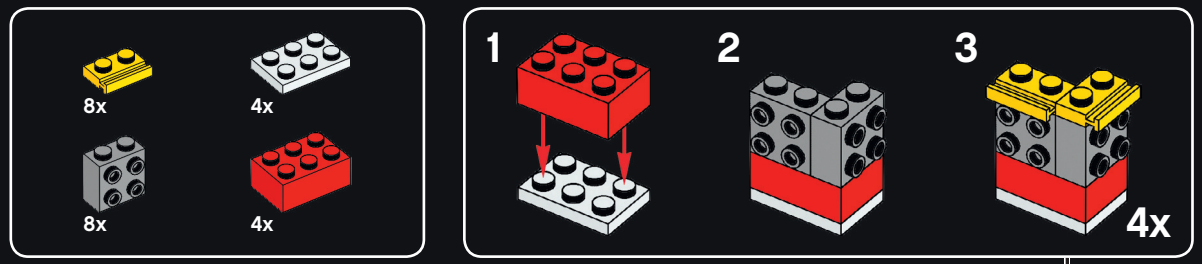

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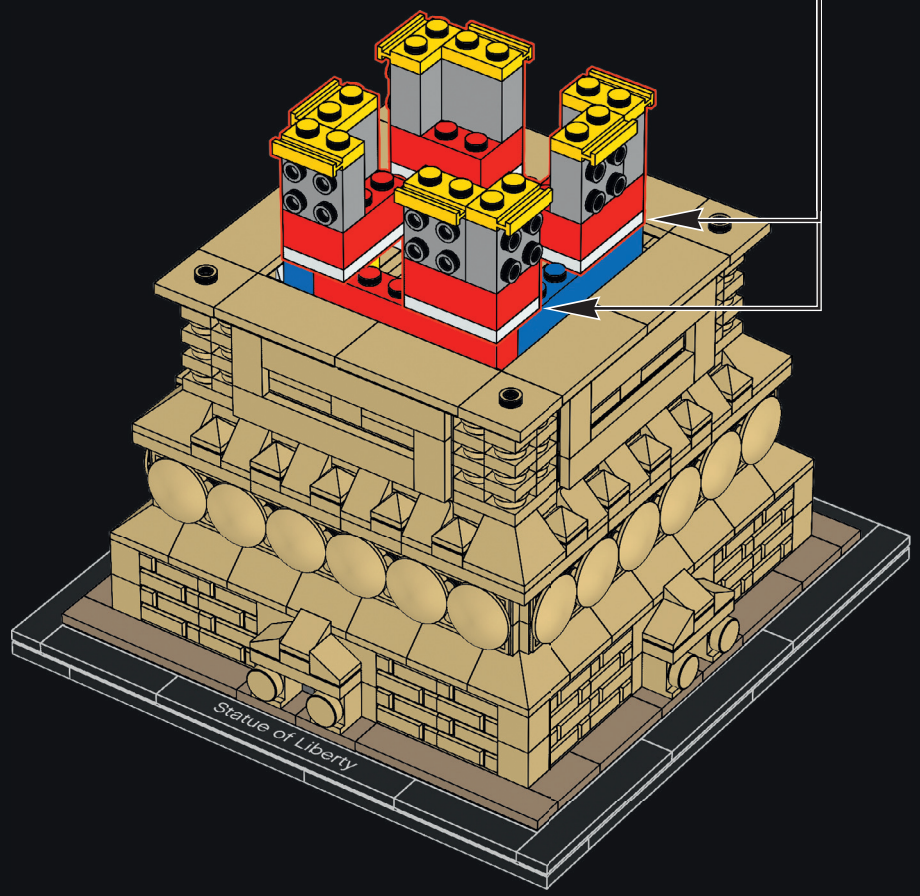

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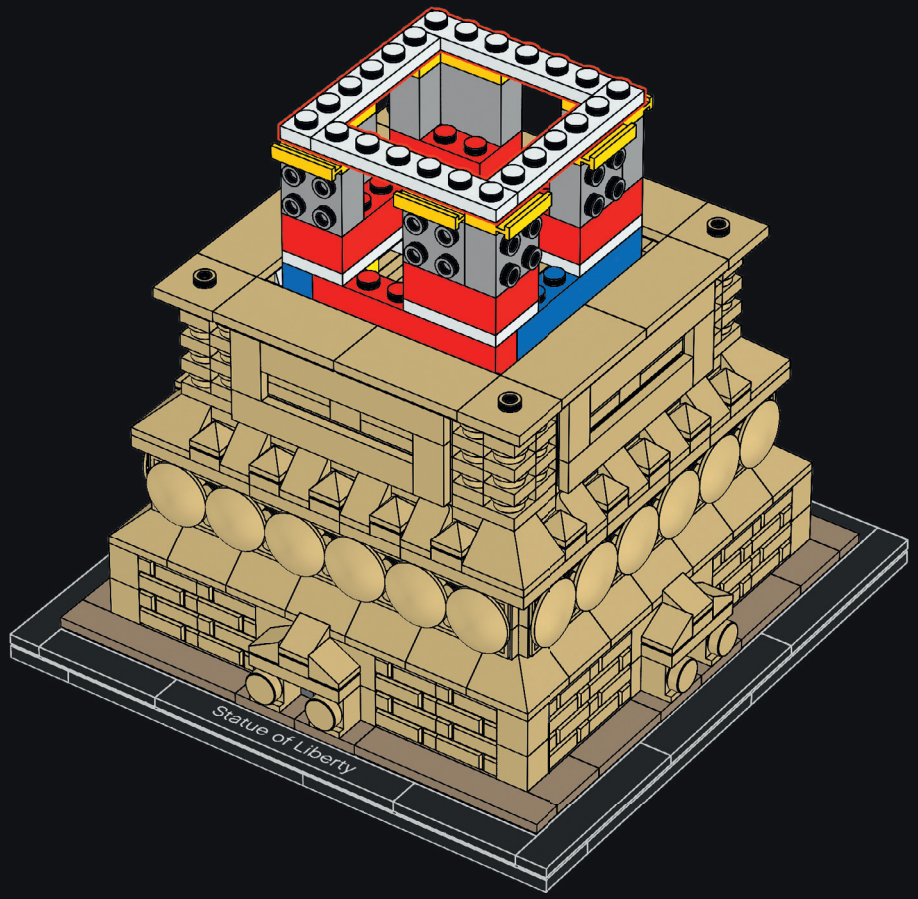

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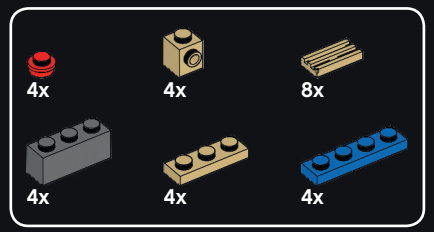

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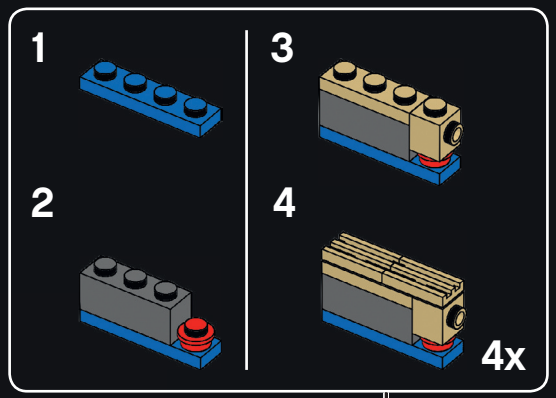

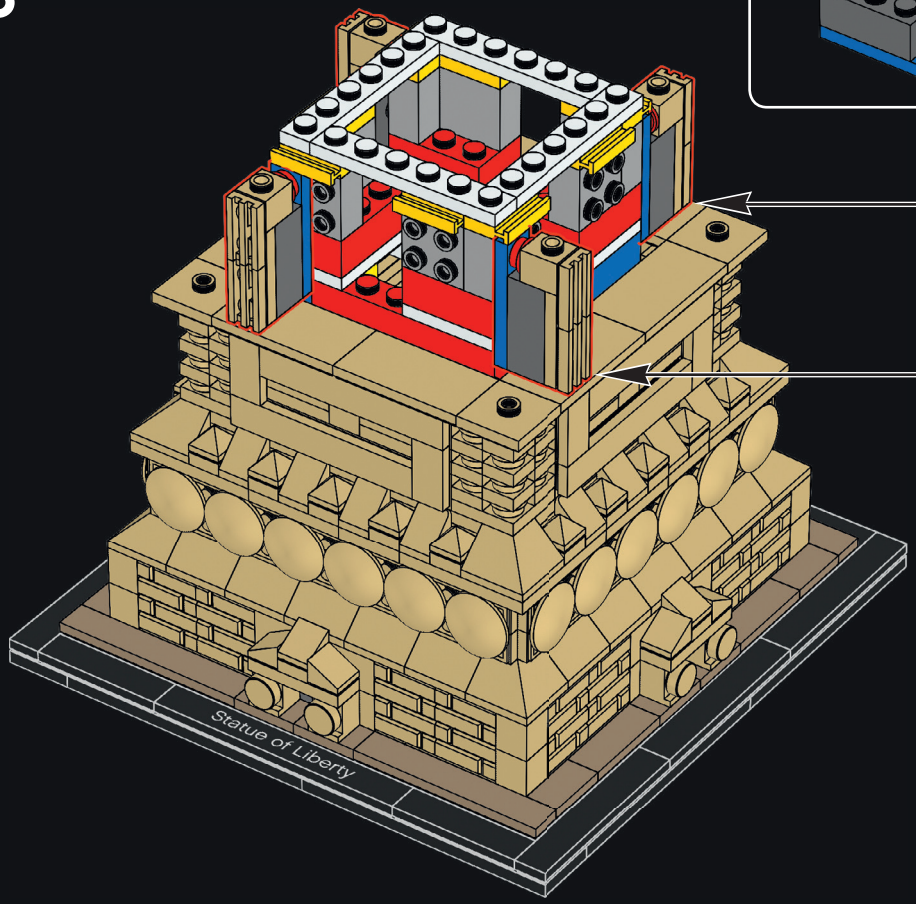

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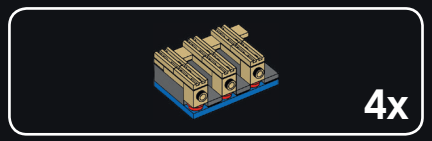

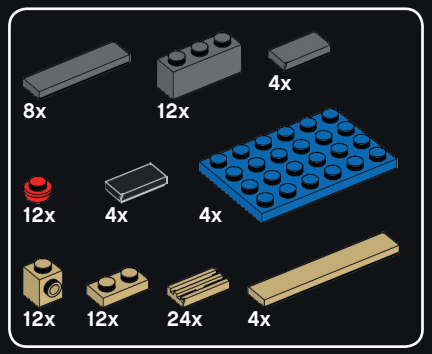

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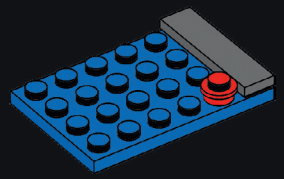

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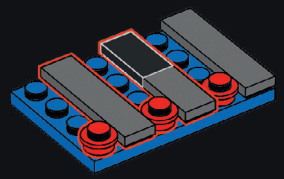

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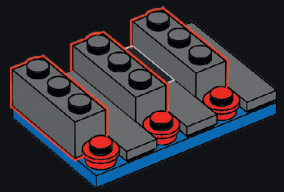

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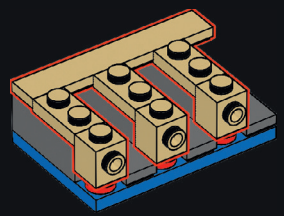

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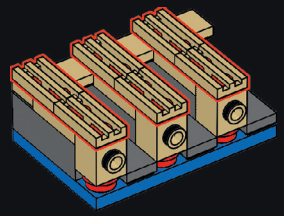

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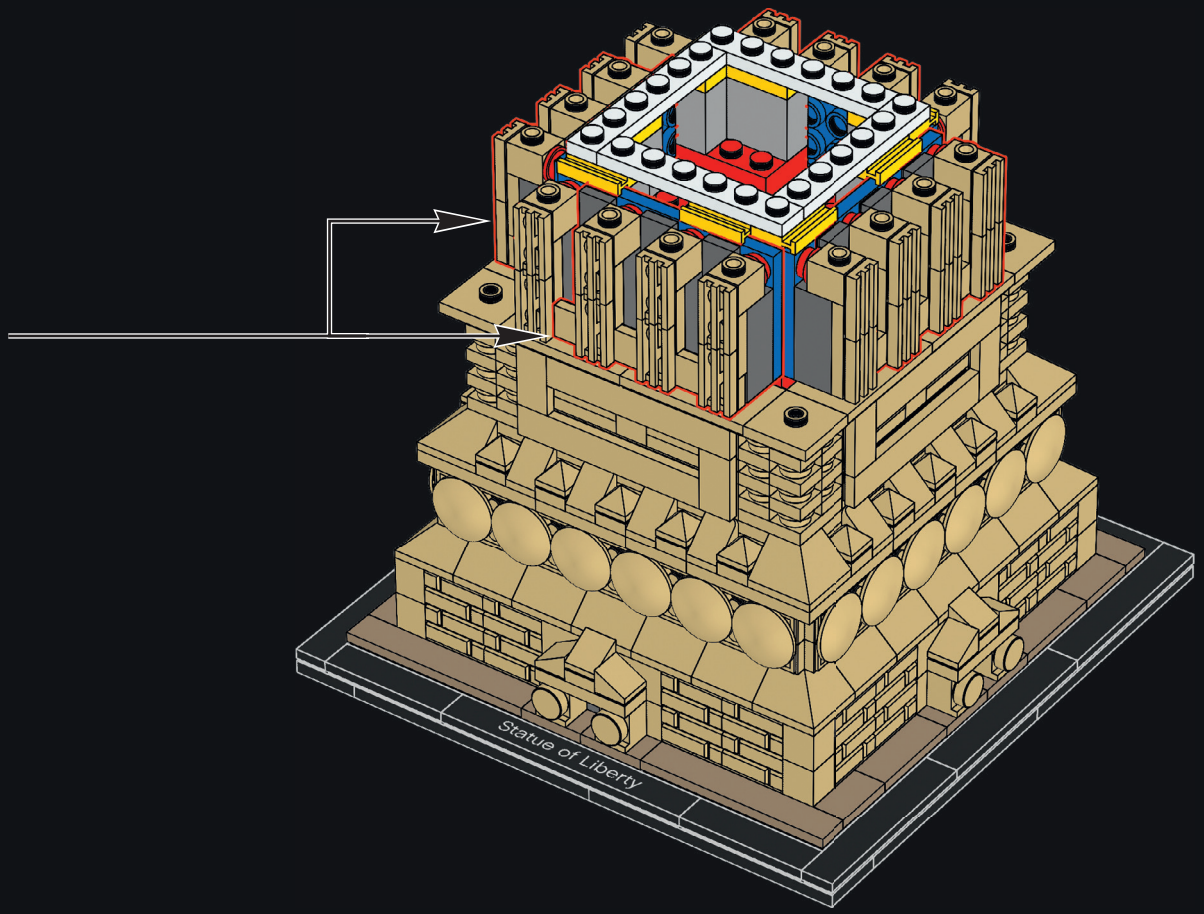

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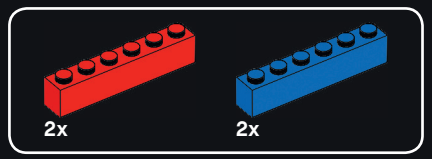

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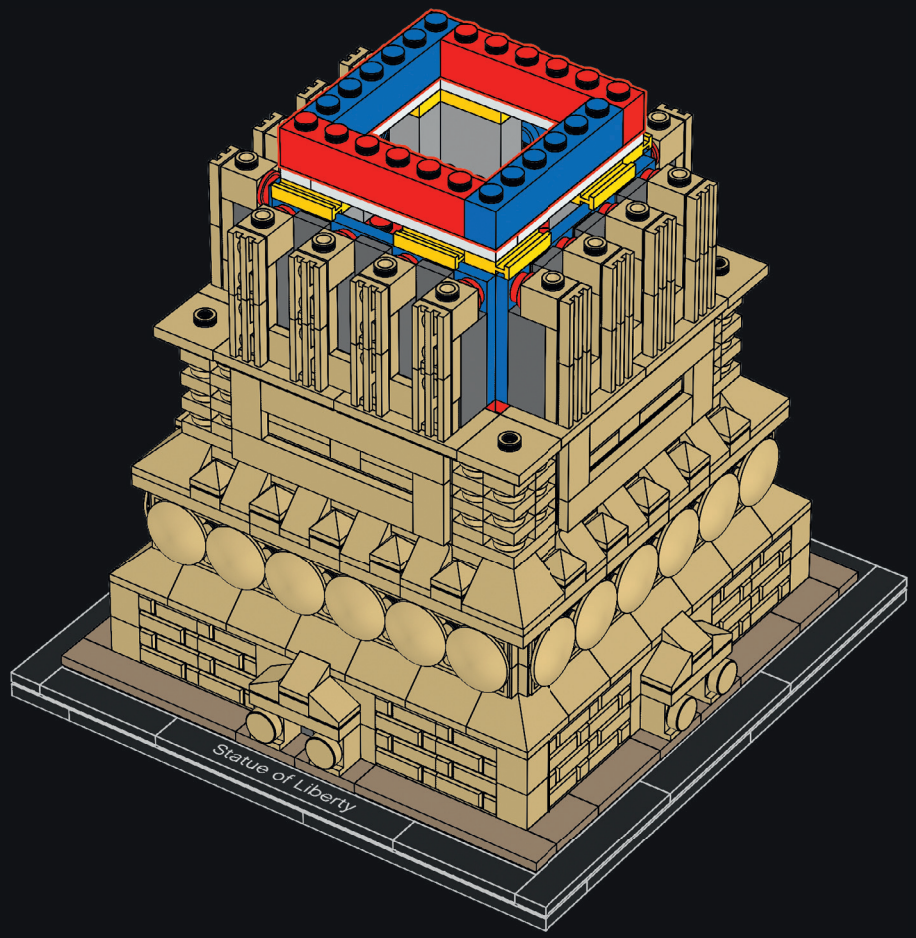

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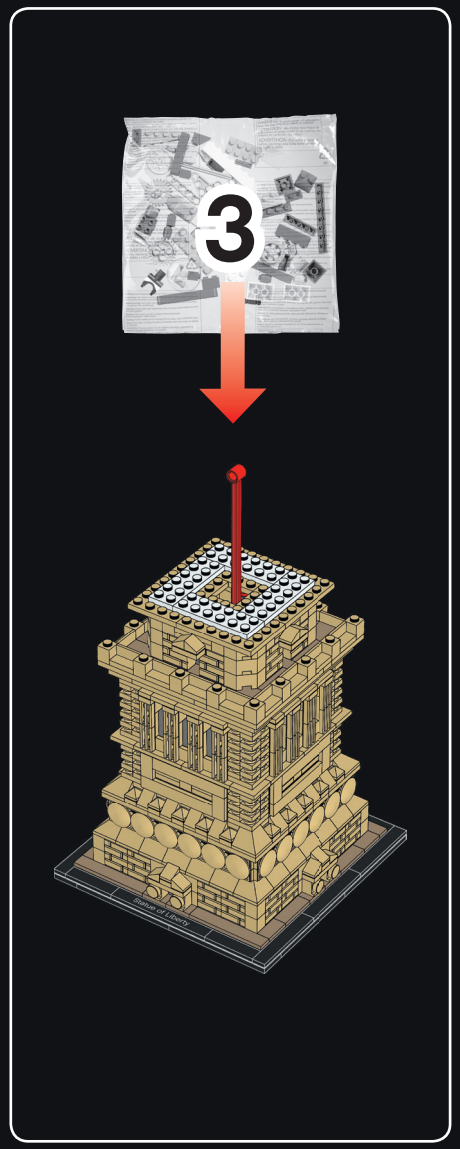

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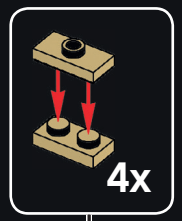

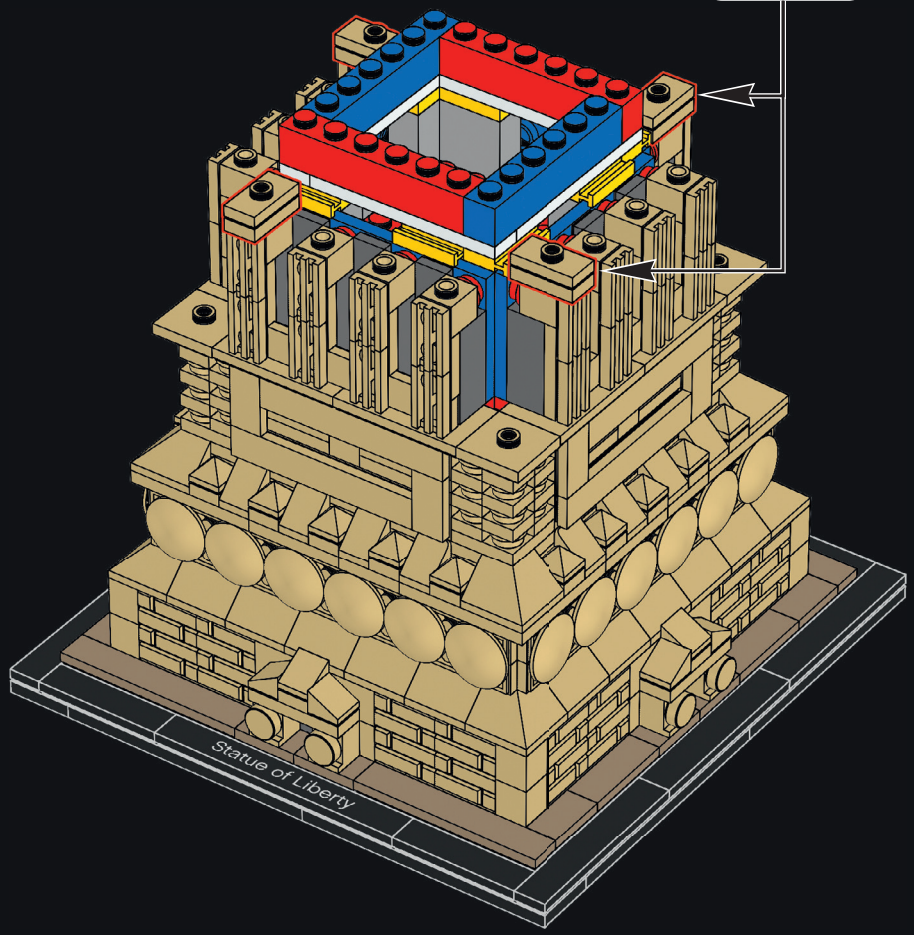

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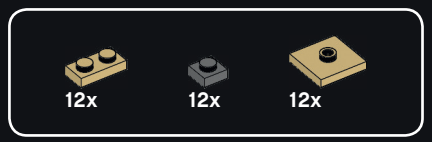

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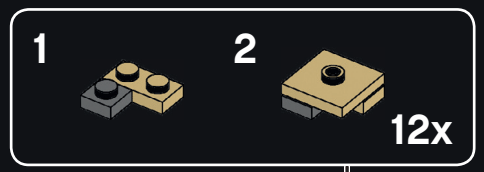

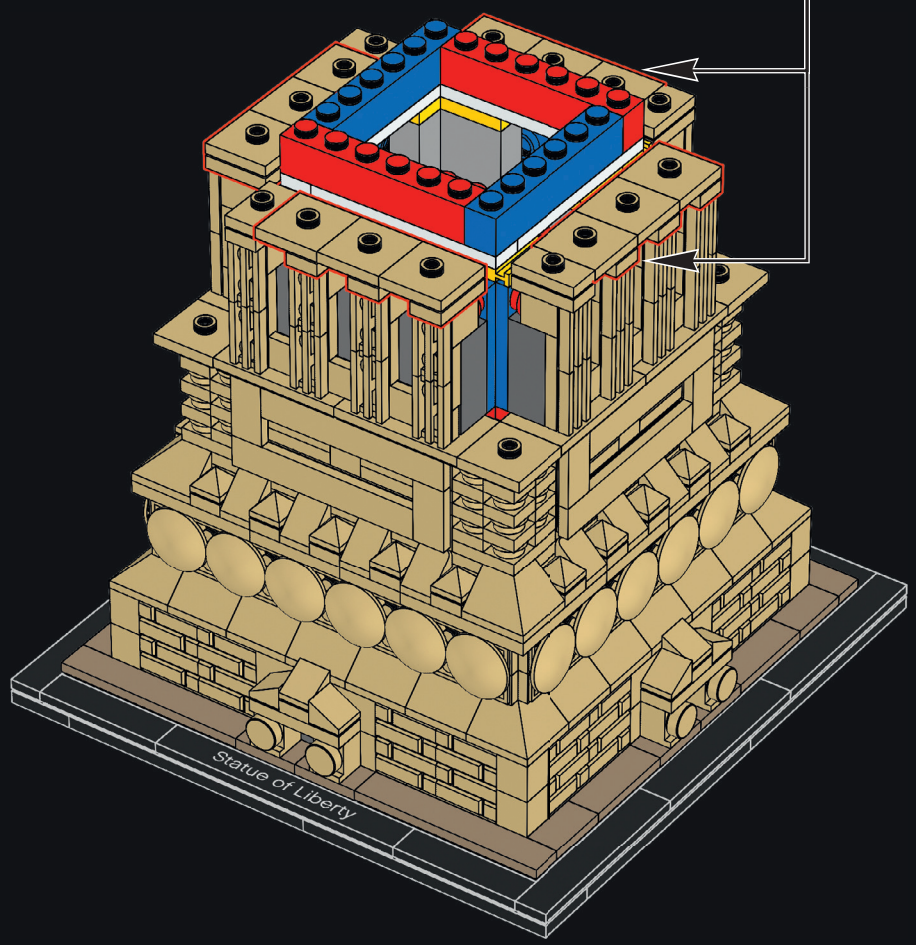

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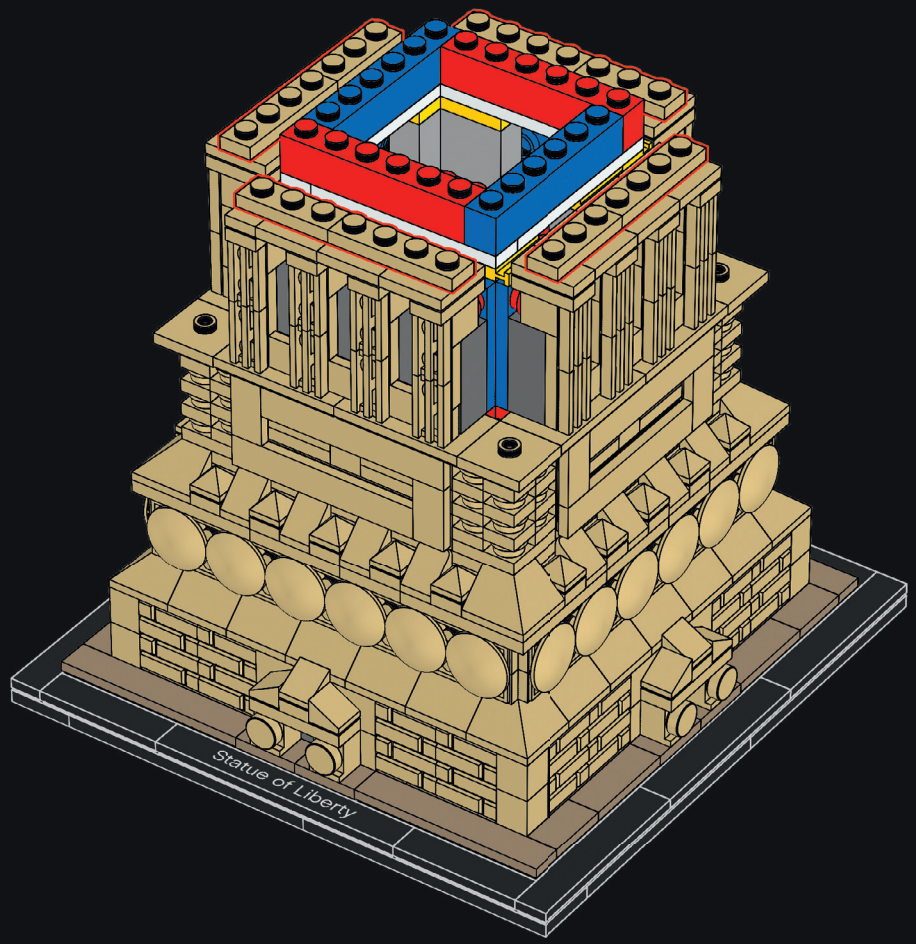

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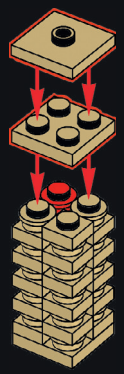

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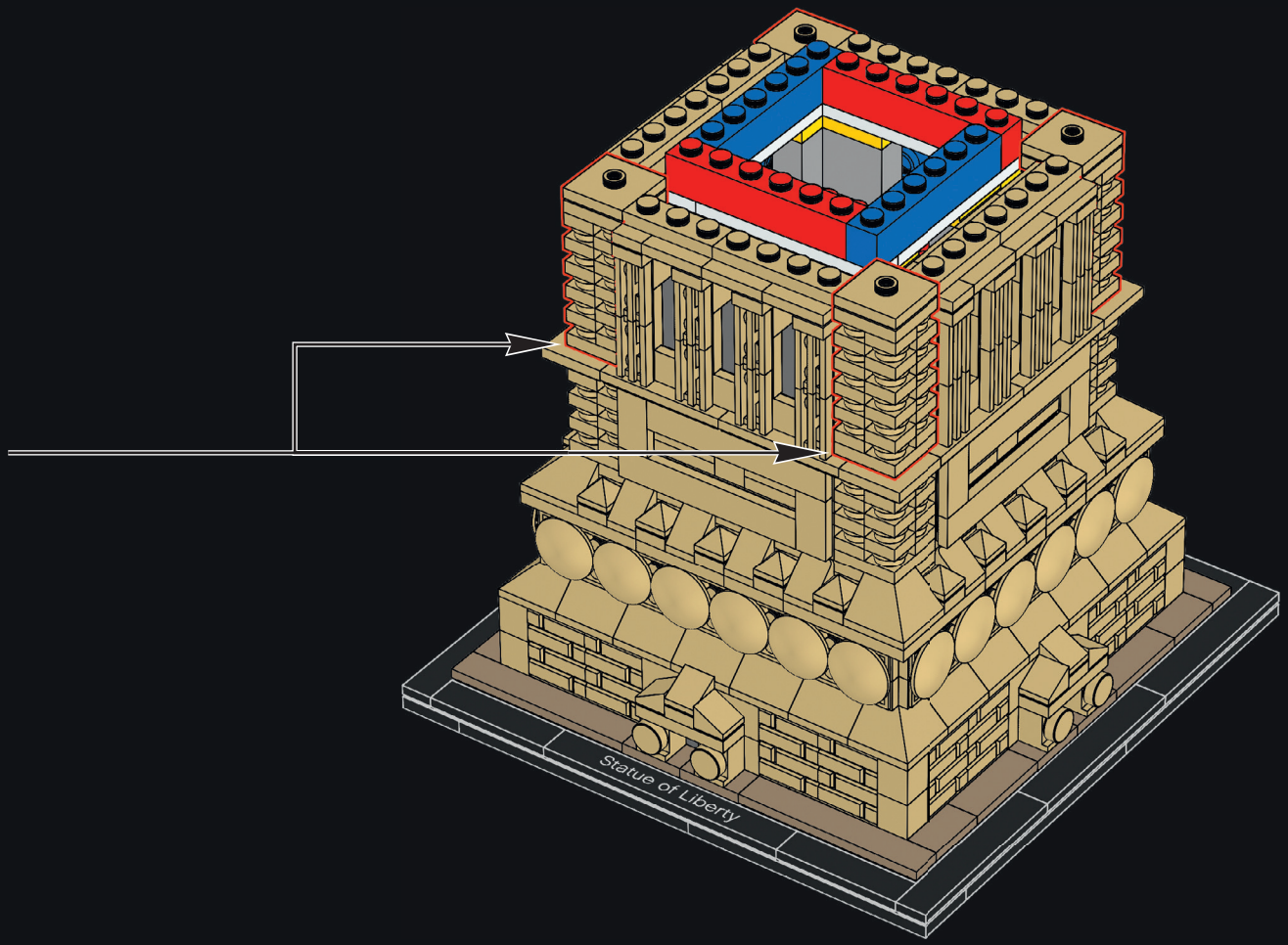
In high winds of 50 mph (80 kph) or more, the Statue can sway by up to 3 in. (7.6 cm).



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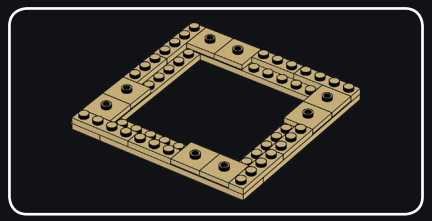

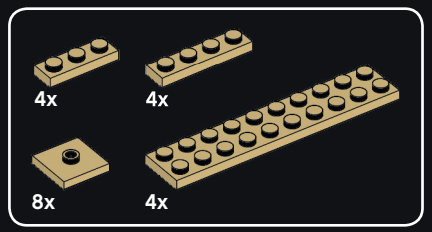

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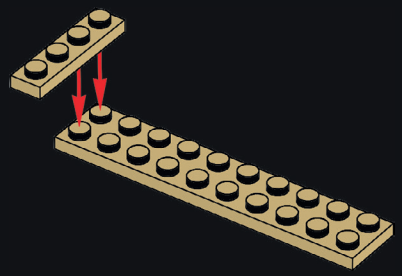

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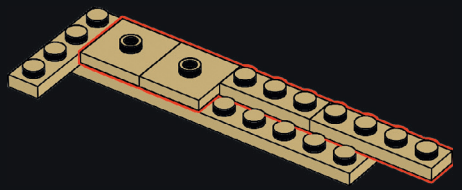

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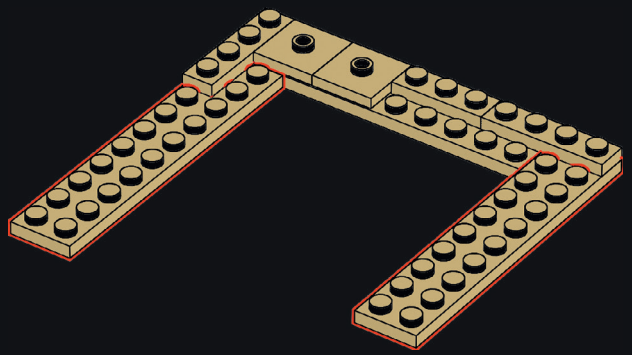

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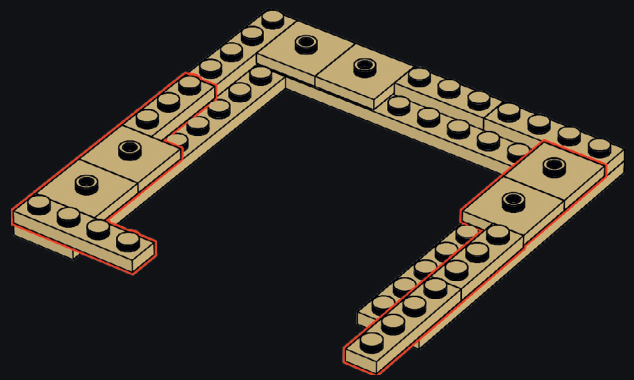

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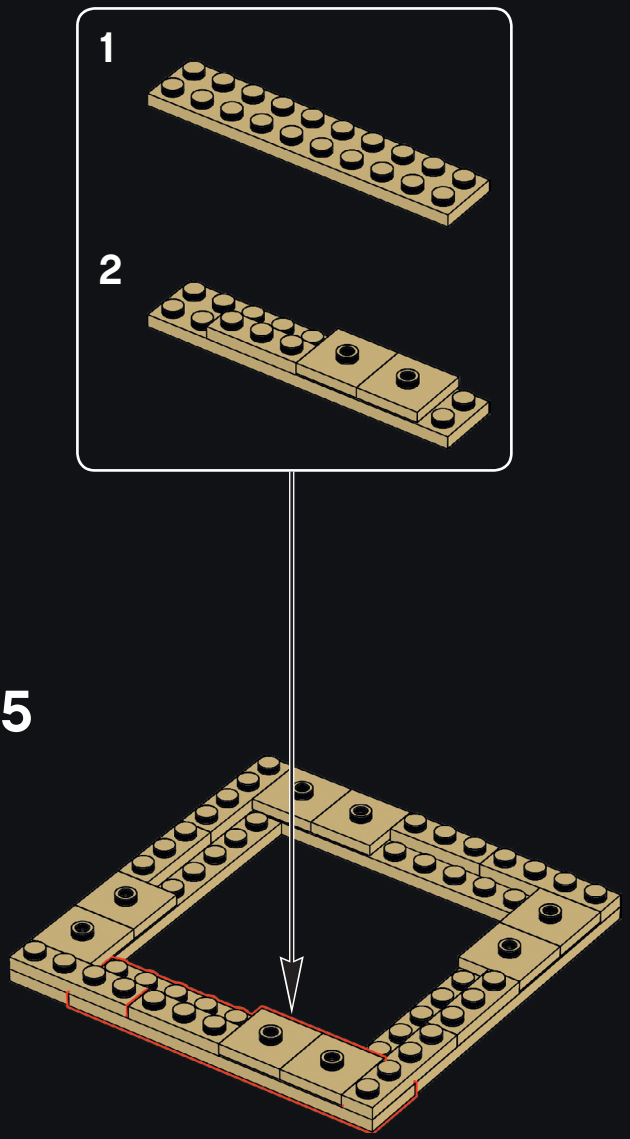

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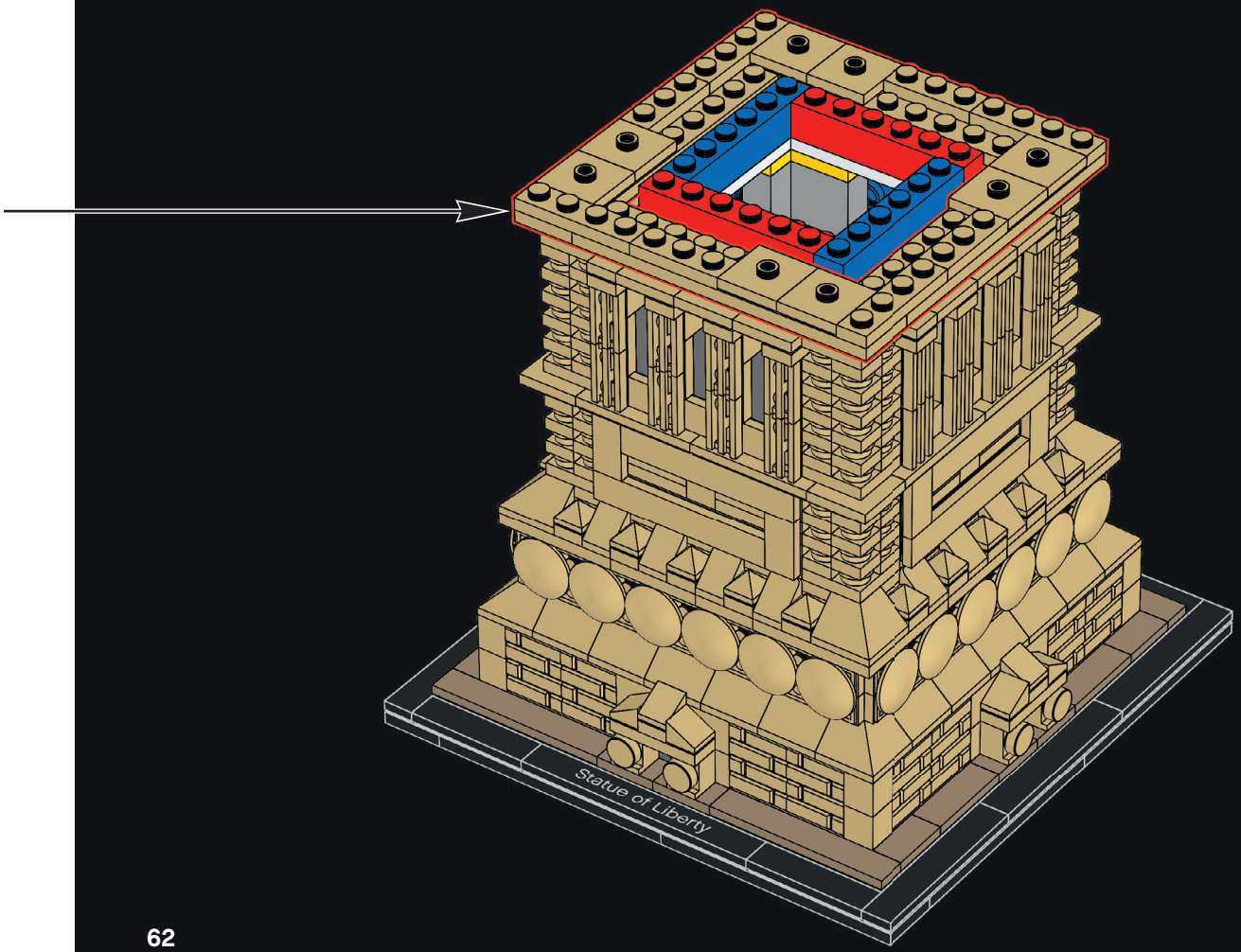

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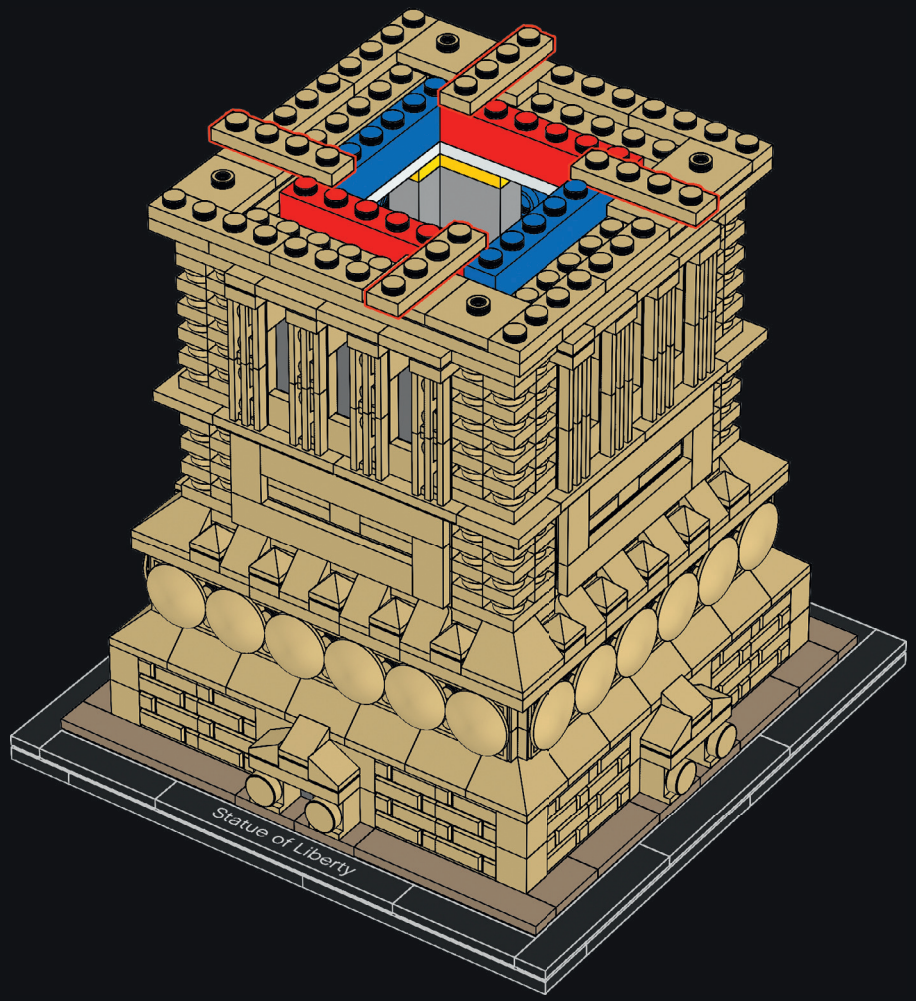

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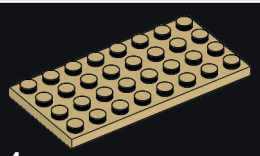

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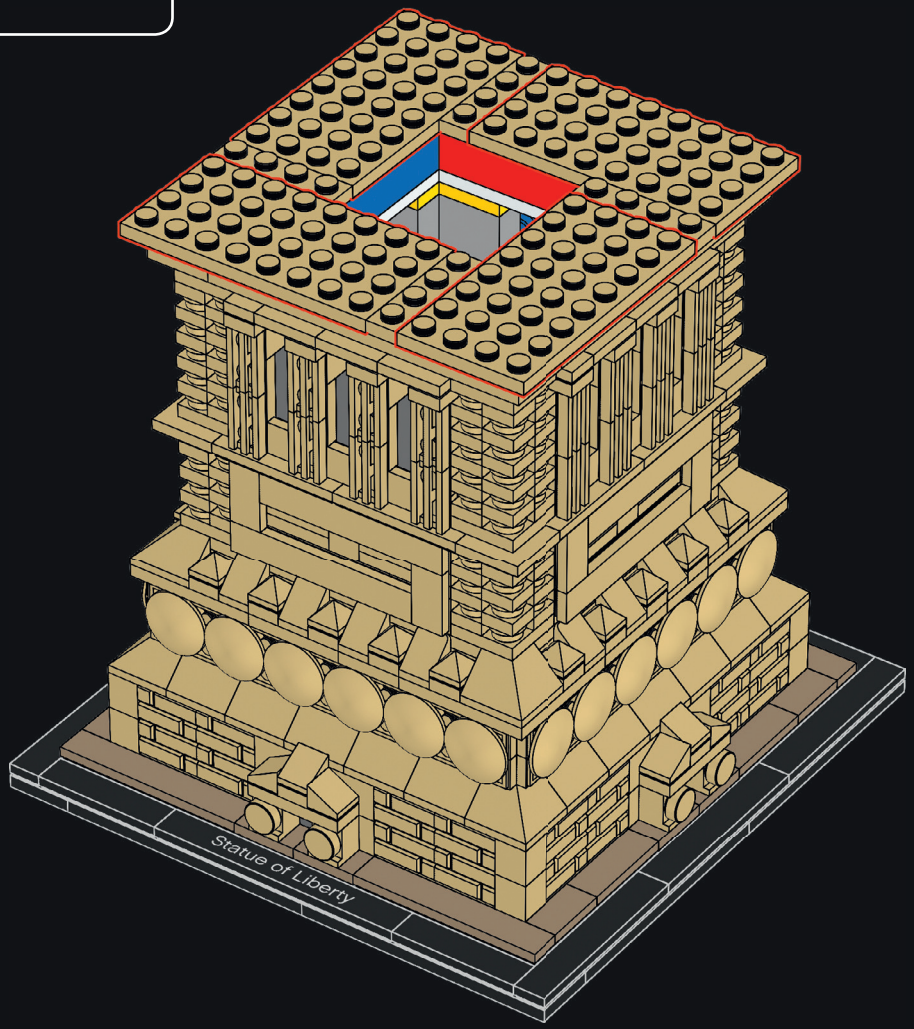

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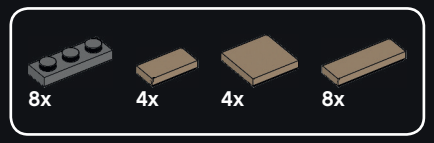

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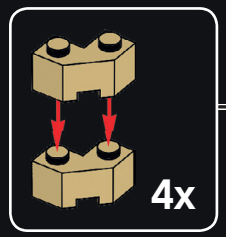

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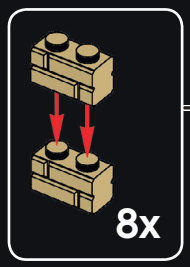

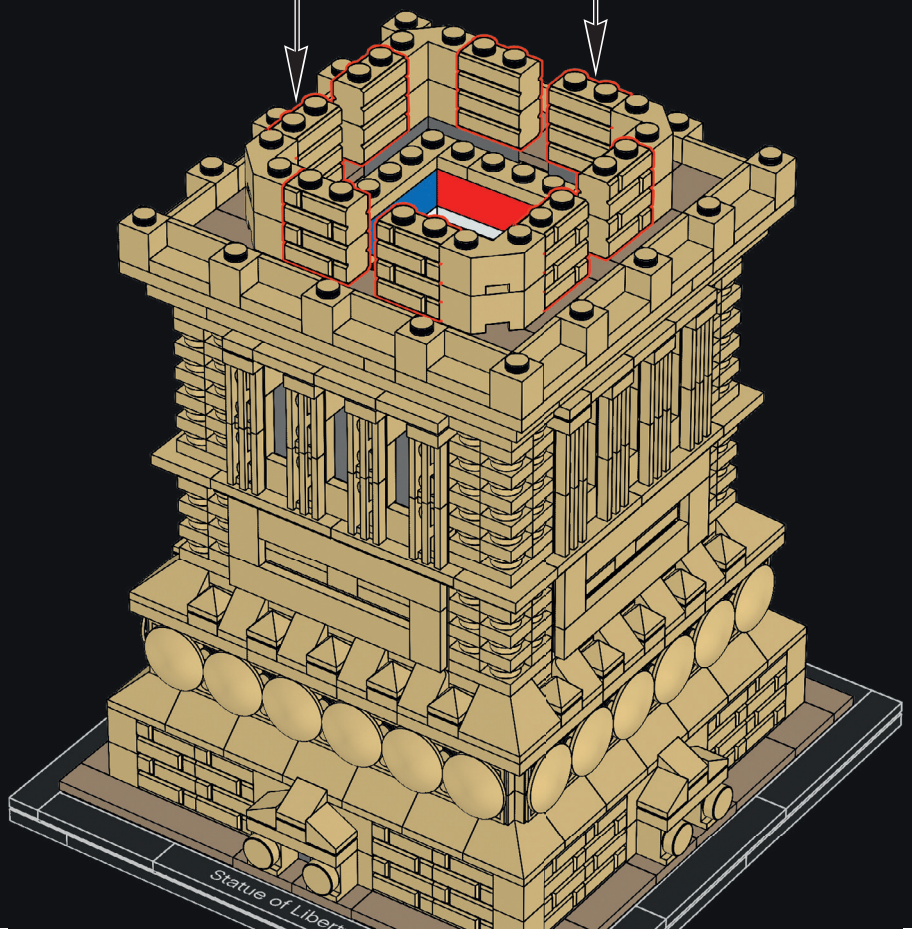

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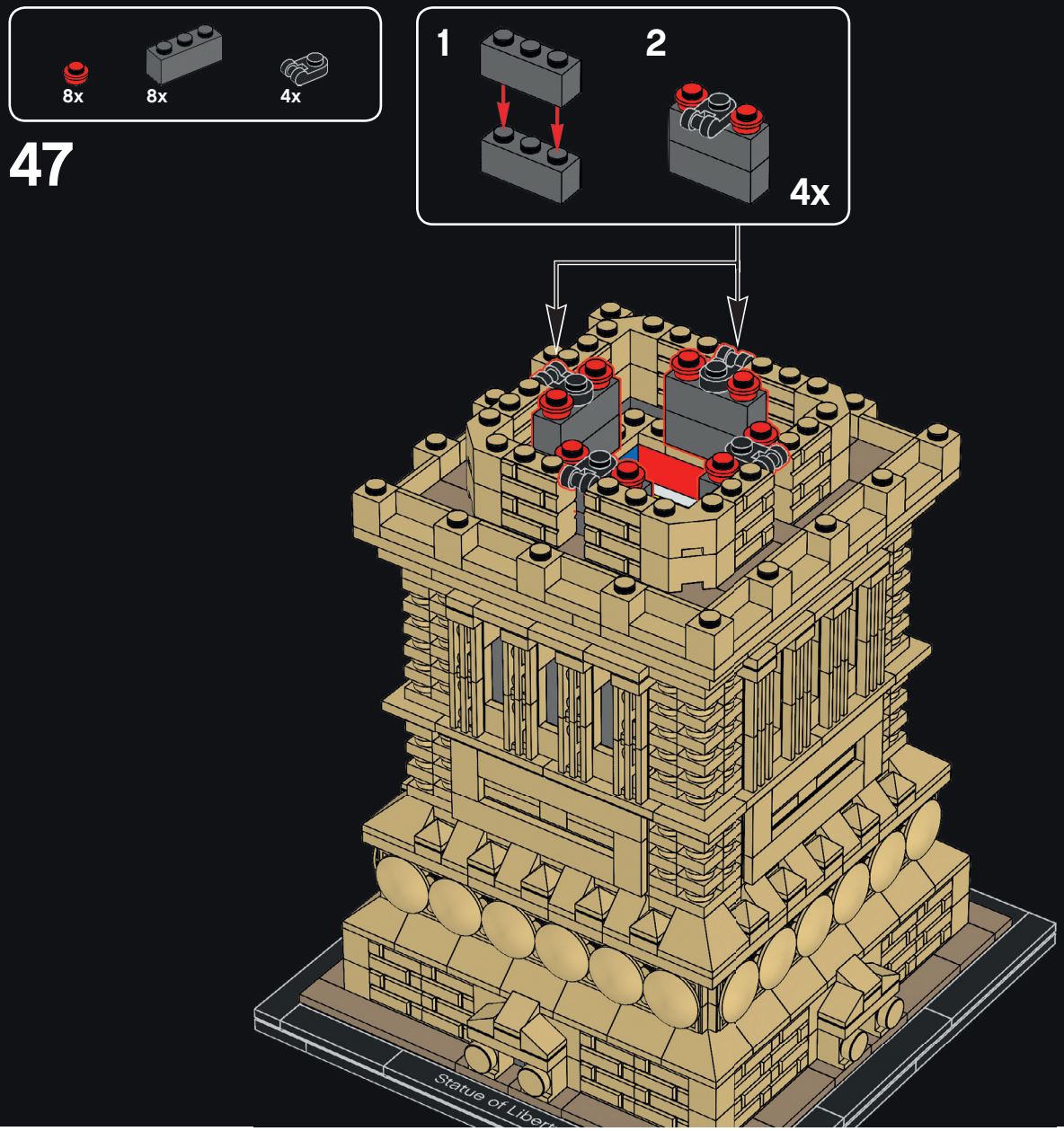

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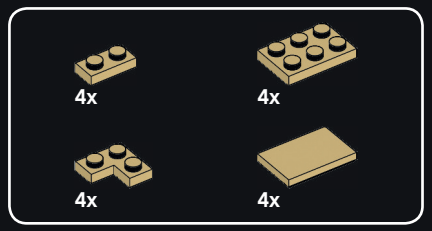

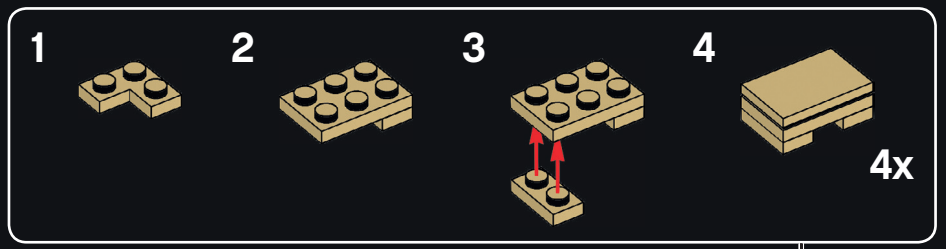

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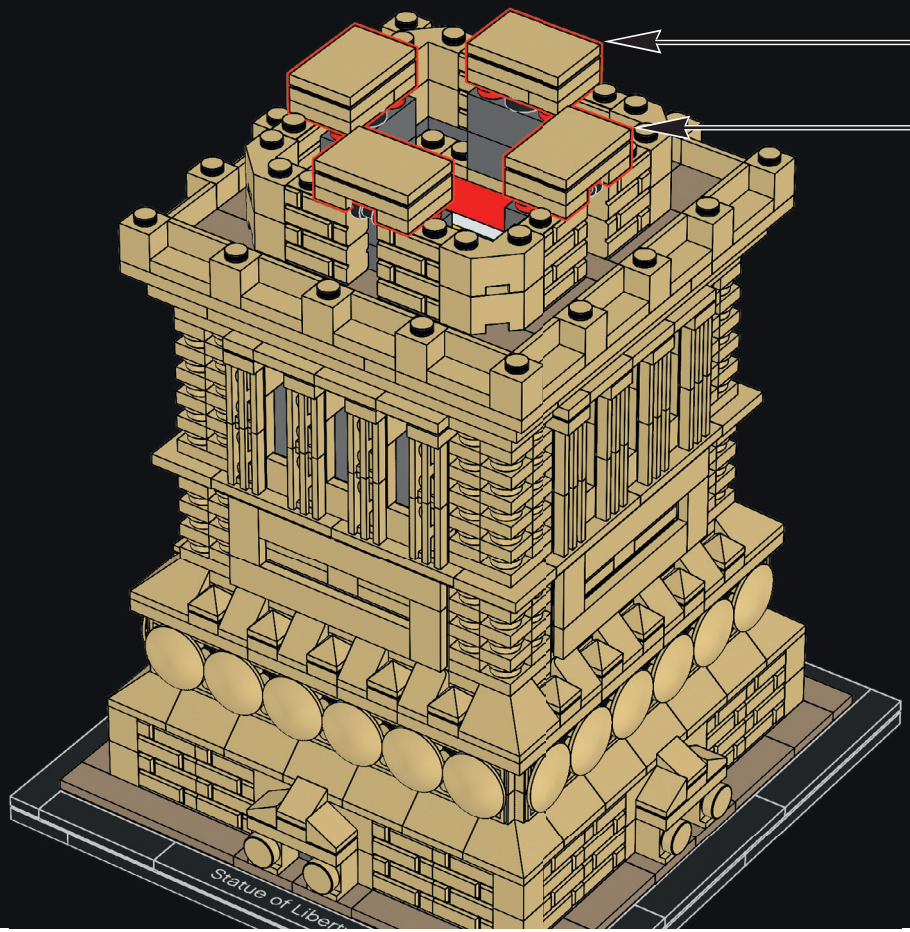

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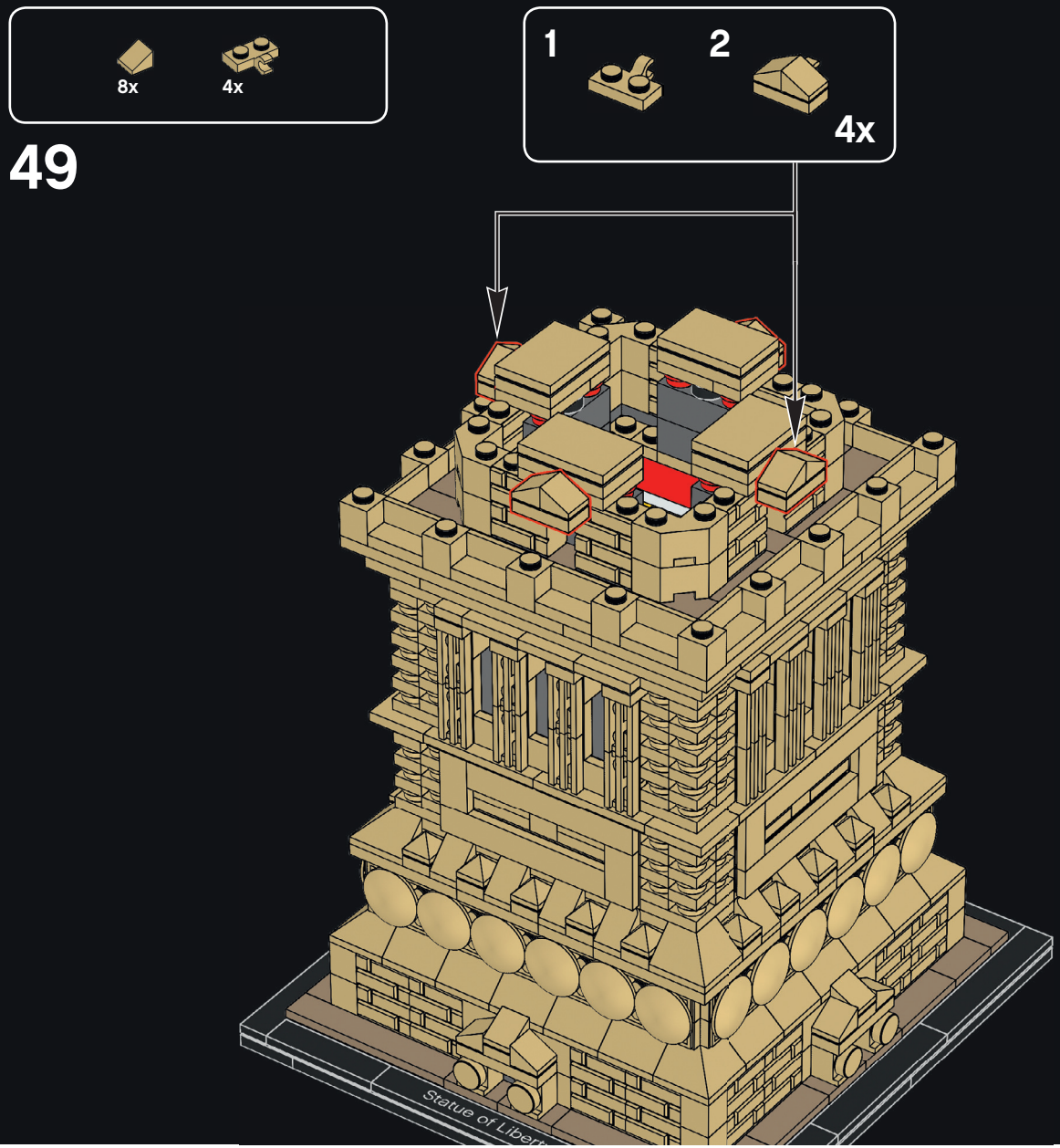
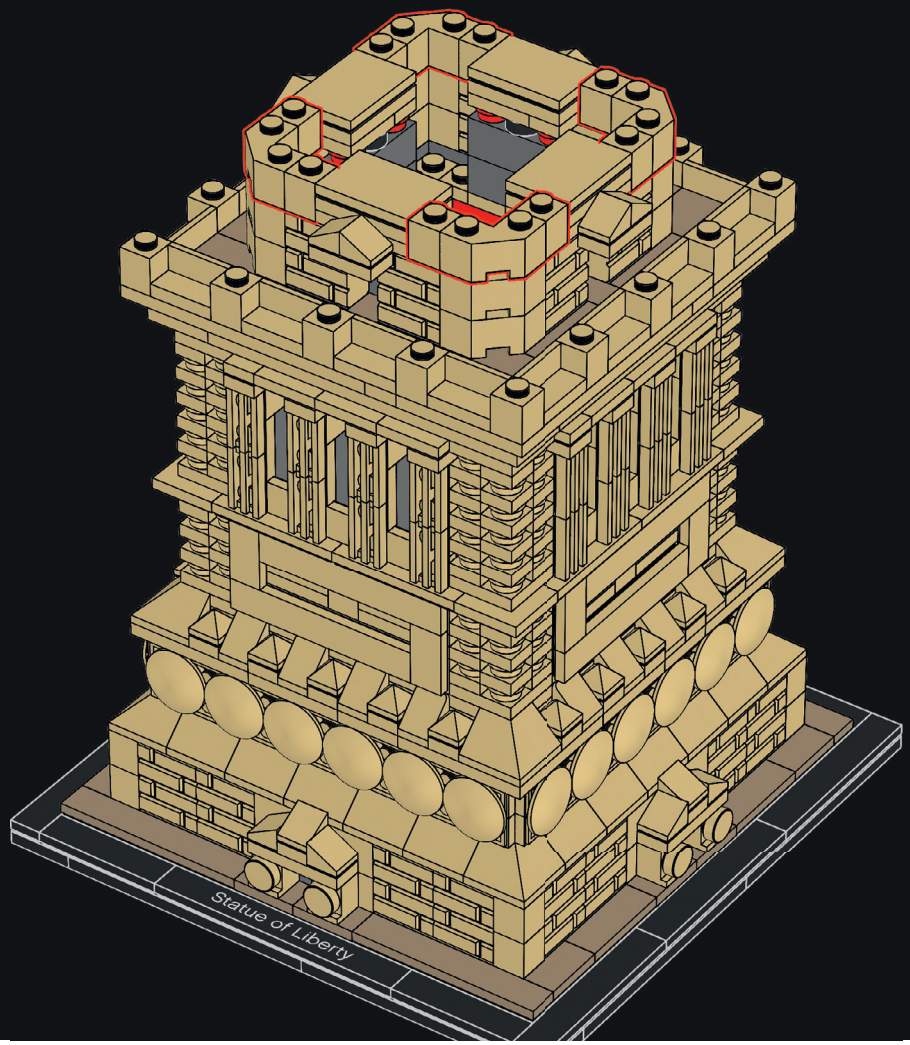

8x
4x
49
1
2
4x
Statue of Liberty

50



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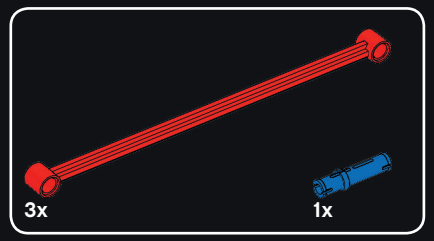

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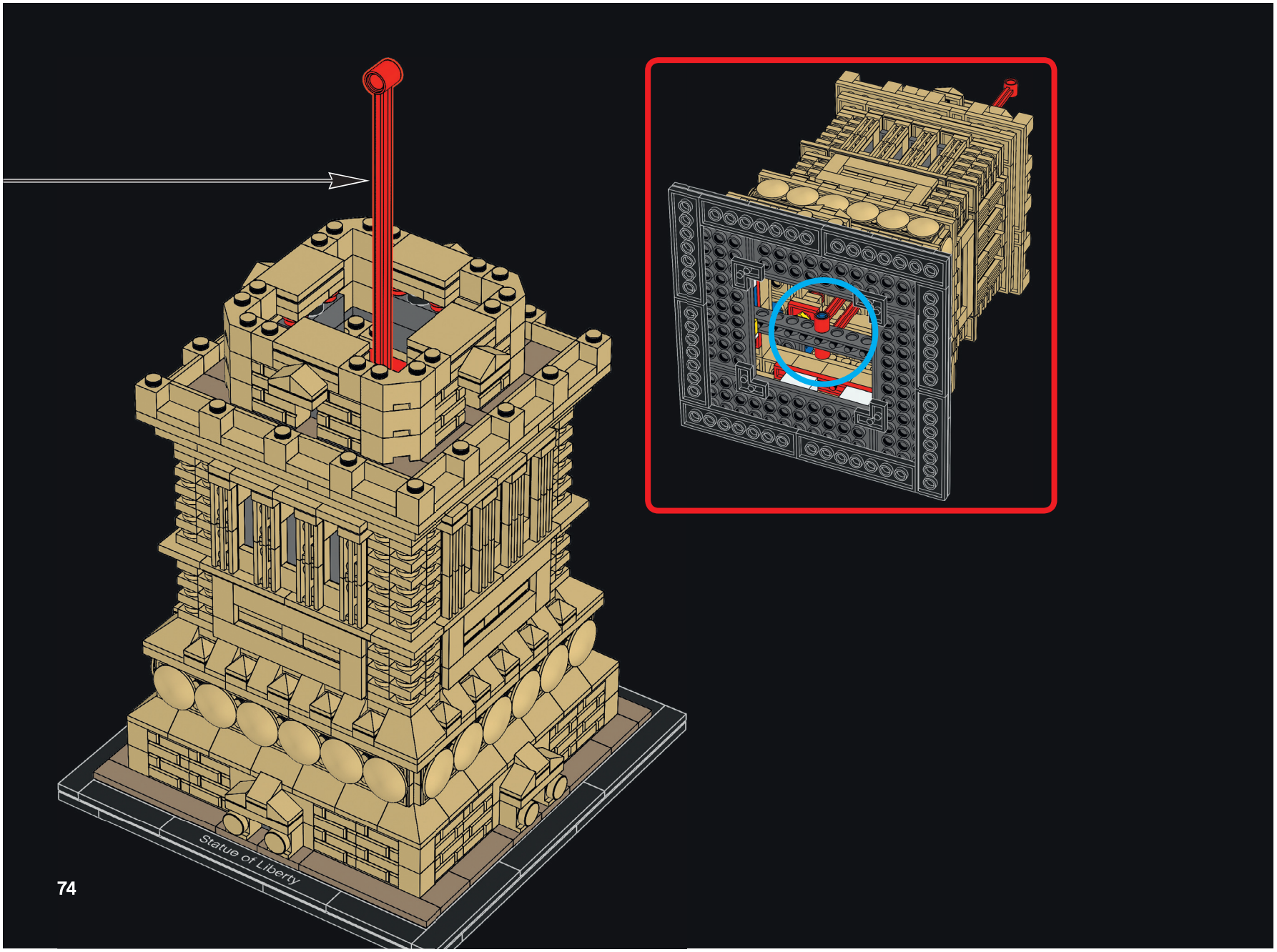

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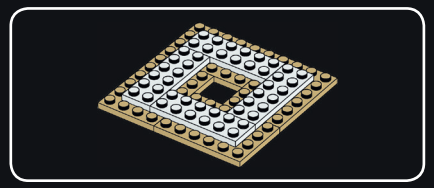

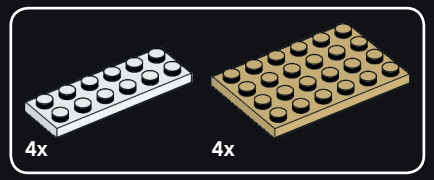

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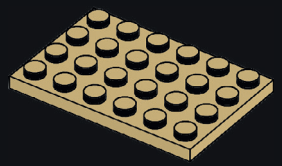

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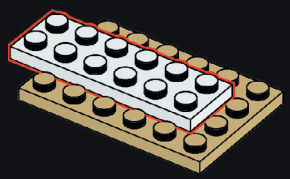

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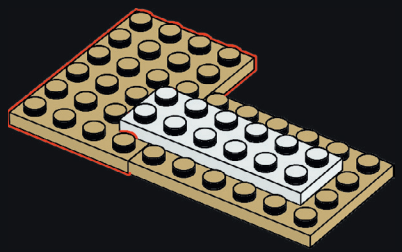

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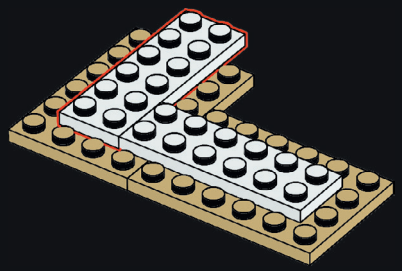

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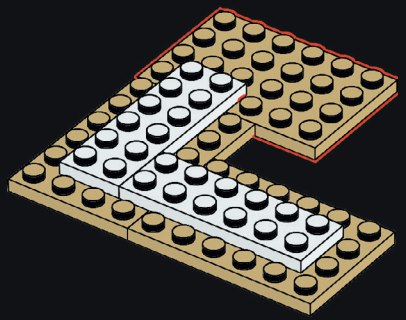

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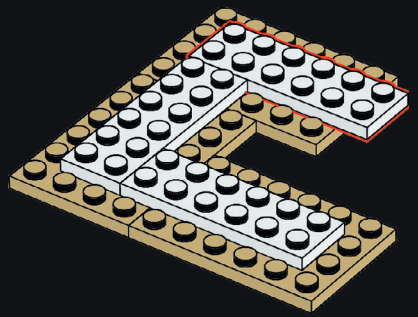

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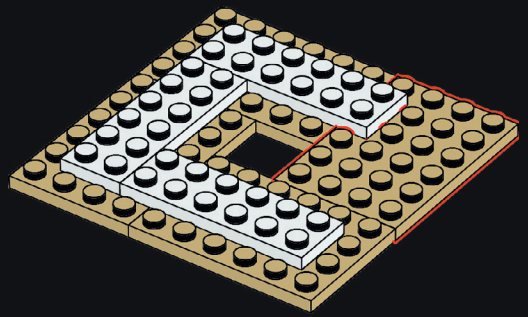

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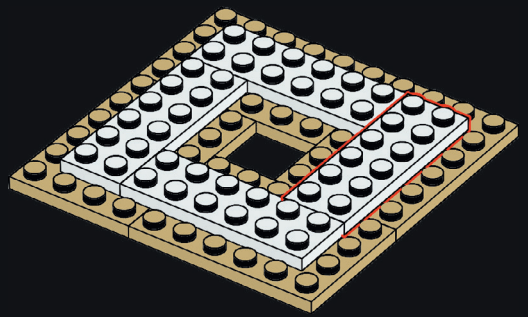

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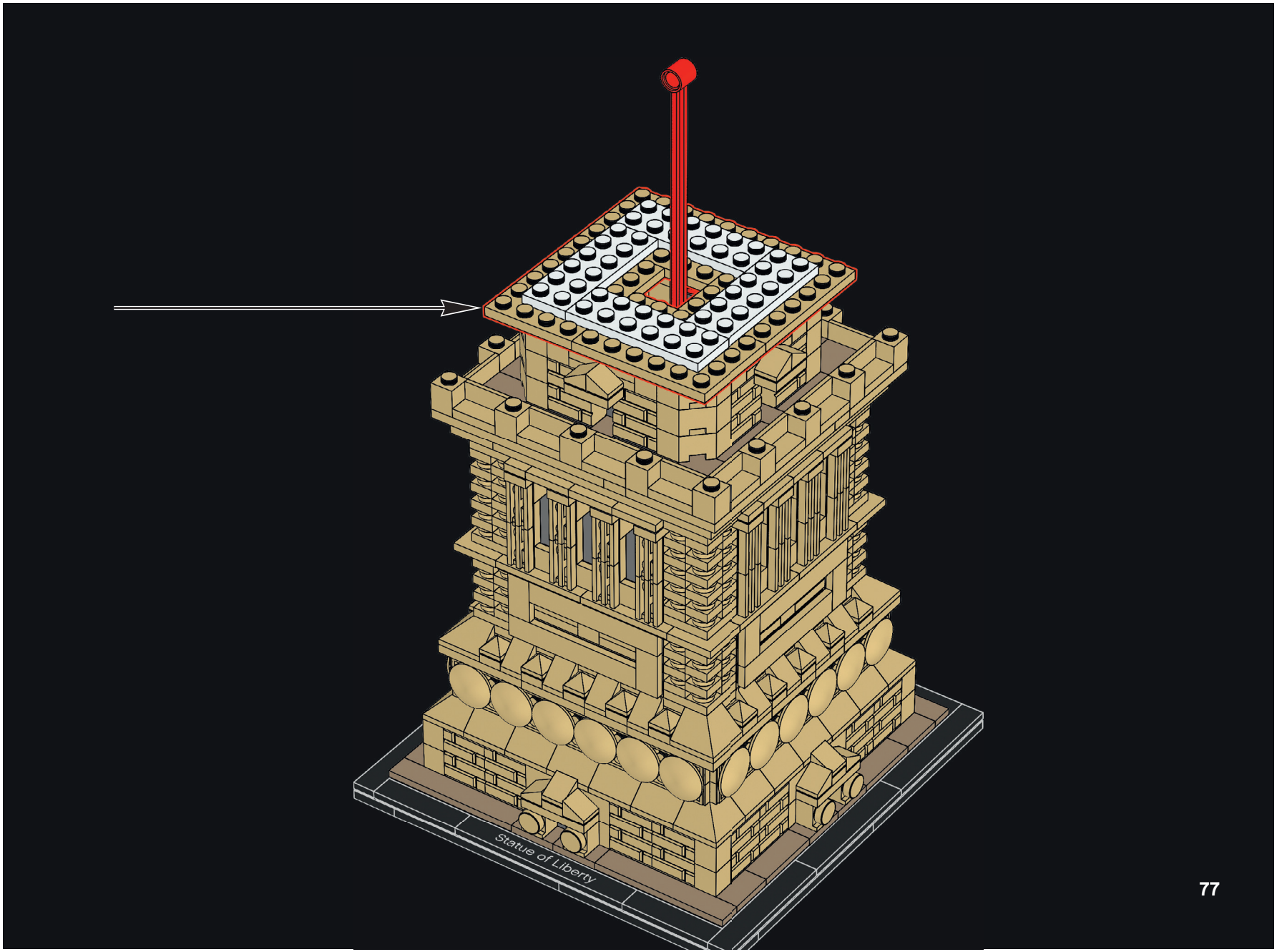

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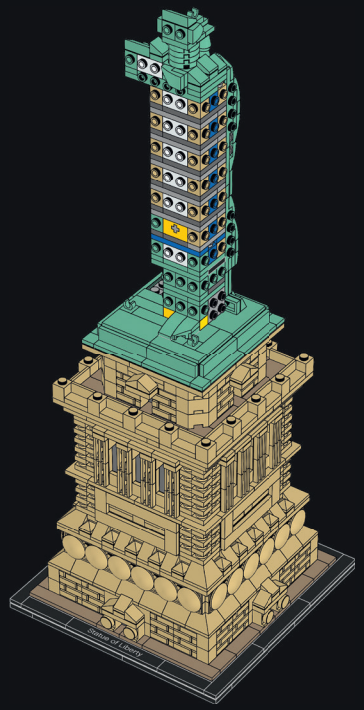

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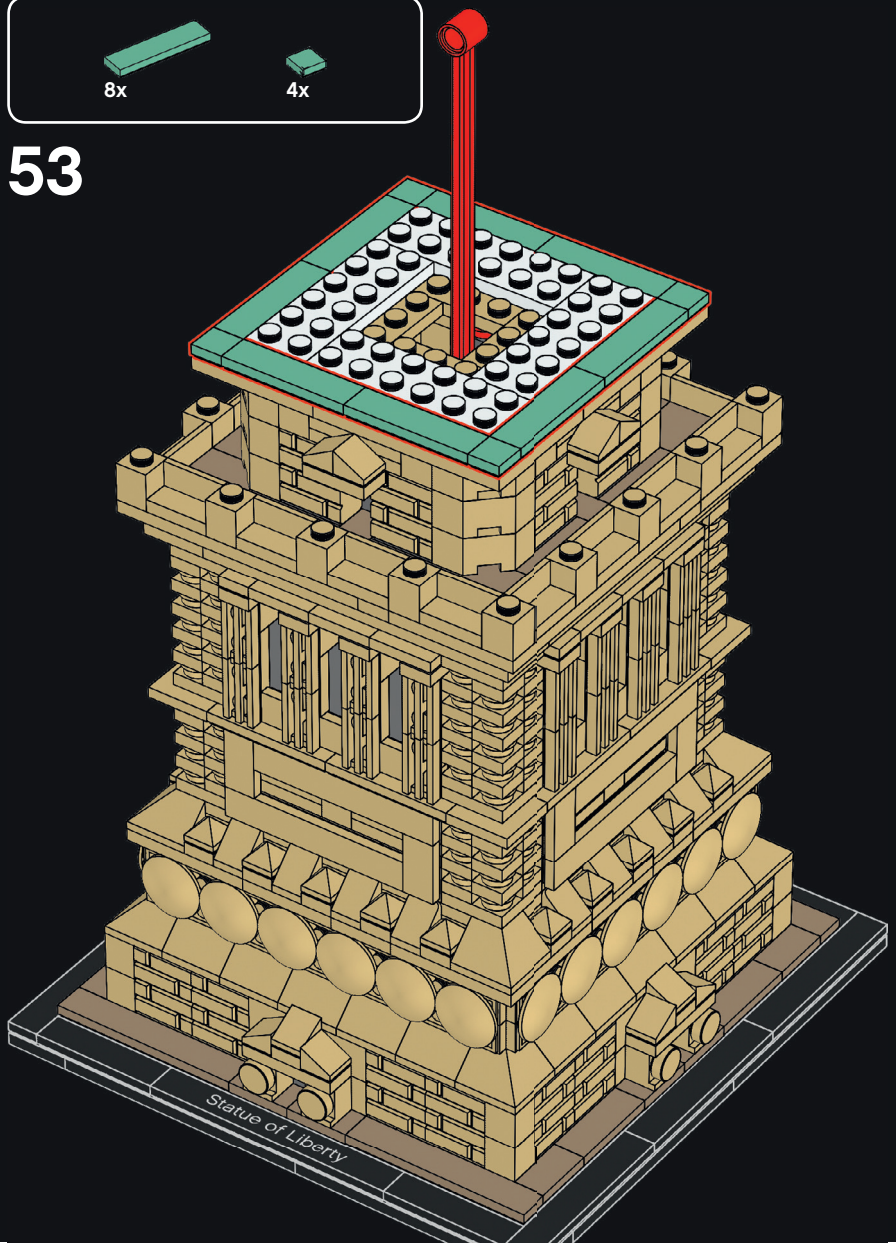

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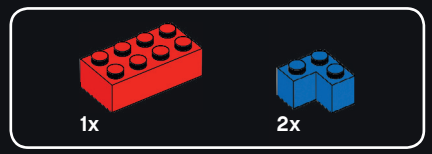

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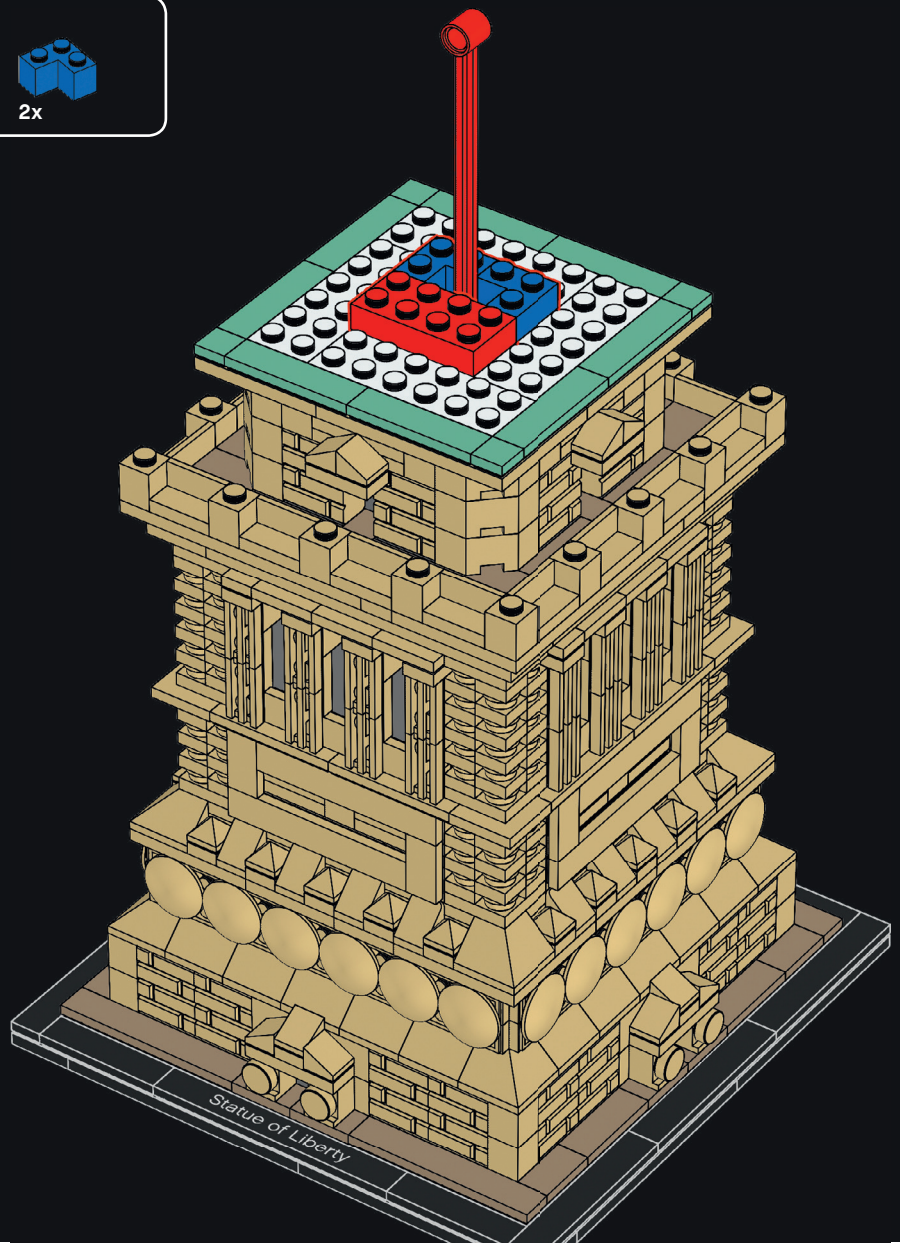

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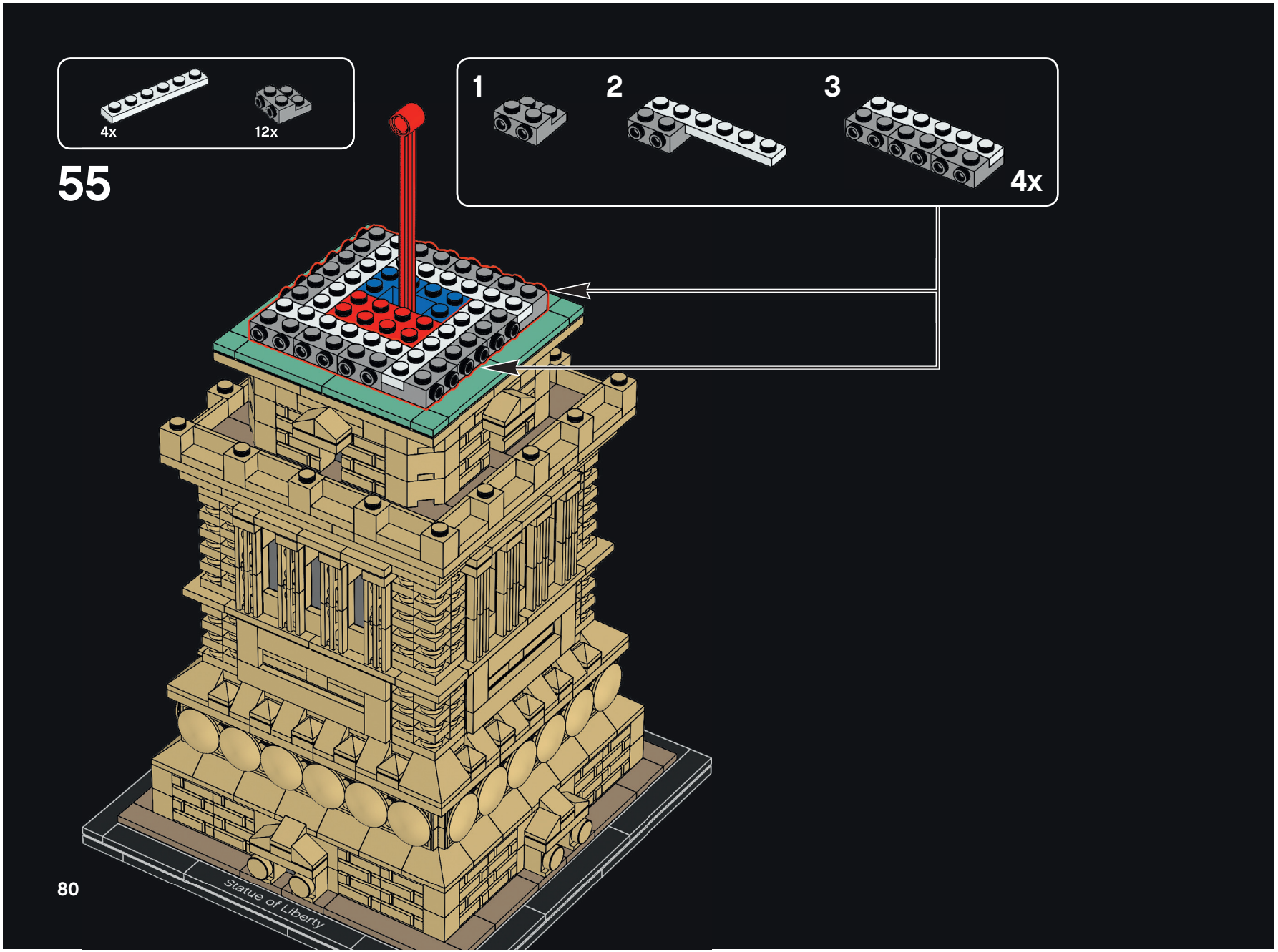

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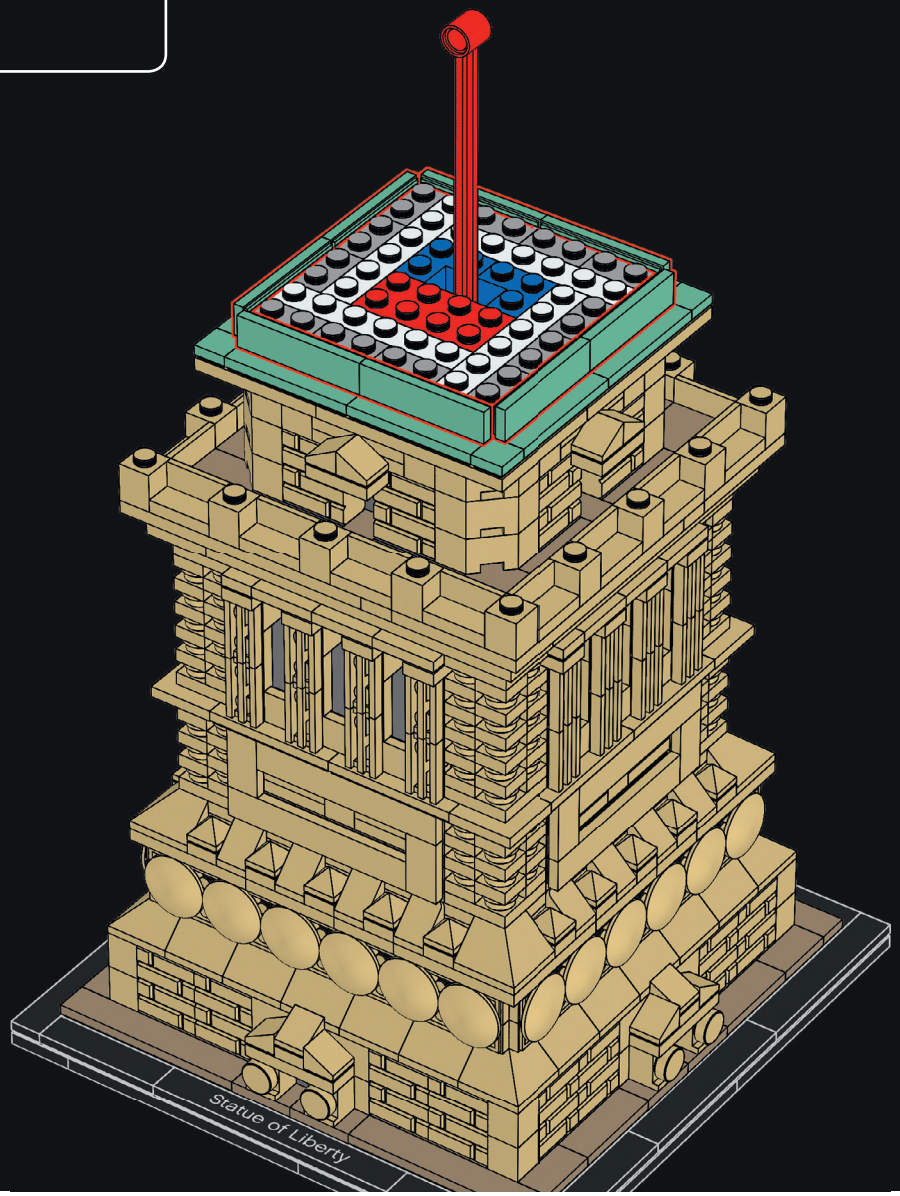

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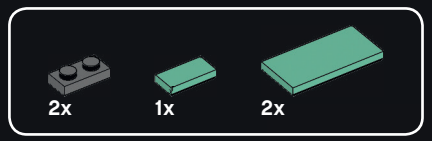

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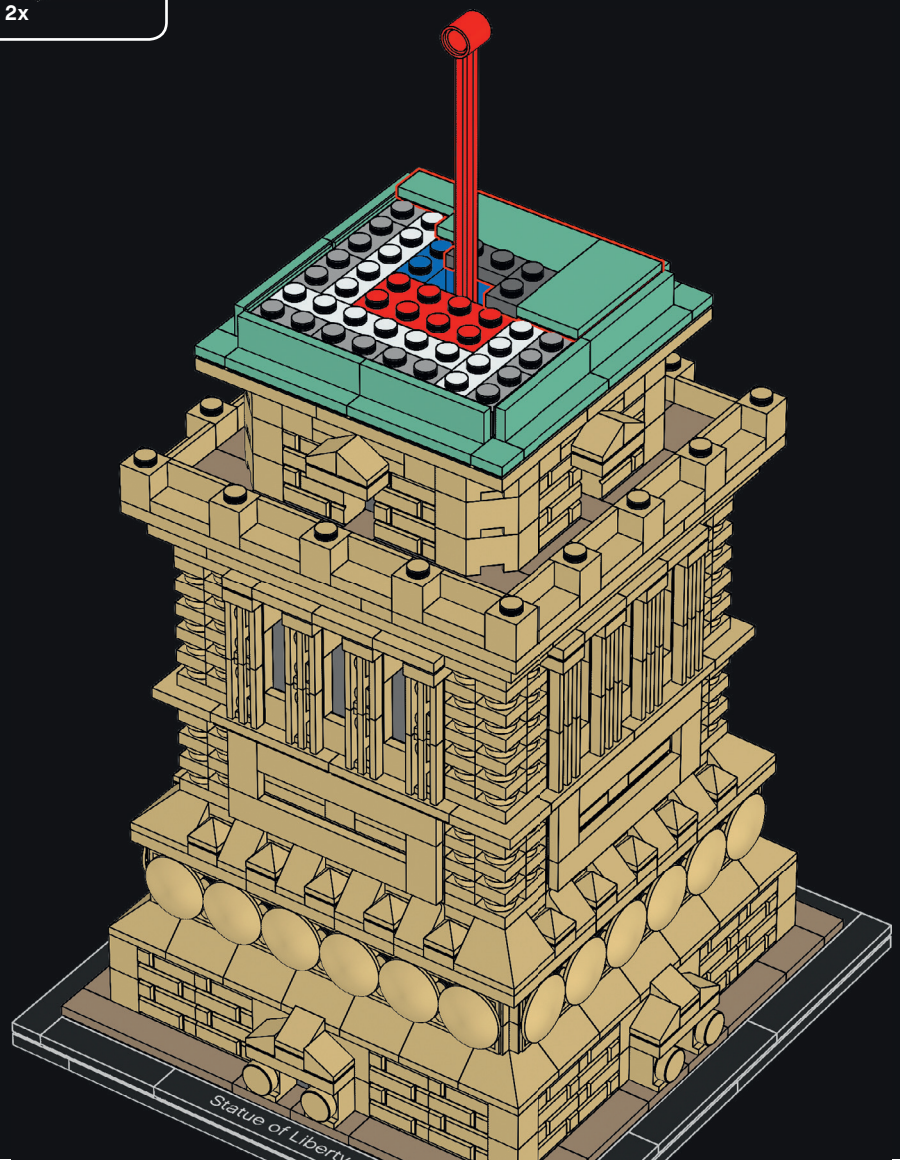

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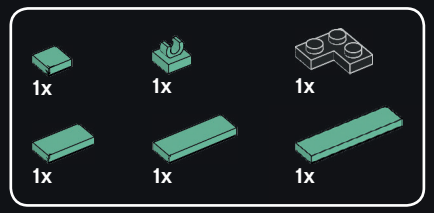

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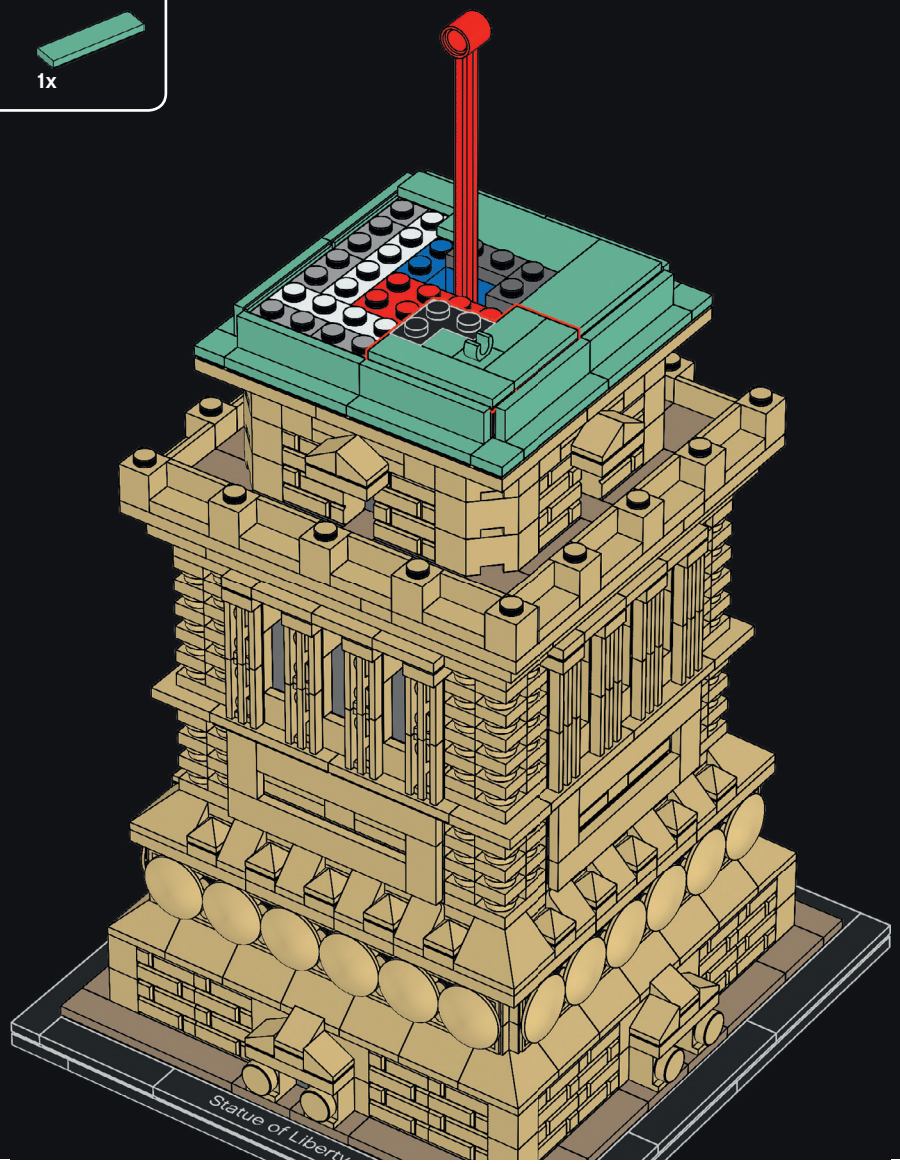

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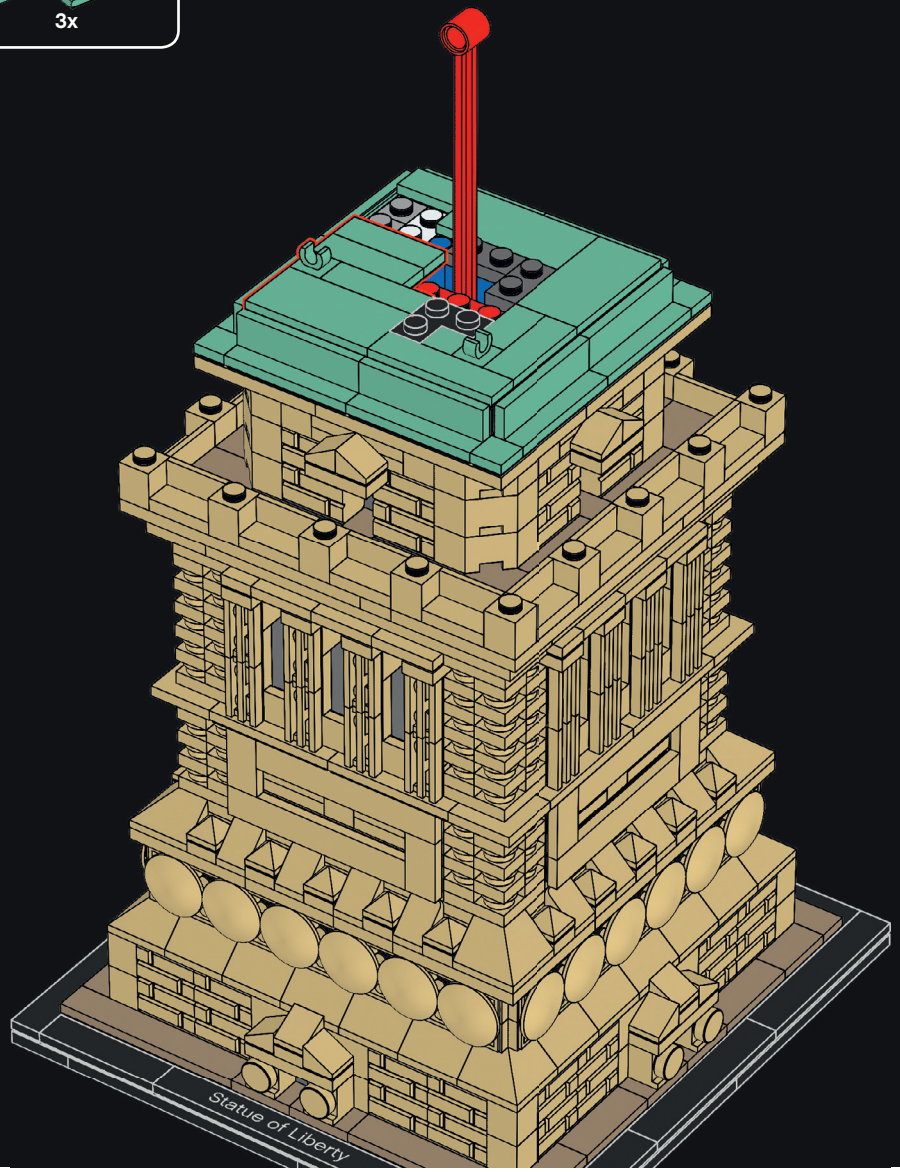

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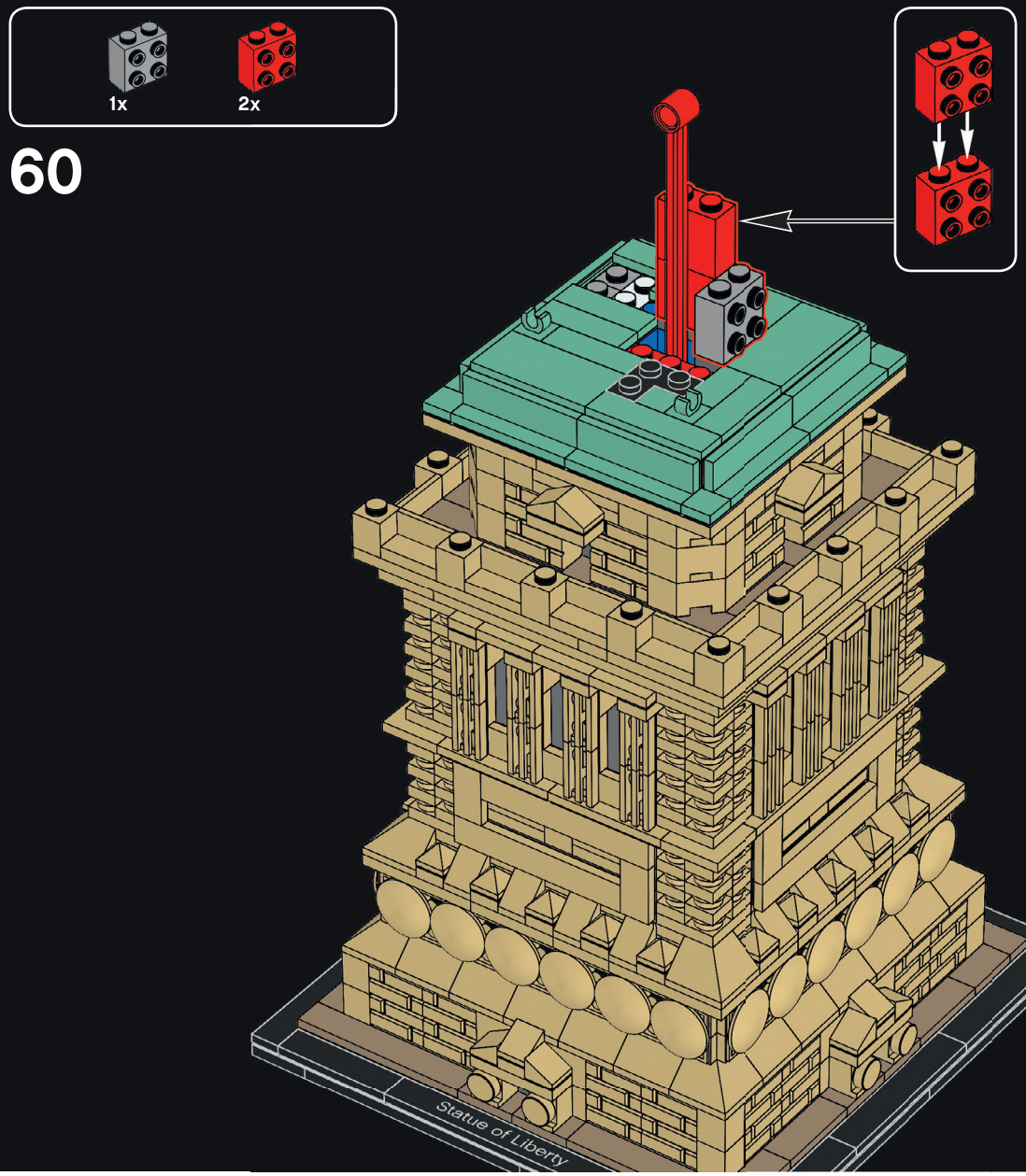

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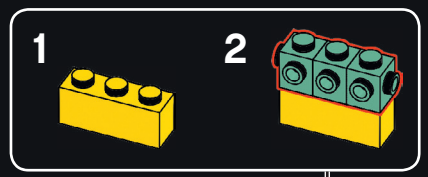

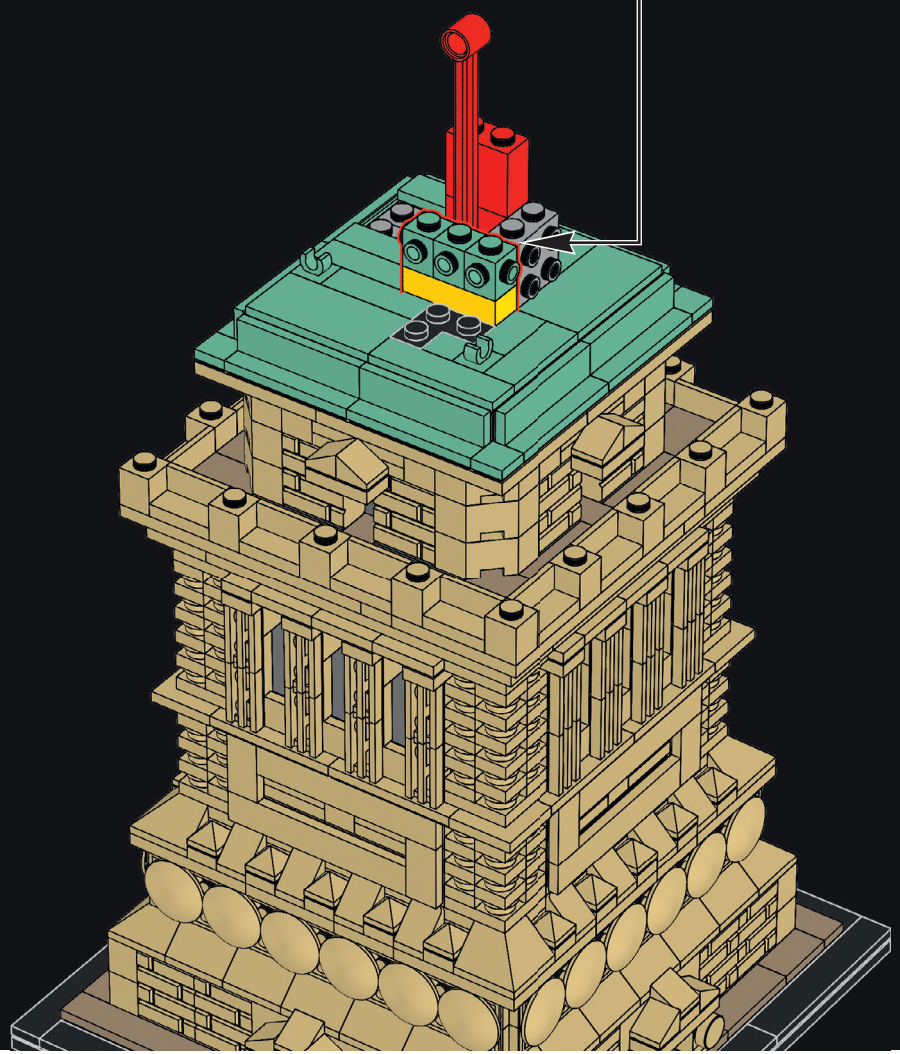

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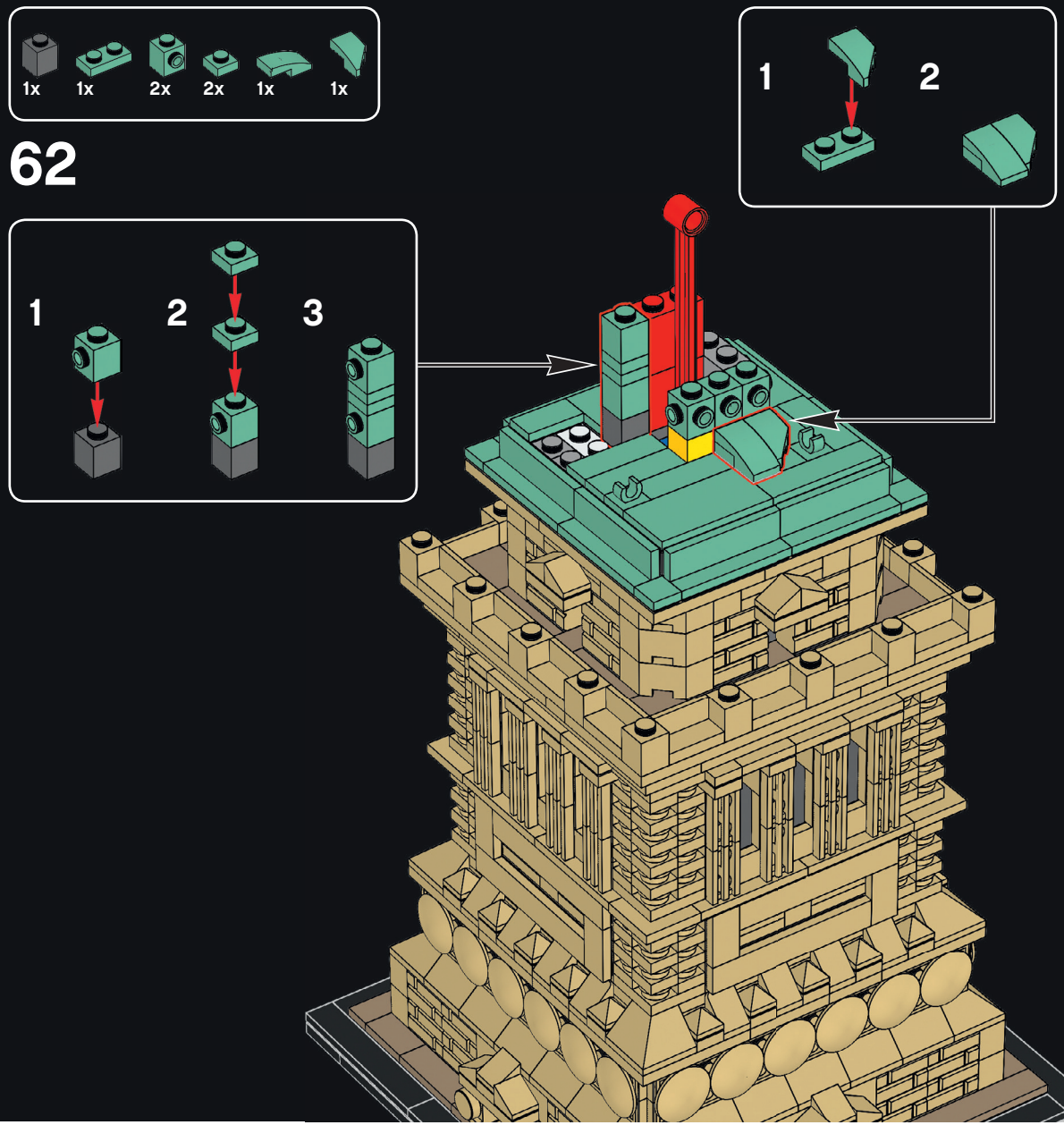

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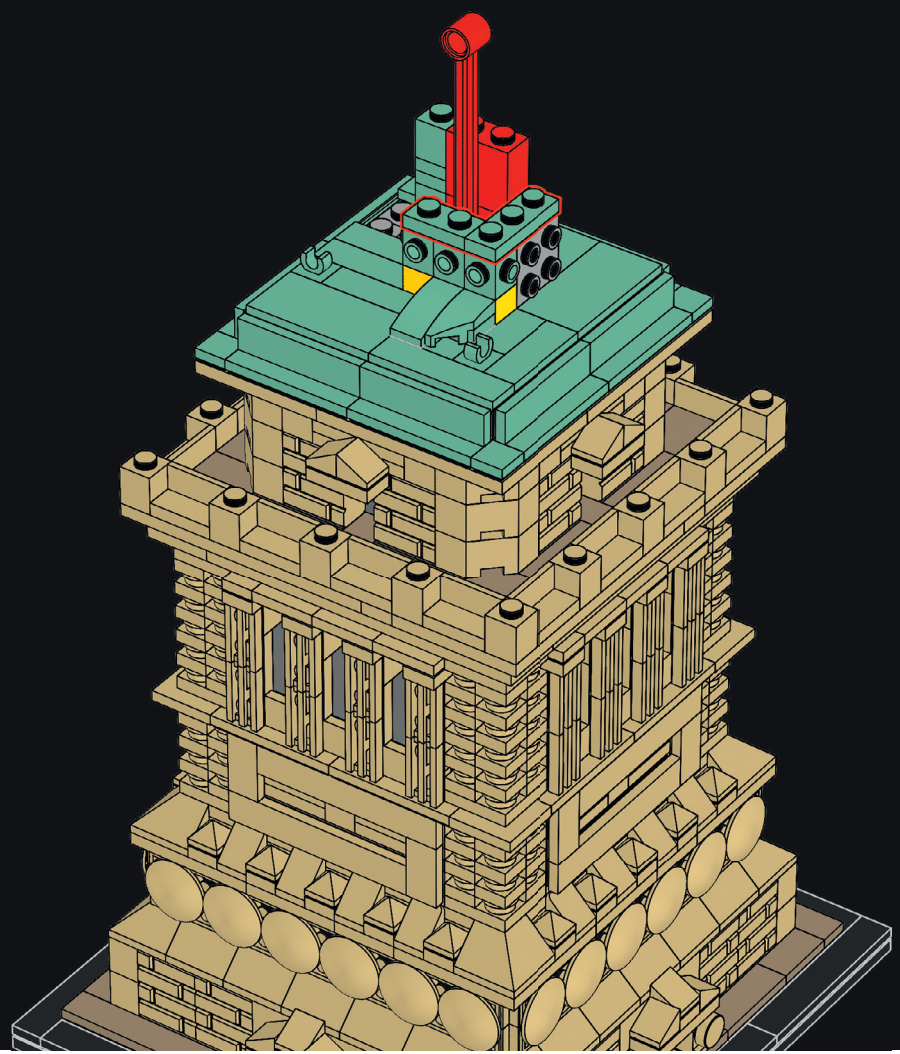

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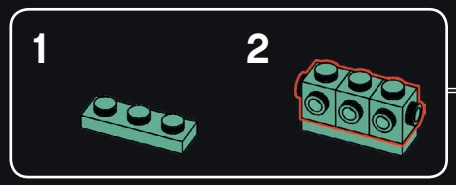

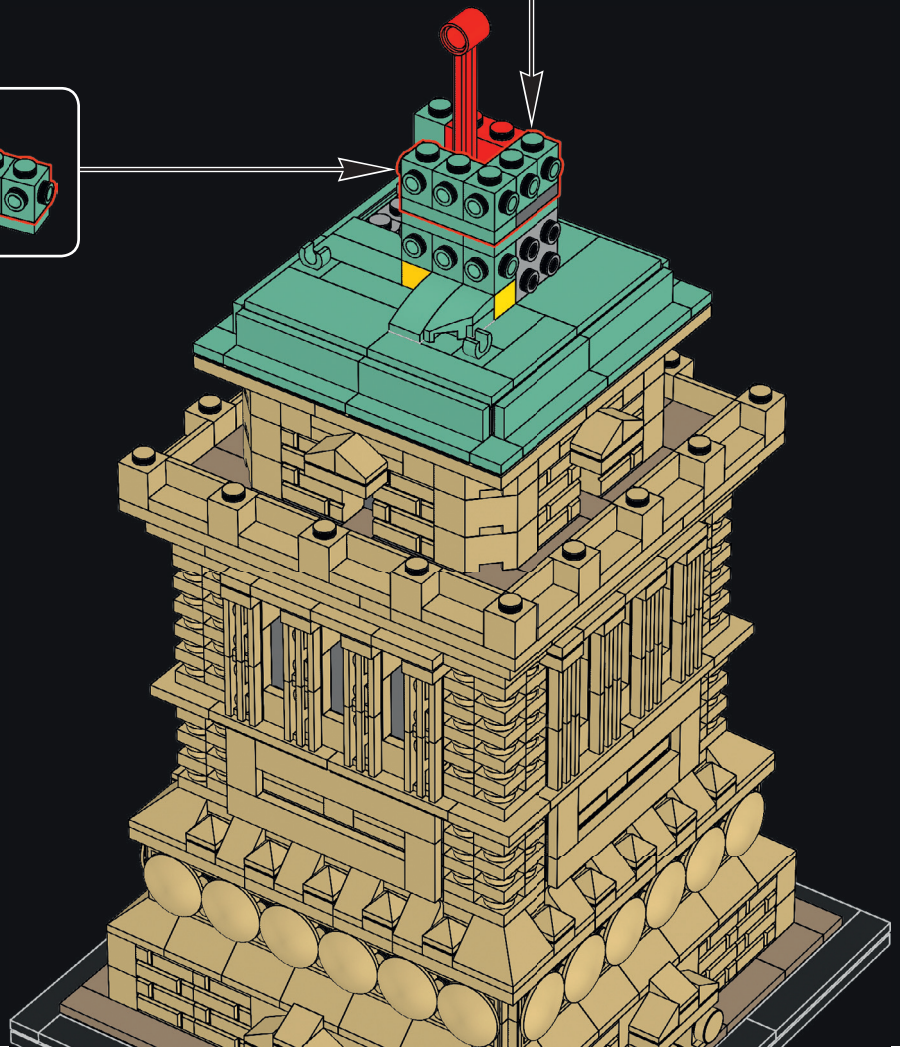

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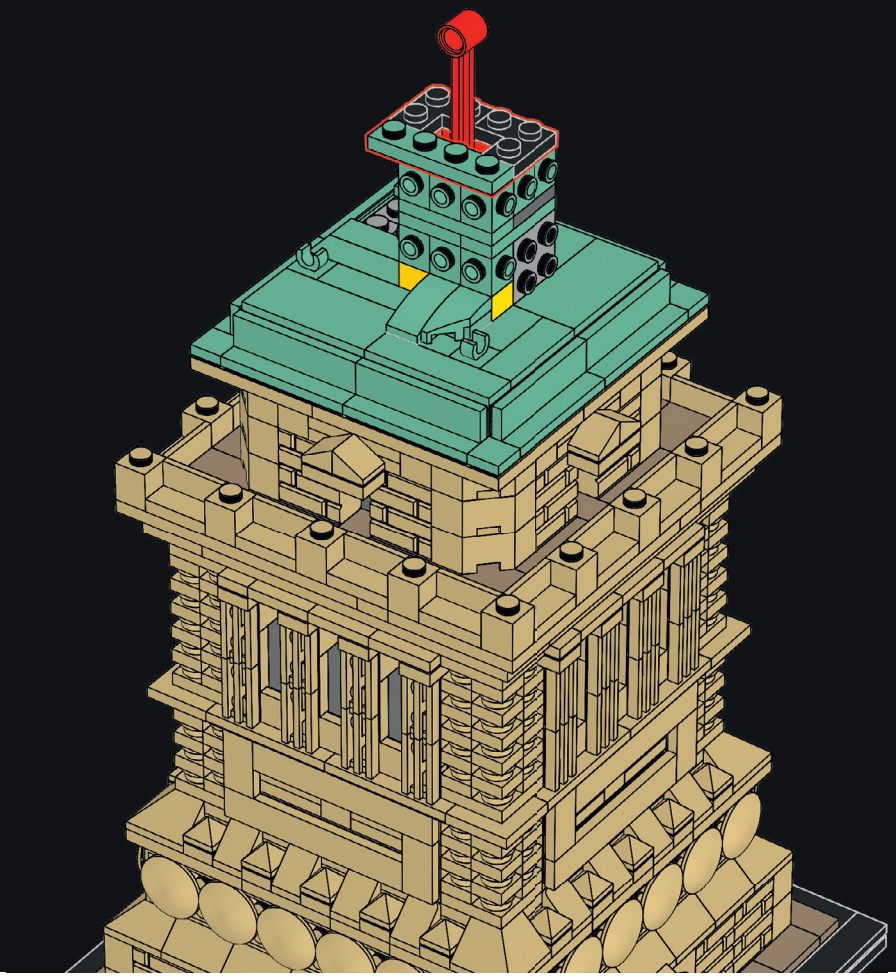

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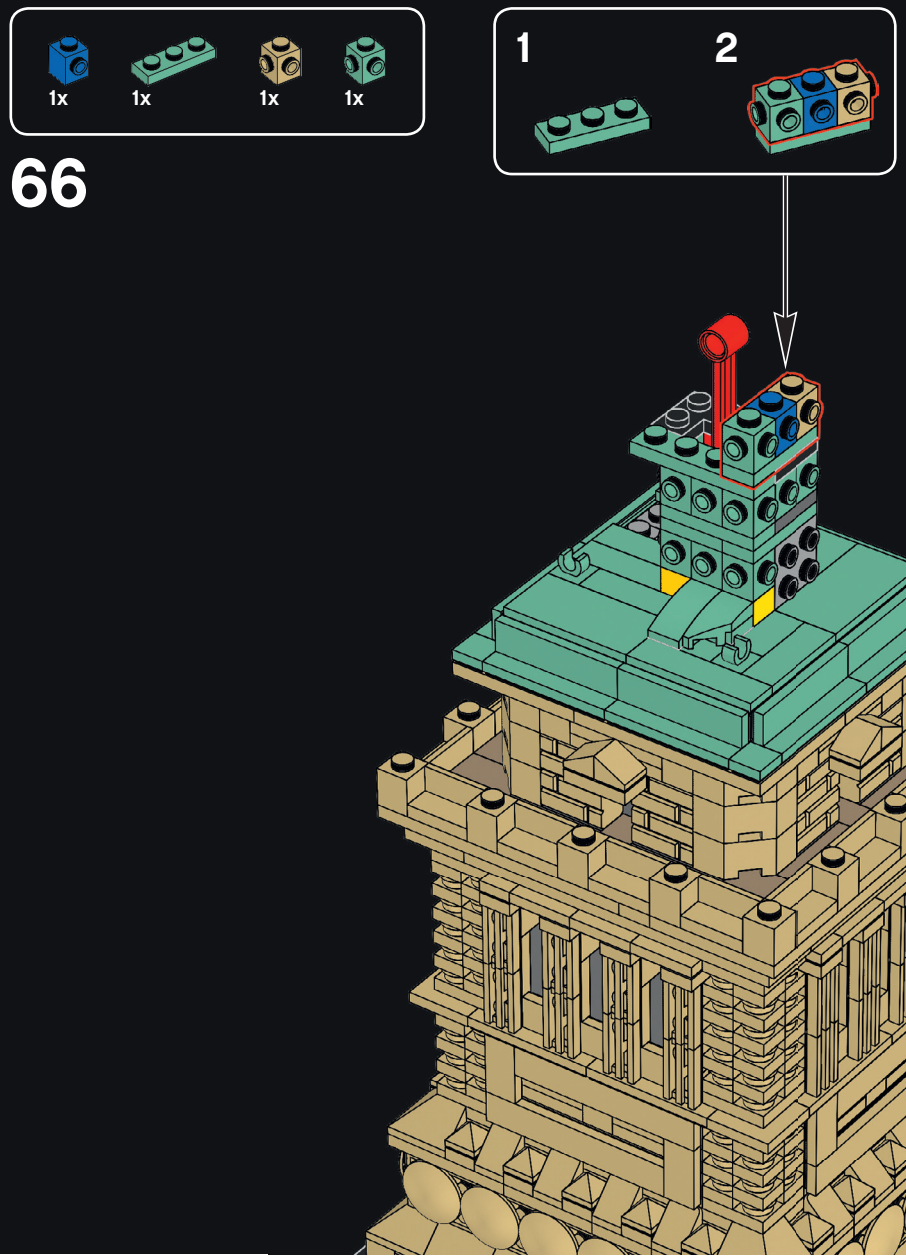

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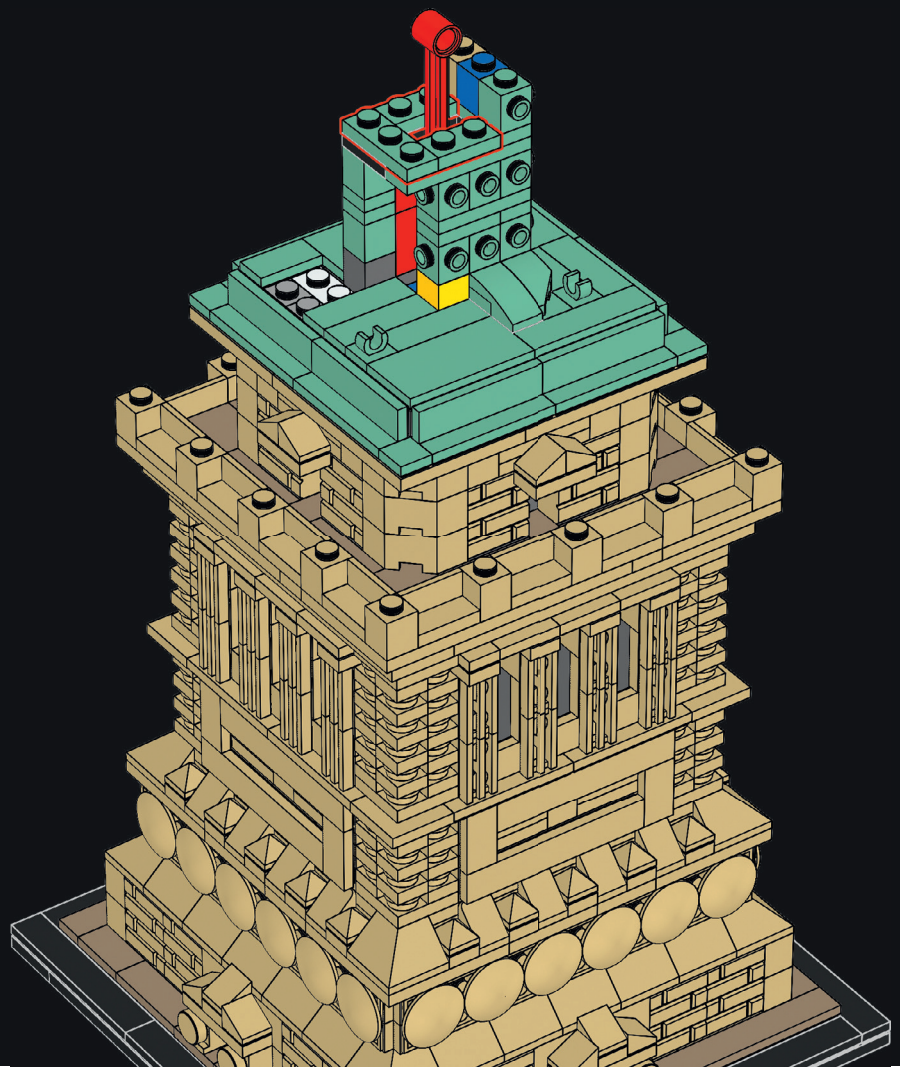

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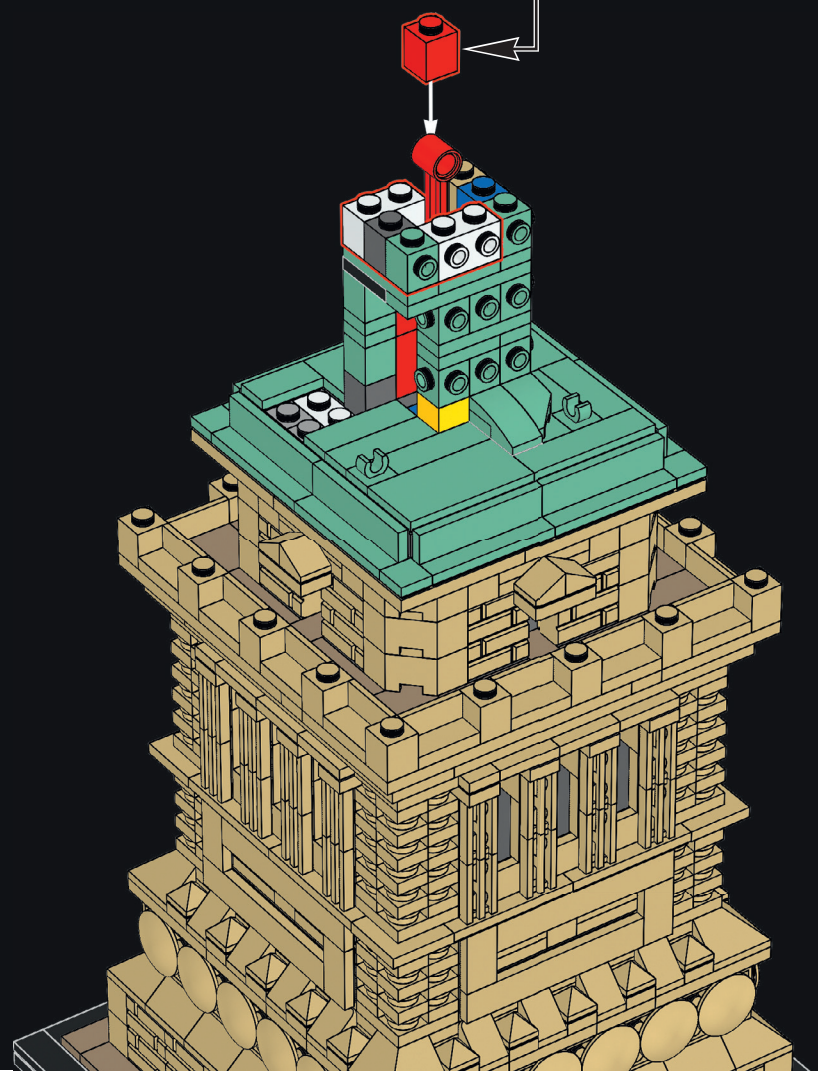
The Statue holds a tablet upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776).



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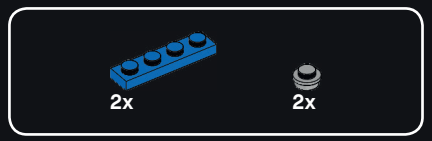

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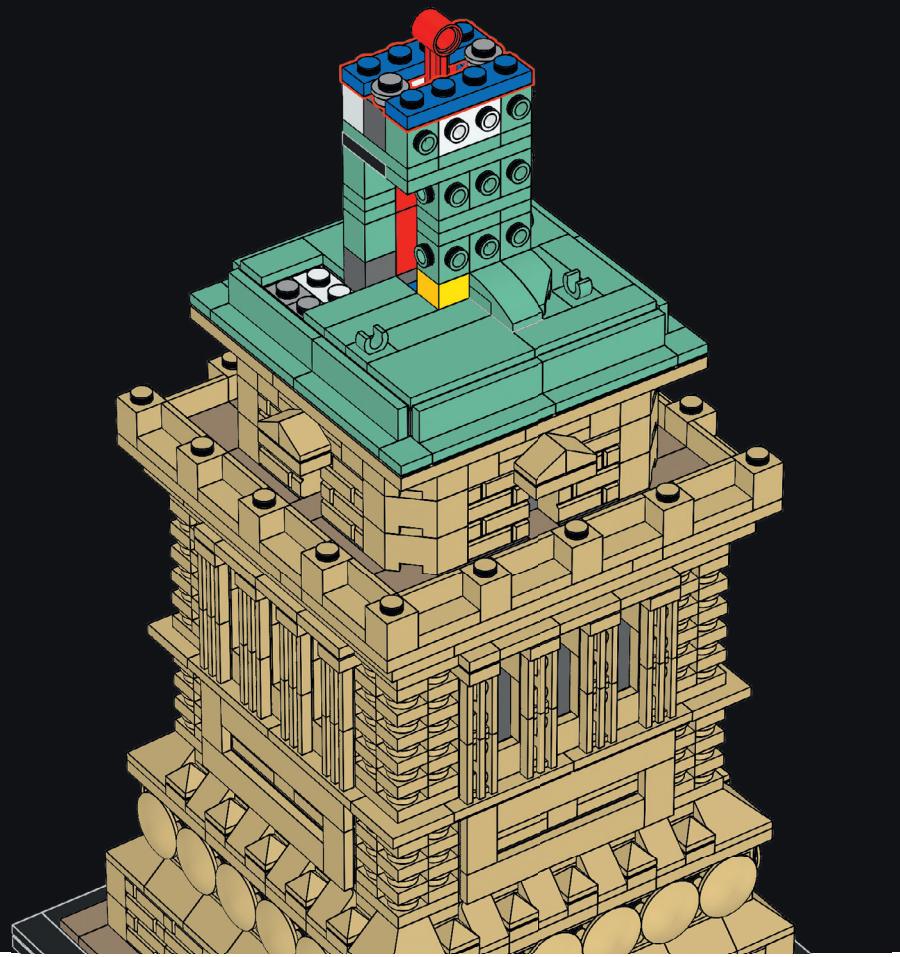

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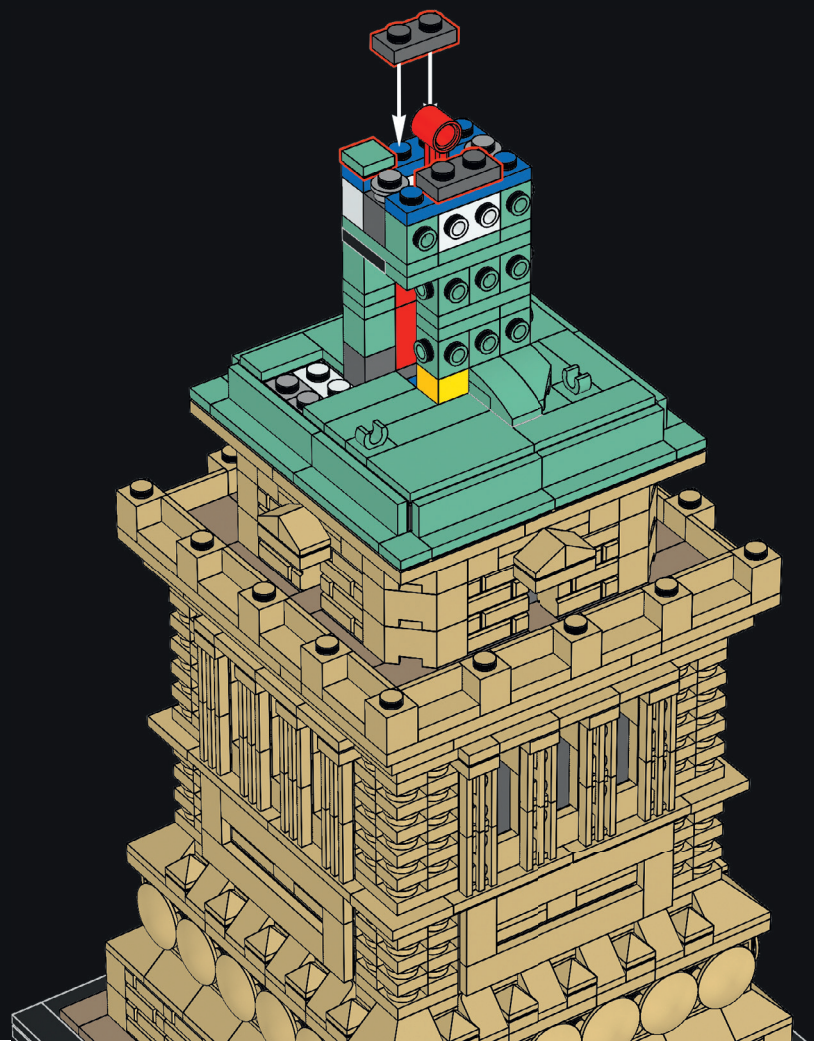

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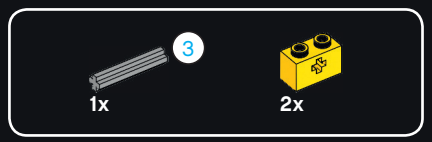

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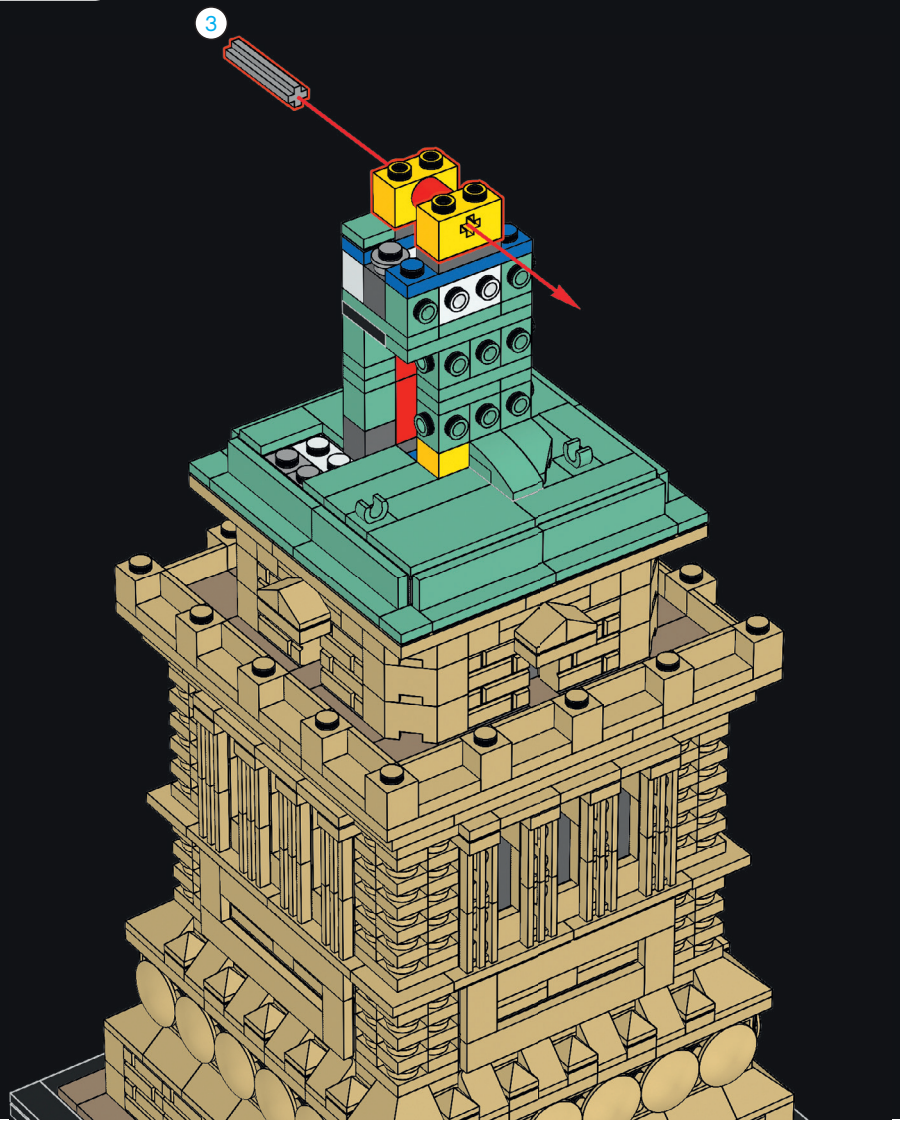

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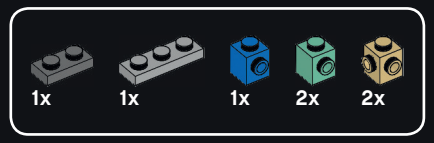

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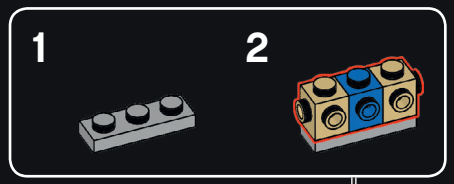

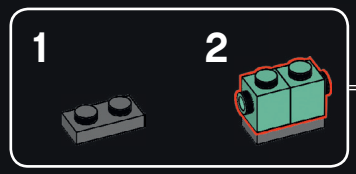

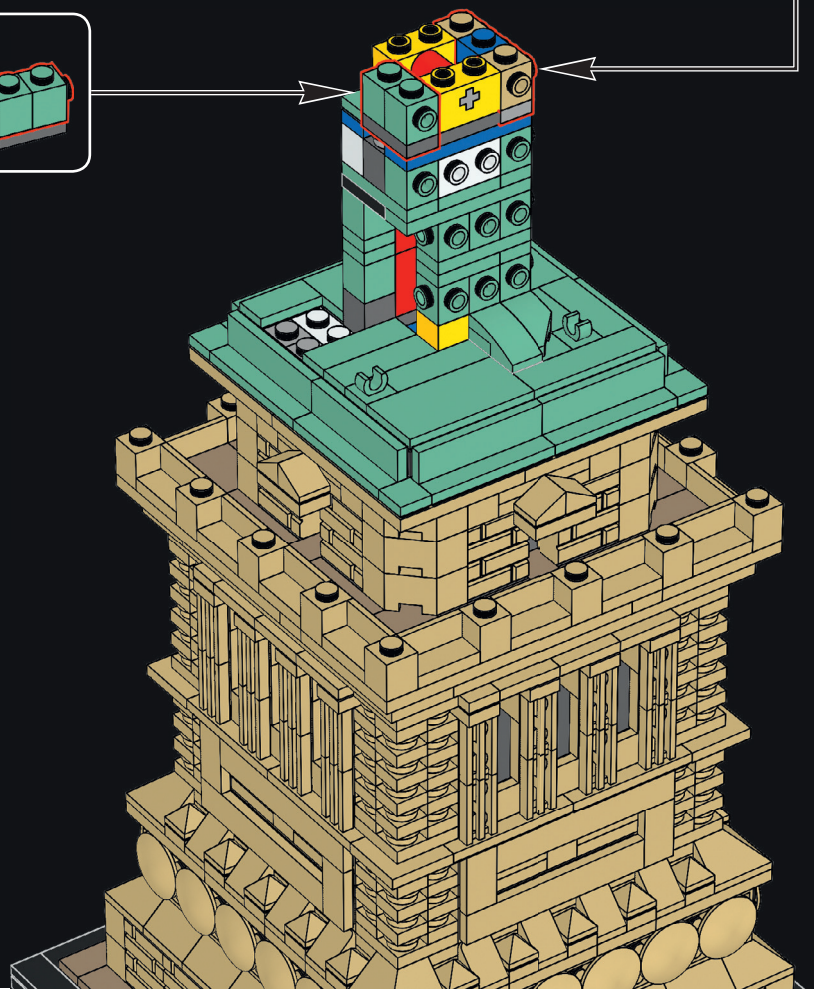

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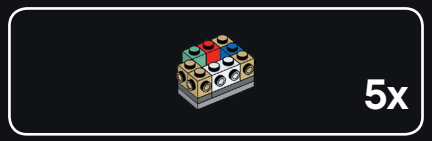

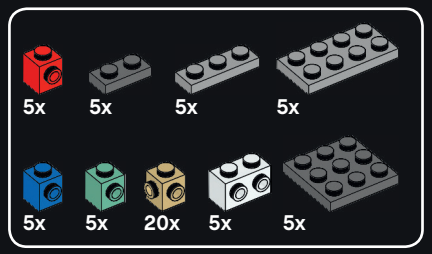

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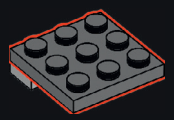

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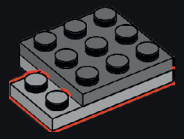

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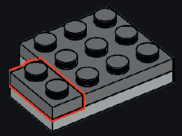

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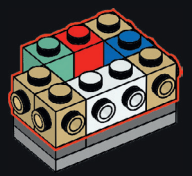

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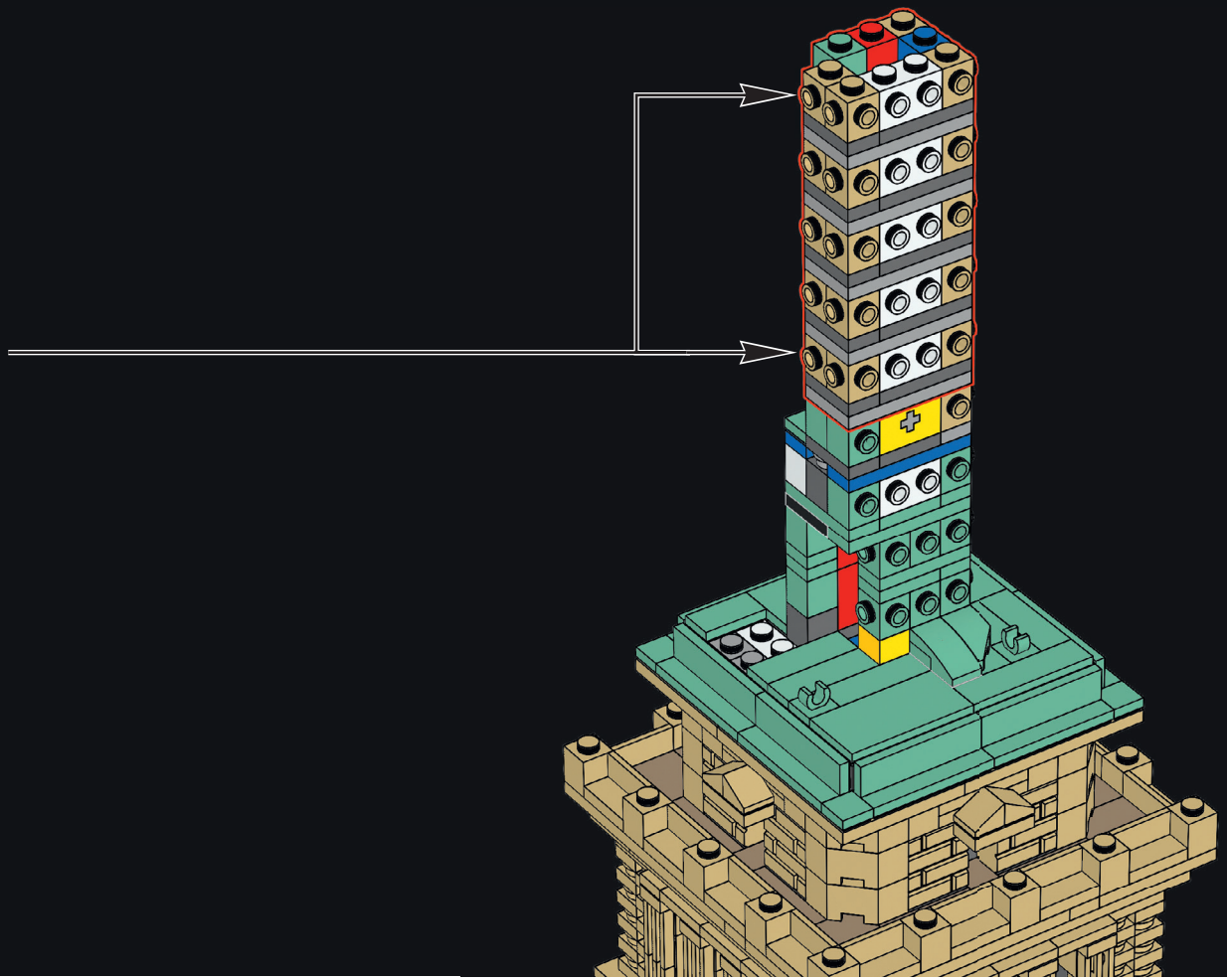

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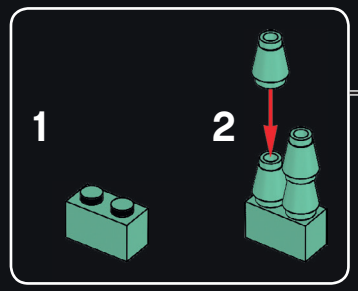

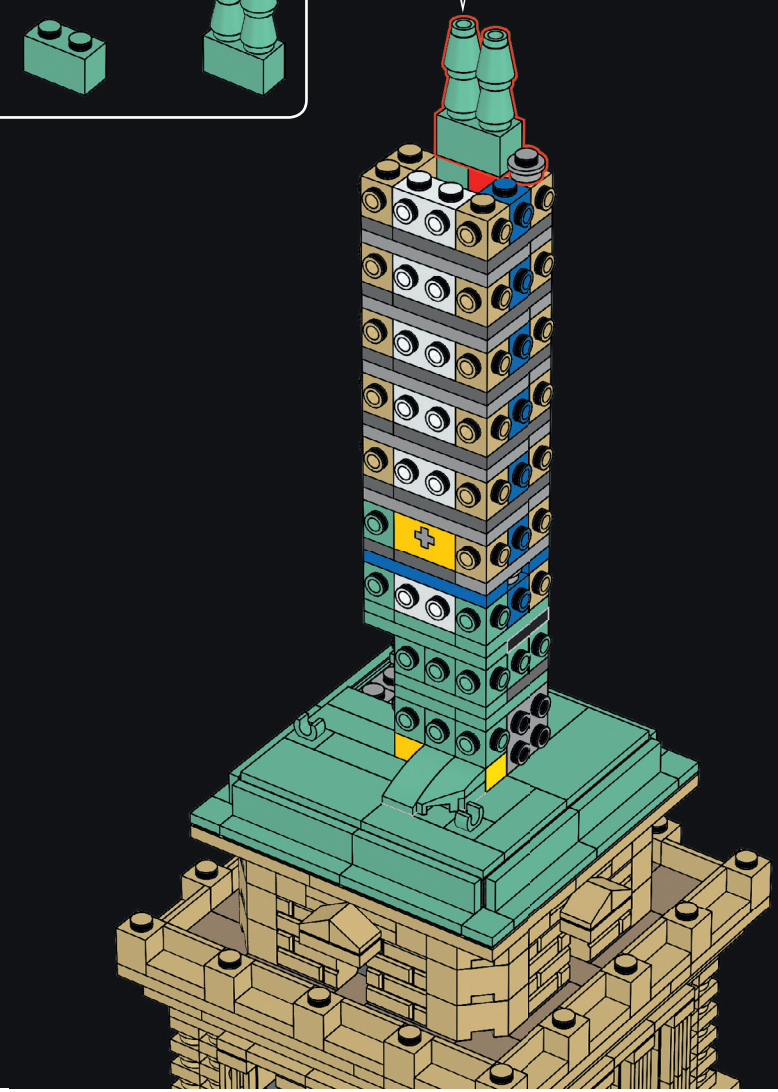

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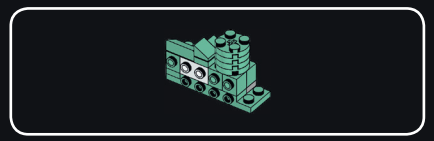

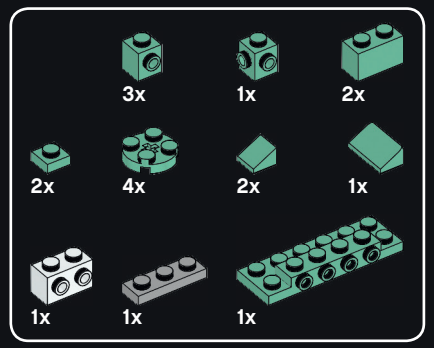

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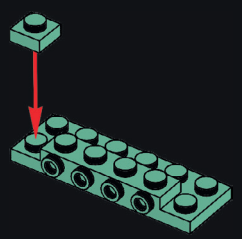

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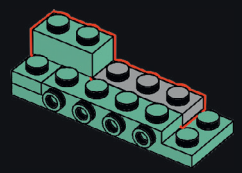

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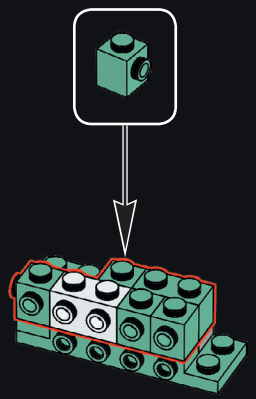

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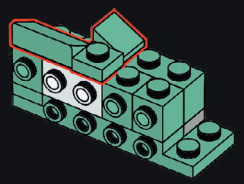

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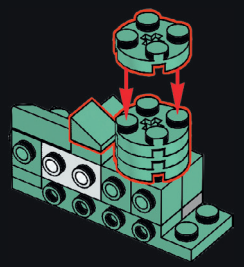

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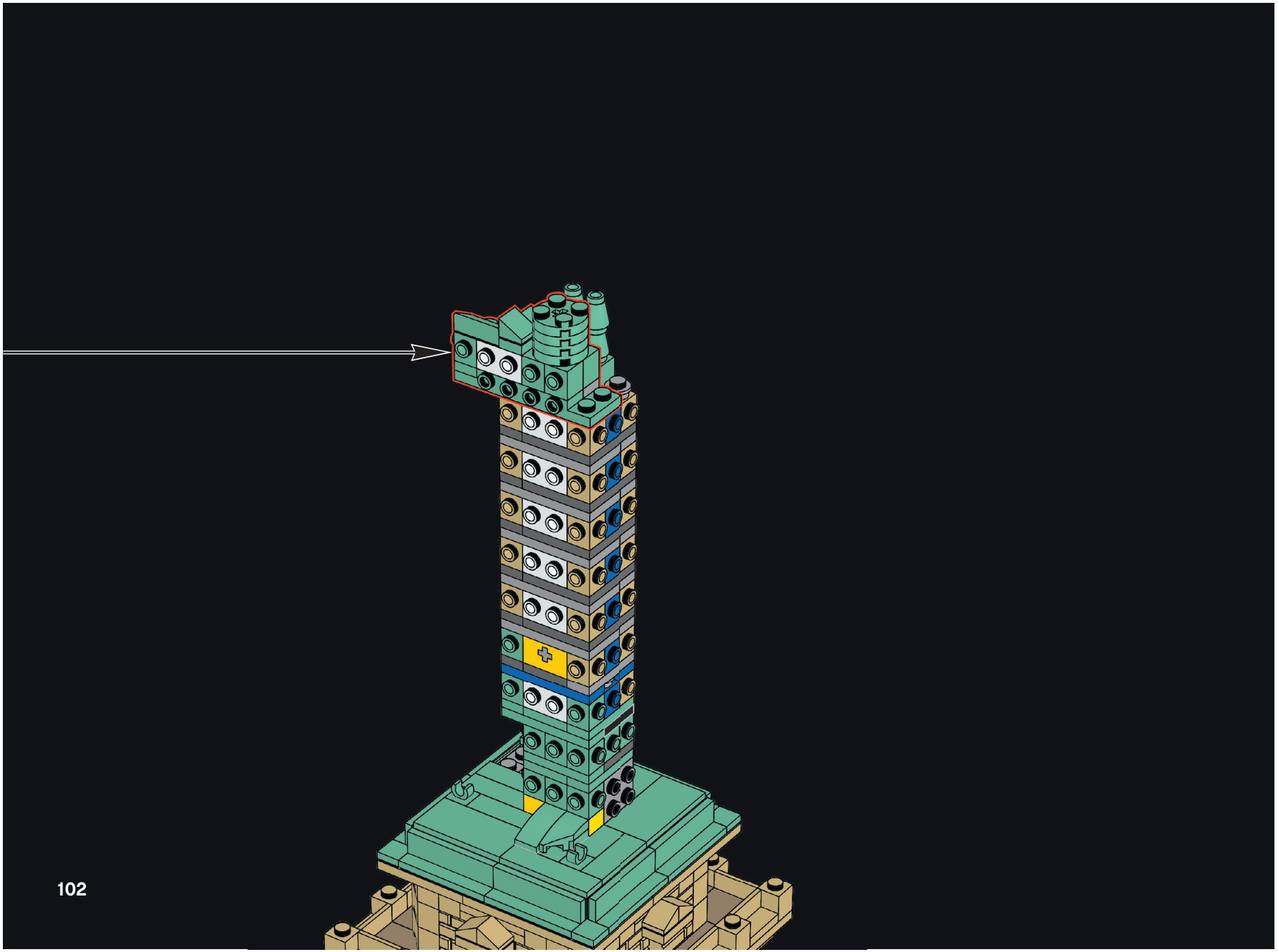

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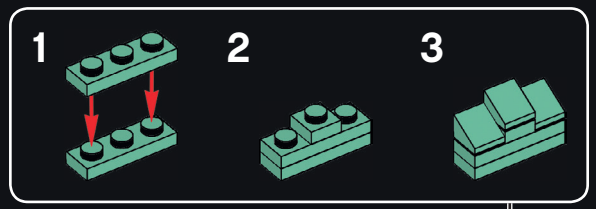

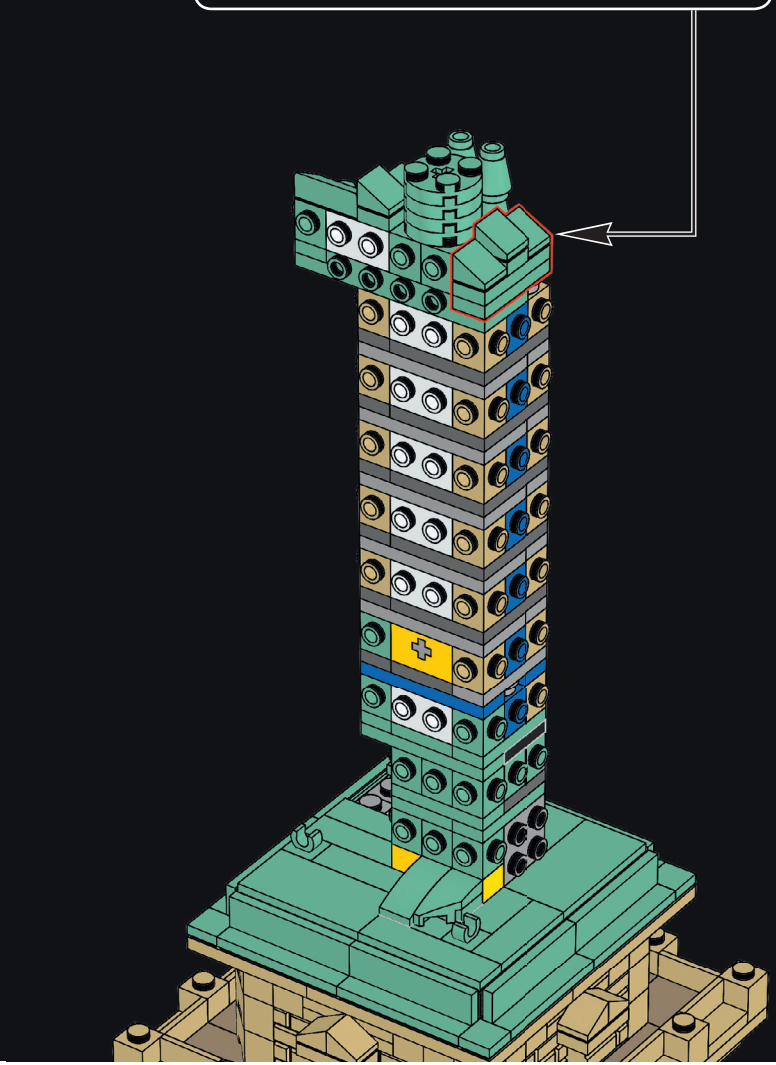

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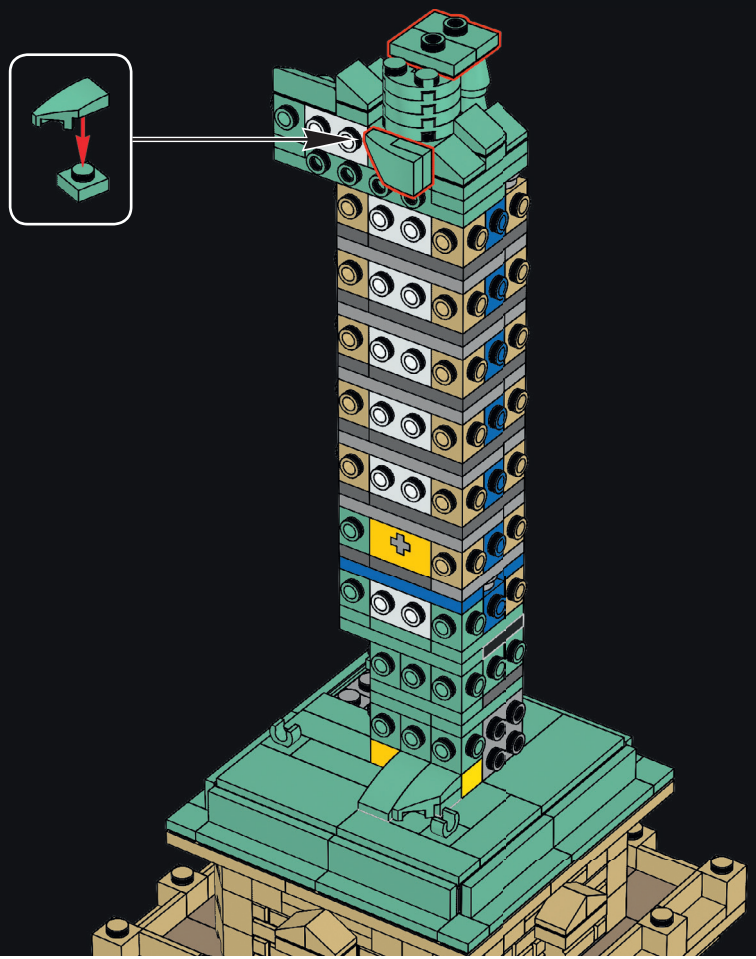

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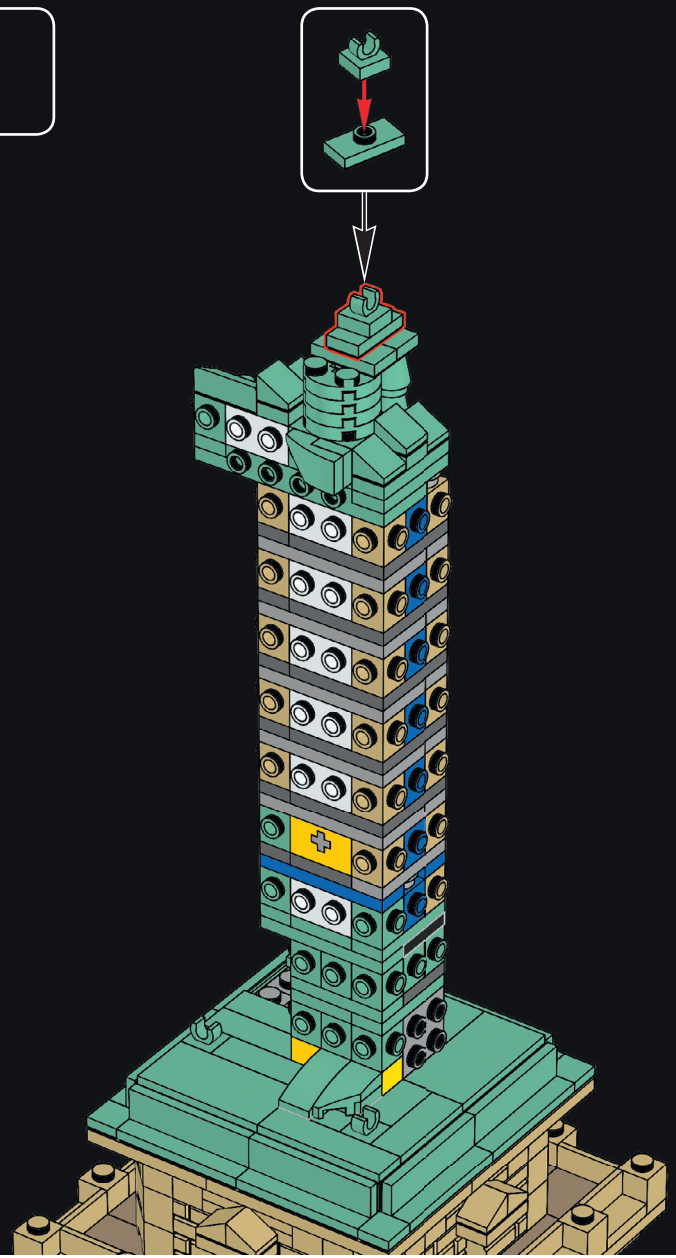

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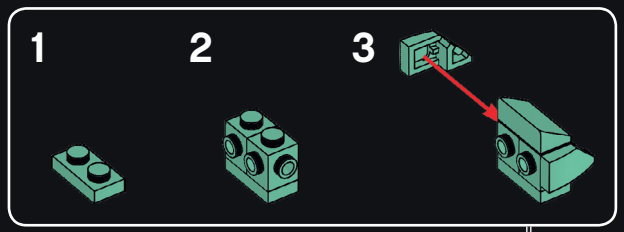

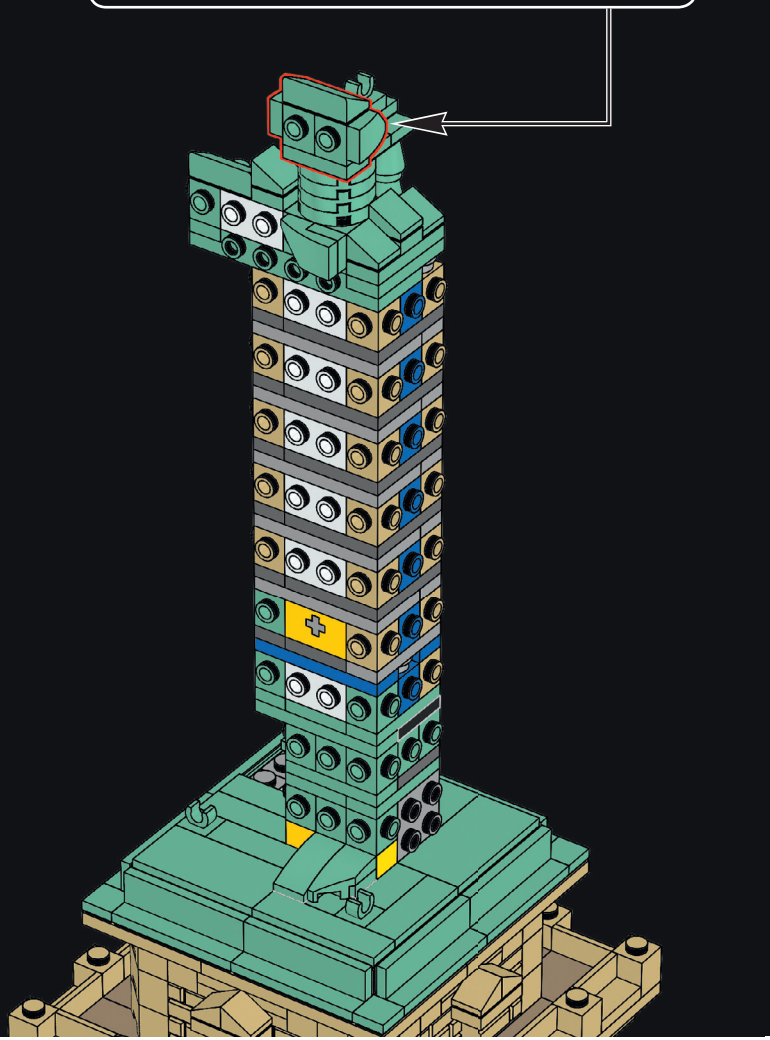

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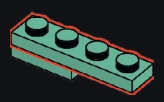

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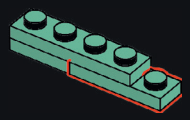

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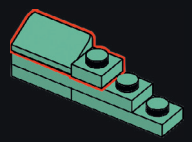

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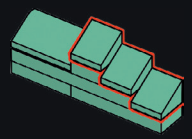

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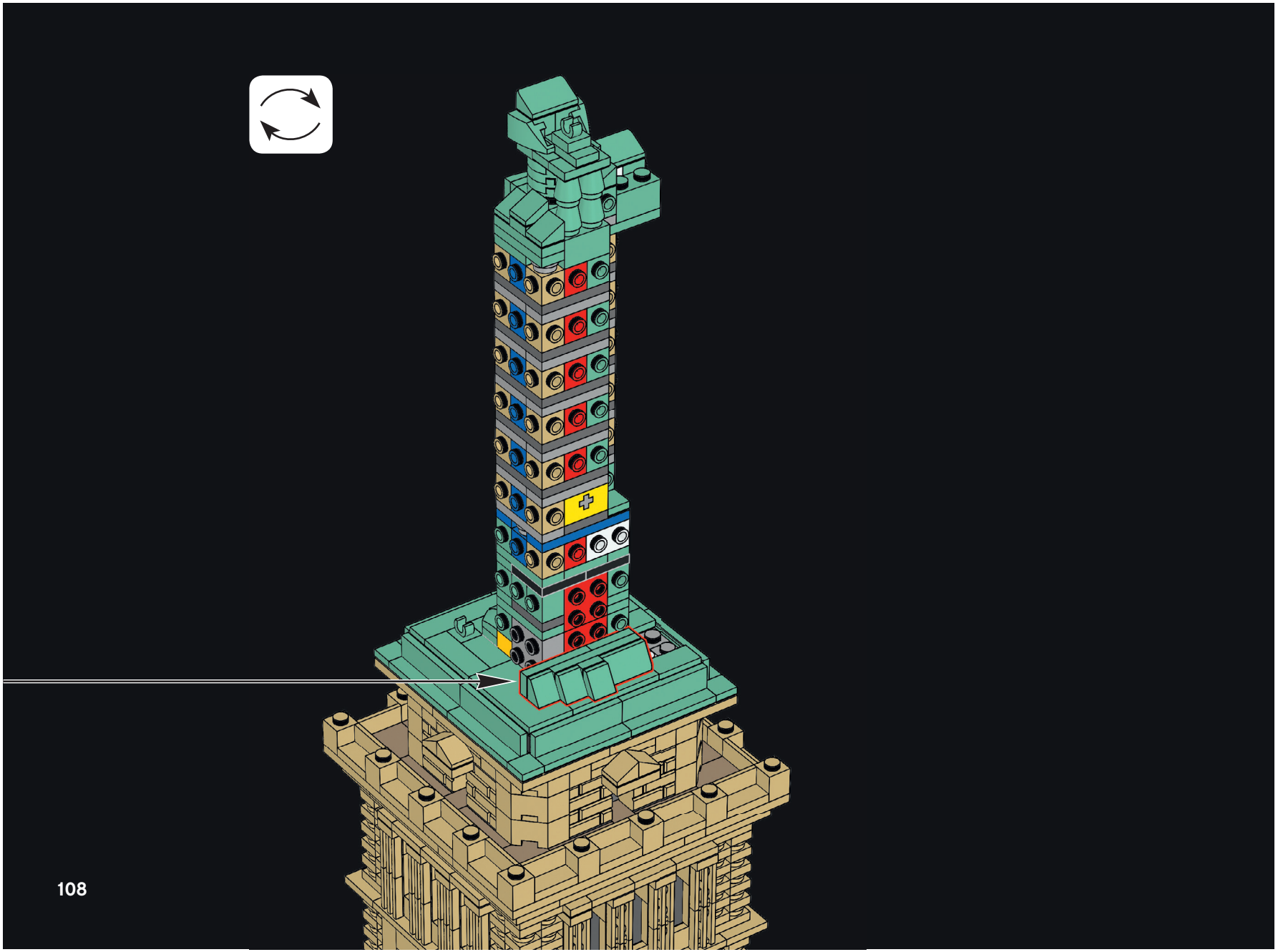

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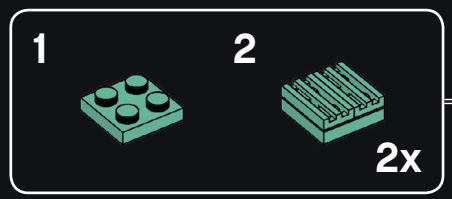

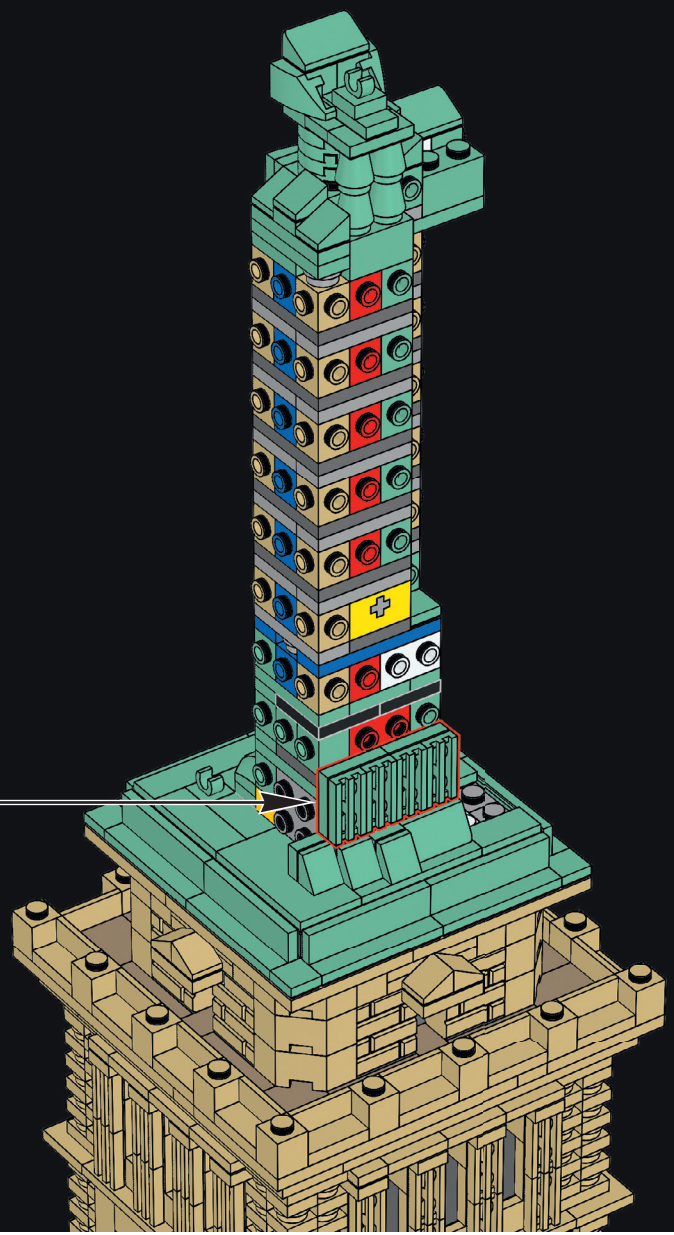

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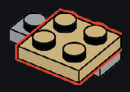

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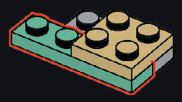

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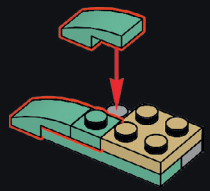

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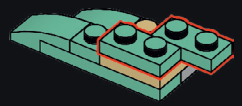

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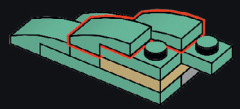

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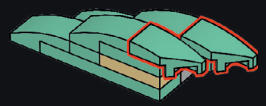

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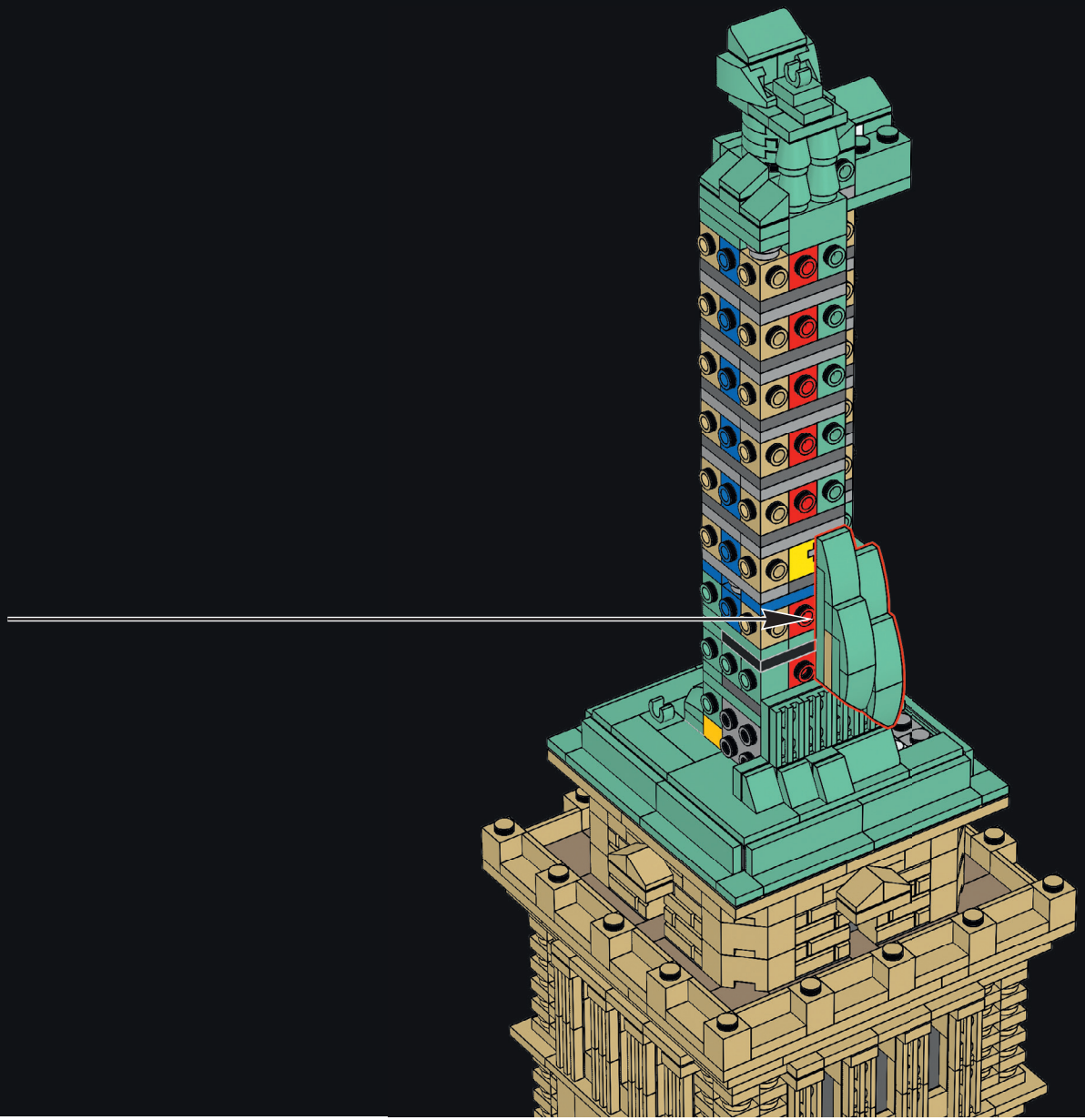

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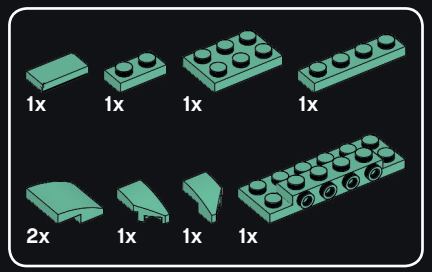

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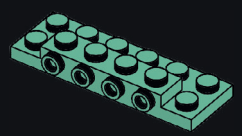

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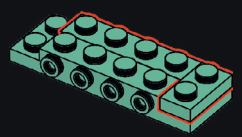

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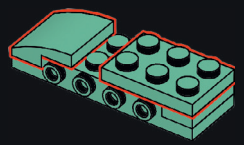

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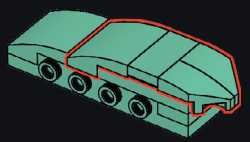

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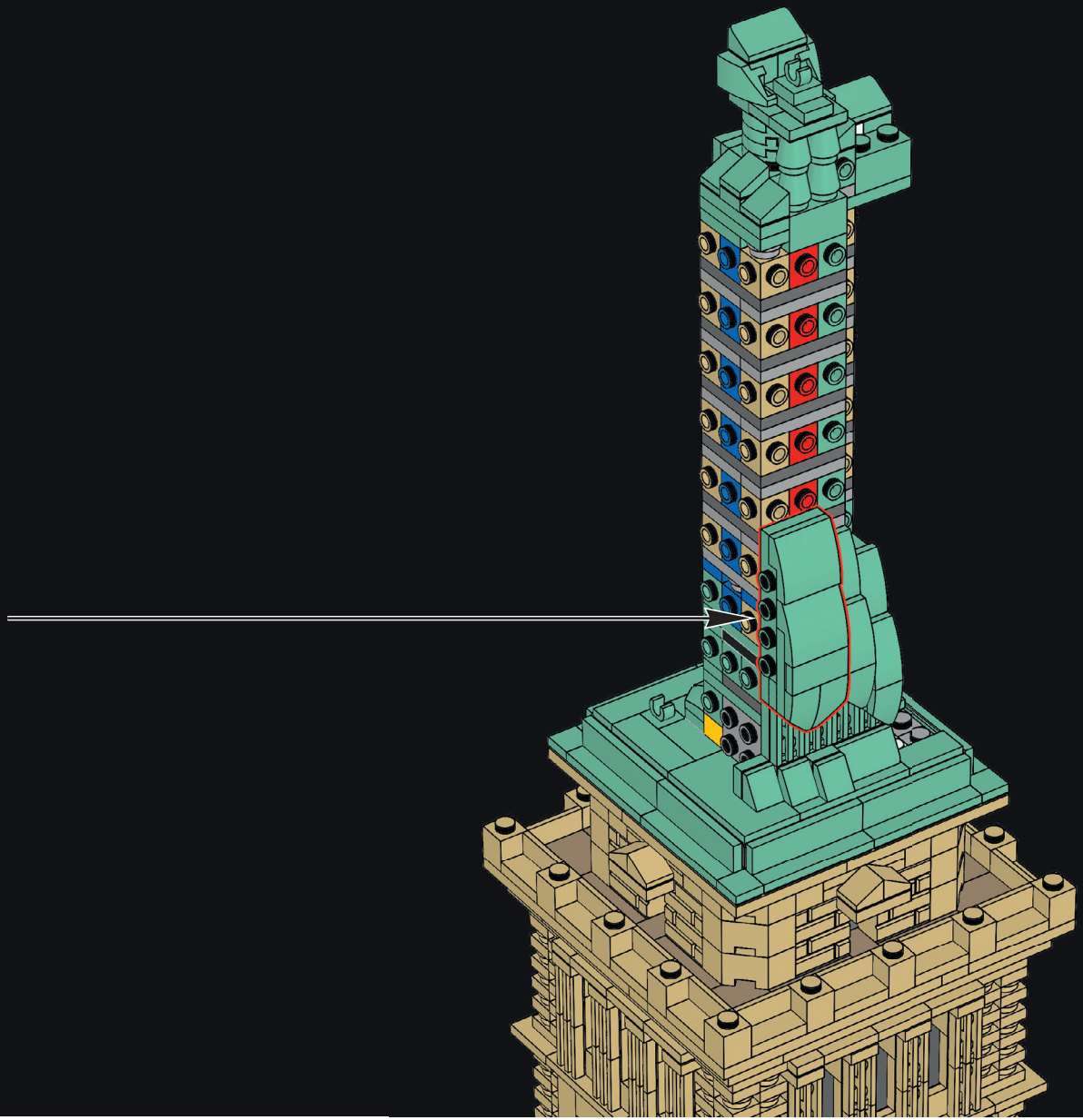

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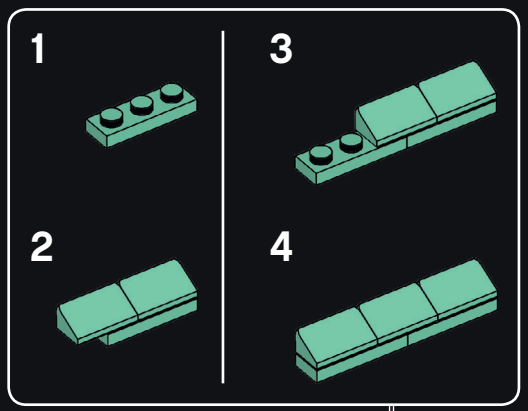

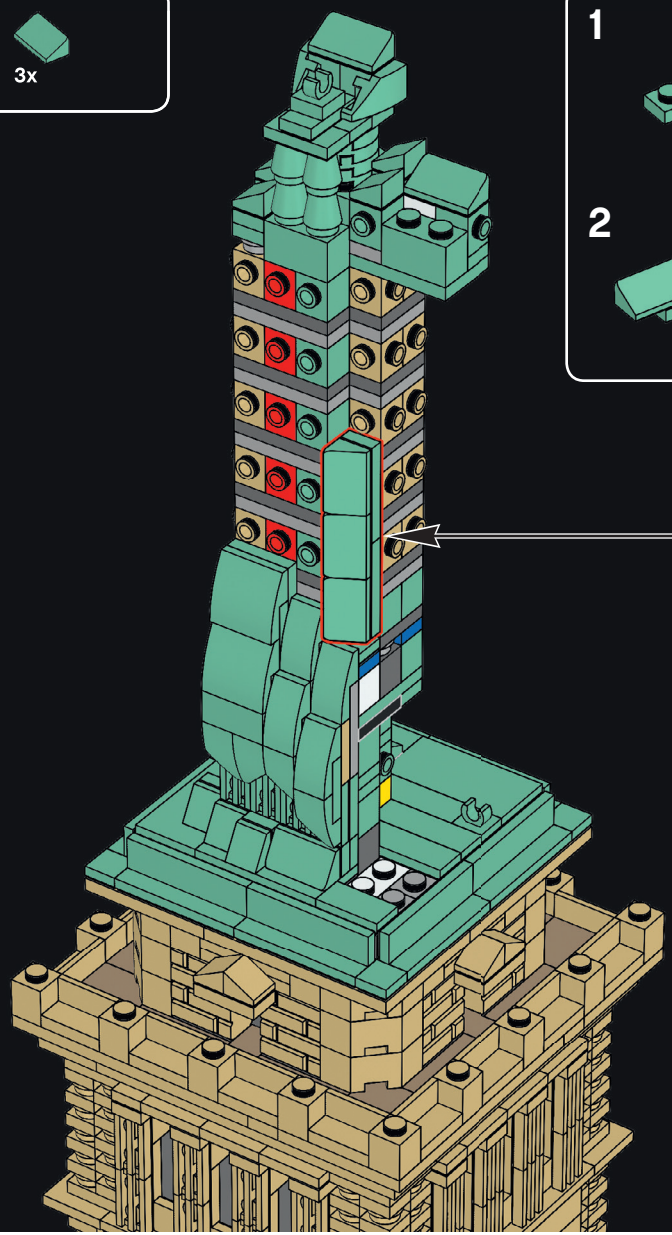

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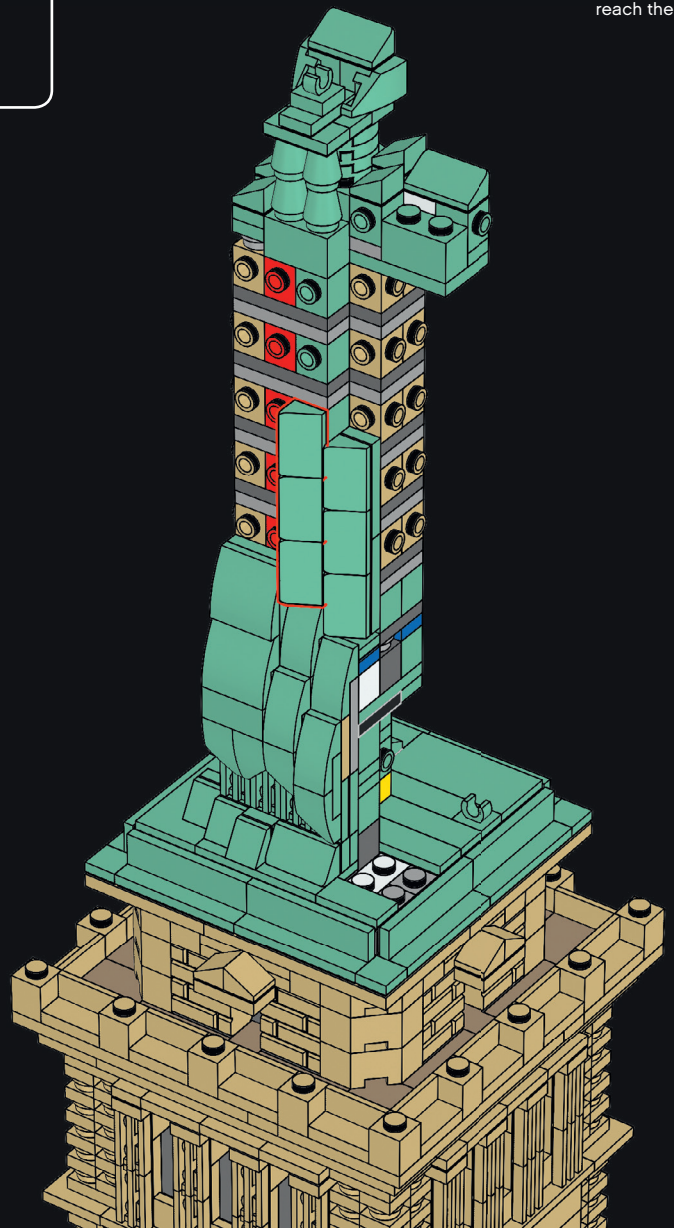
3x

85

Visitors have to climb 354 stairs to reach the Statue's crown.



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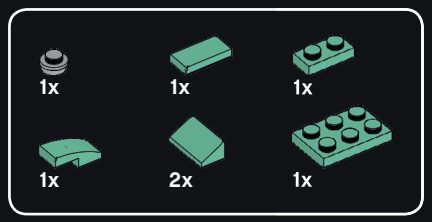

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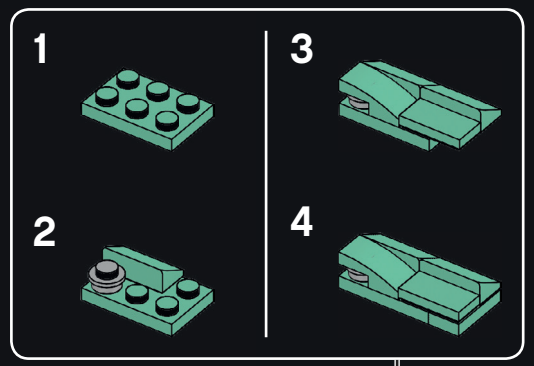

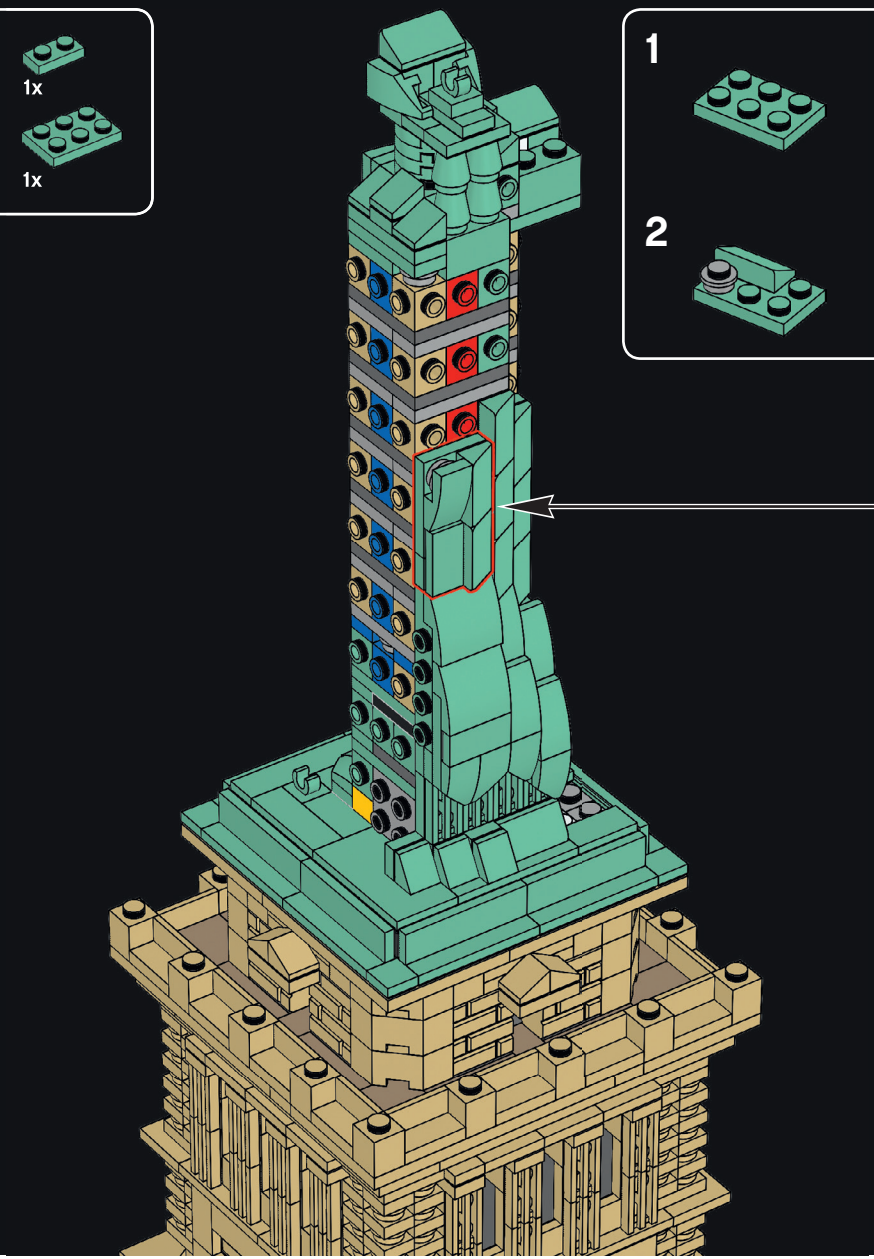

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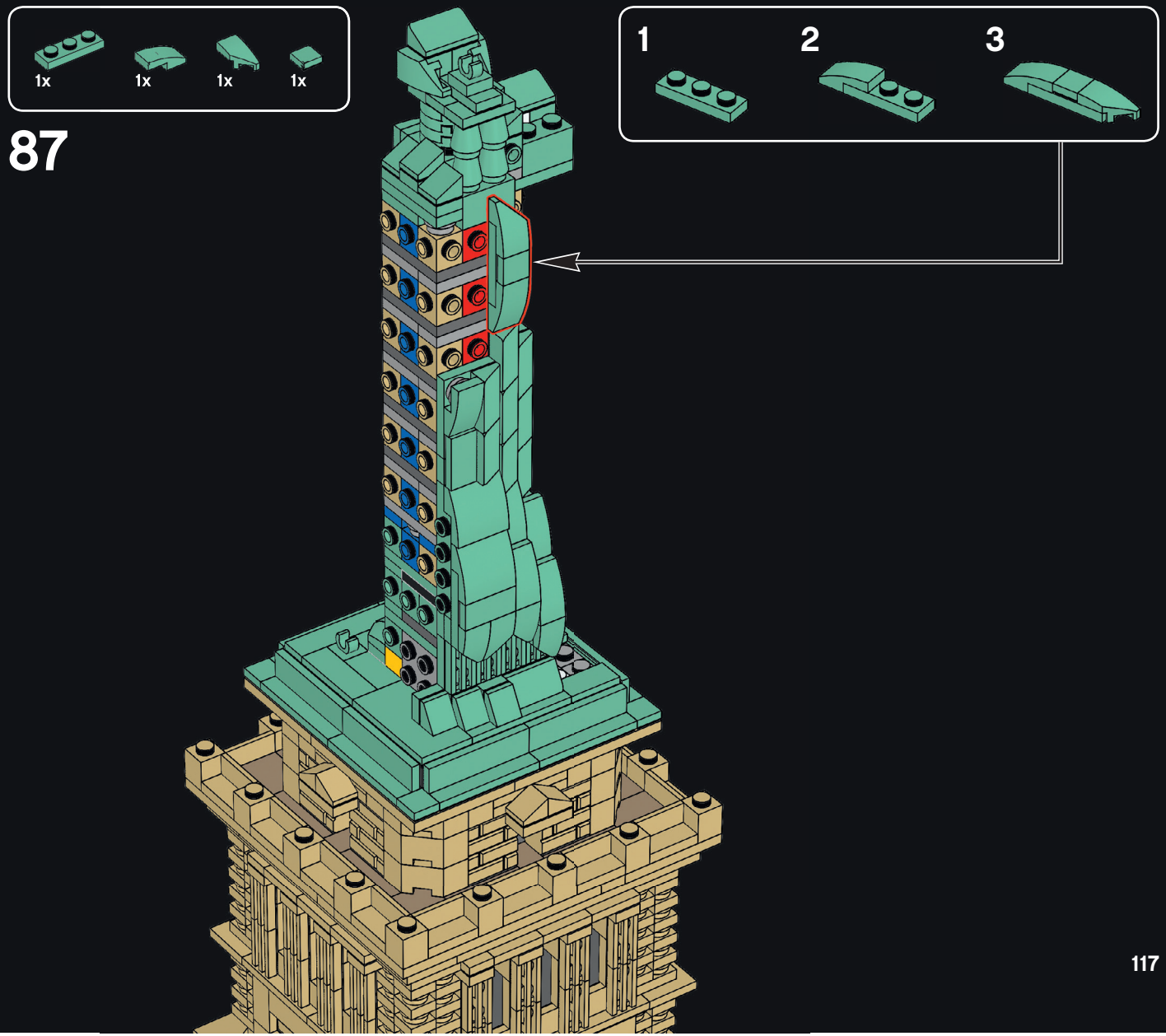

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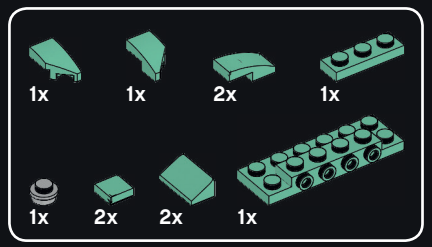

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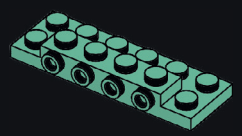

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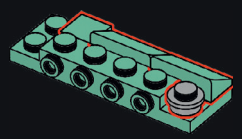

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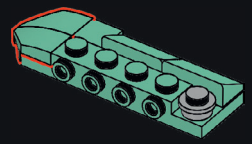

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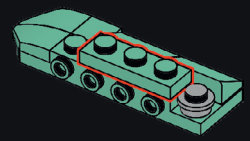

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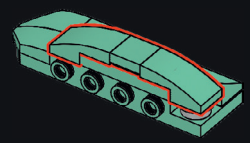

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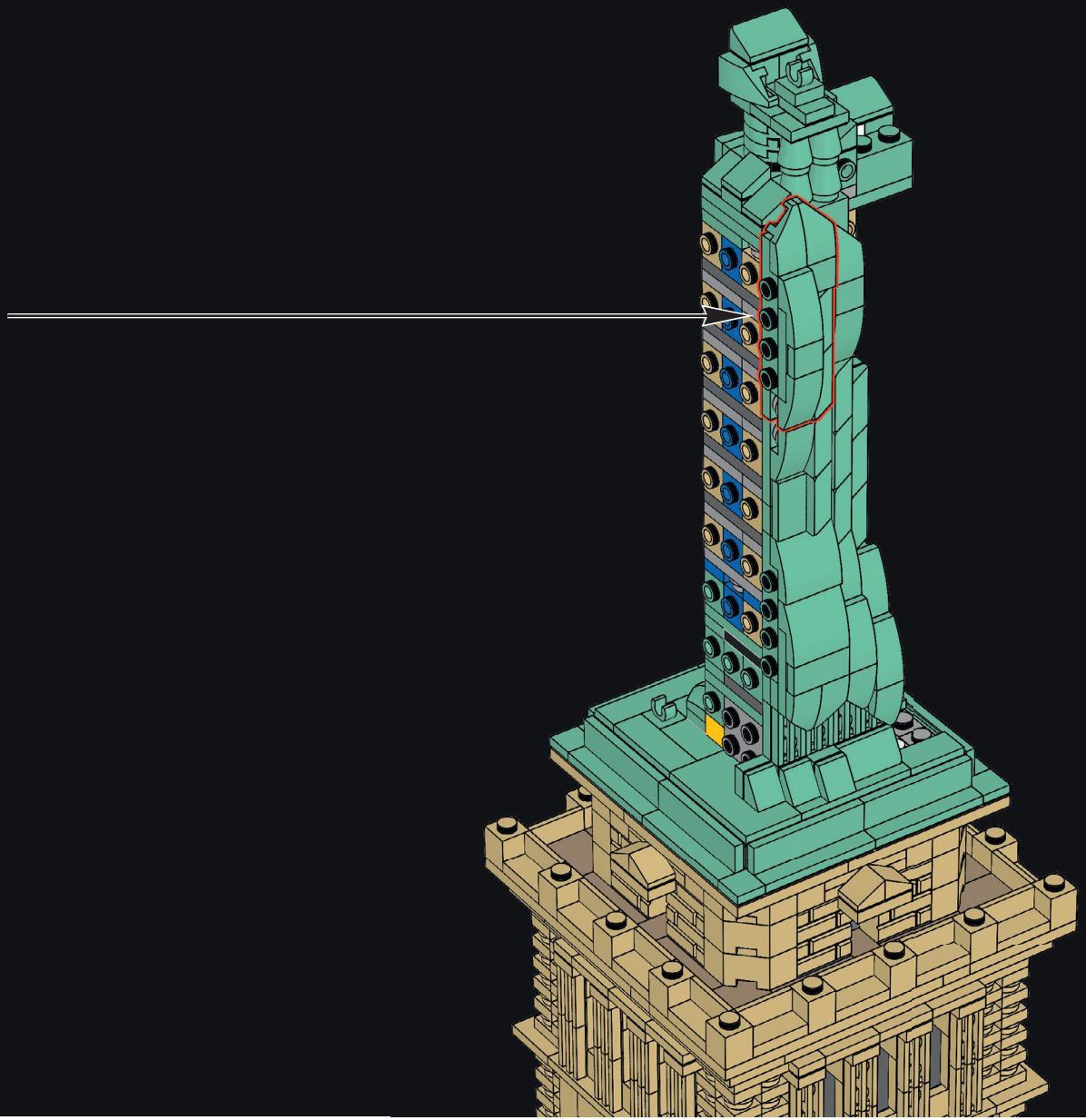

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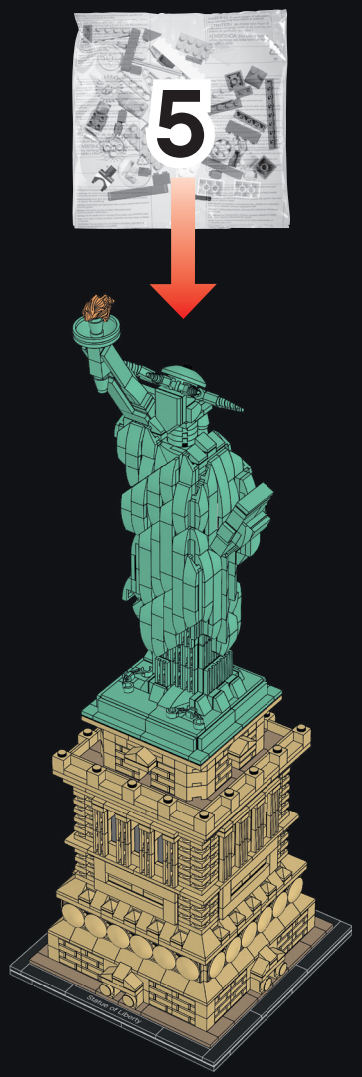

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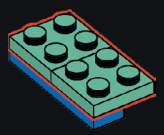

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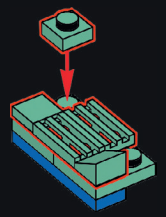

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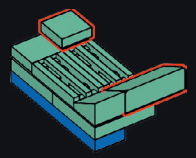

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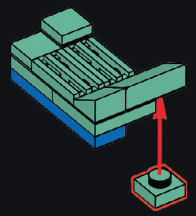

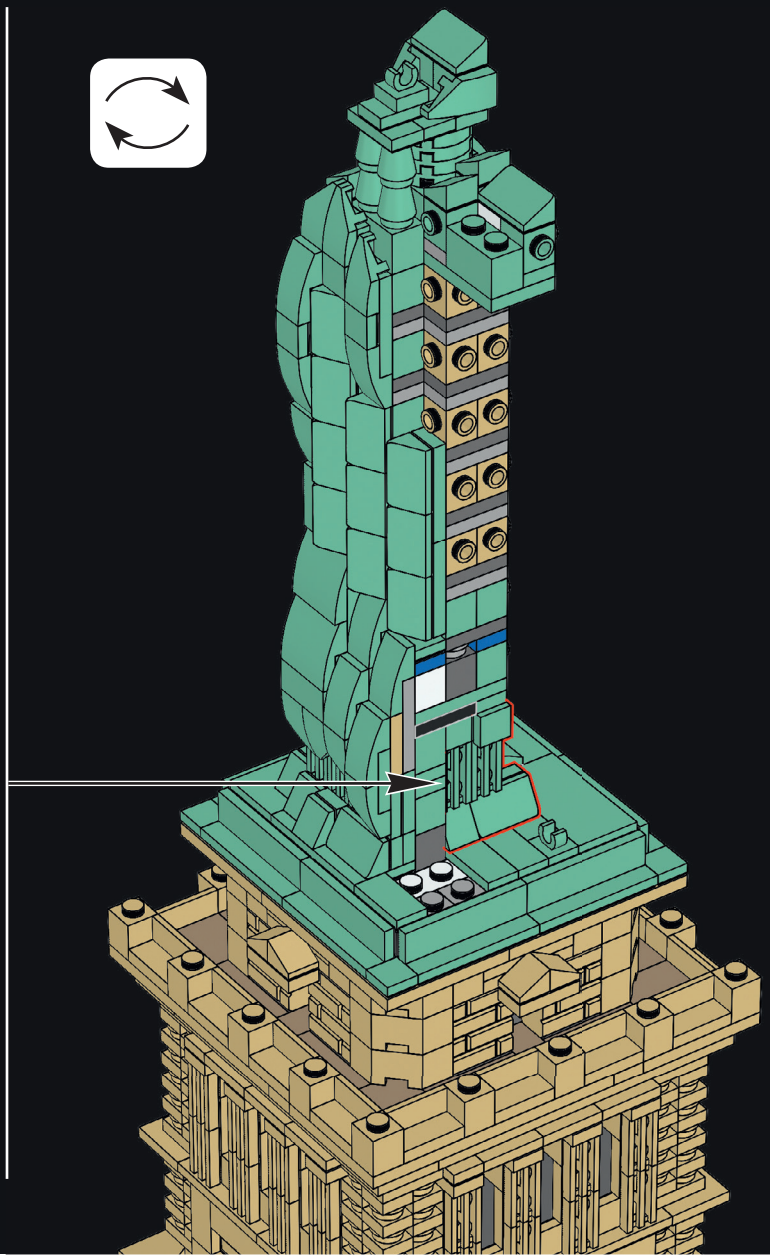

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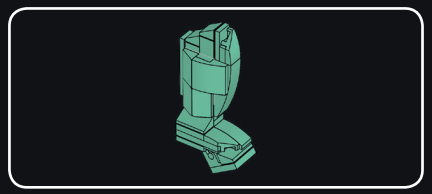

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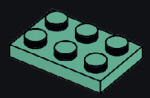

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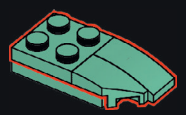

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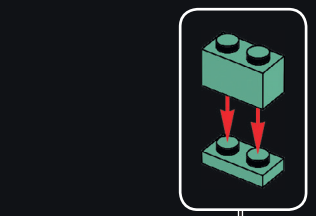

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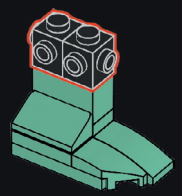

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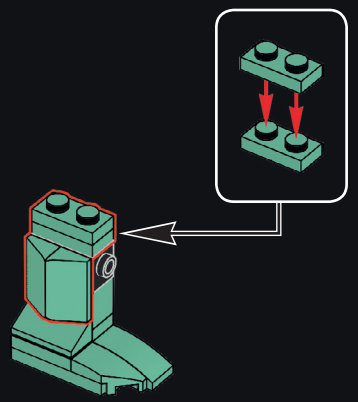

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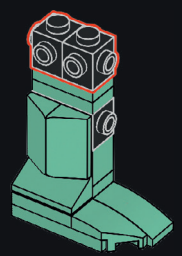

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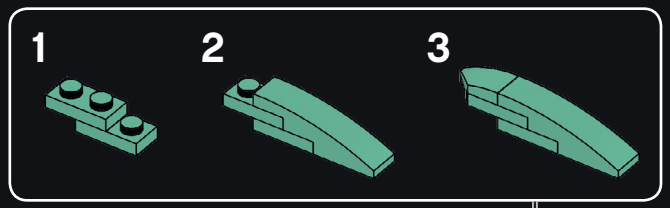

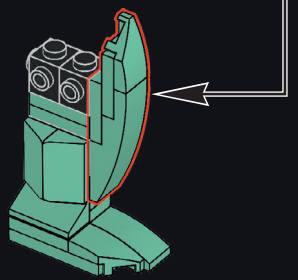

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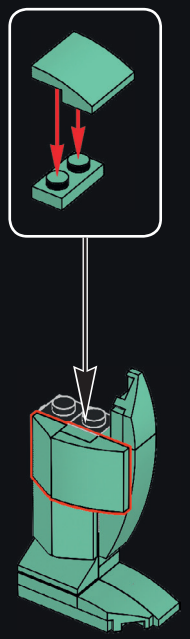

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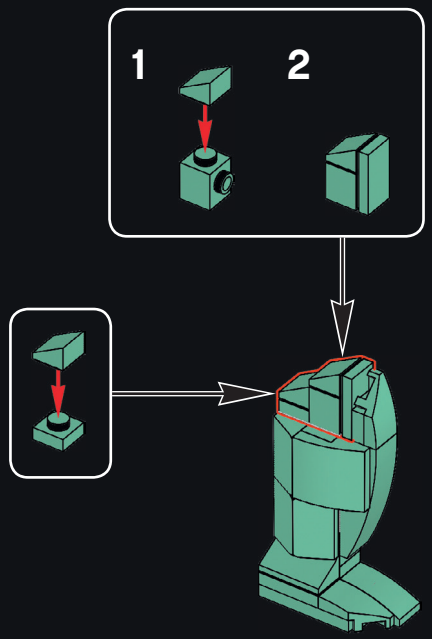

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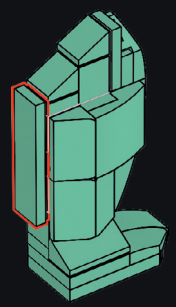

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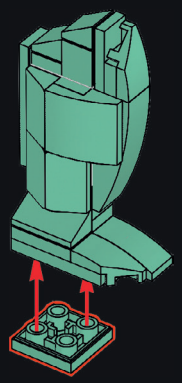

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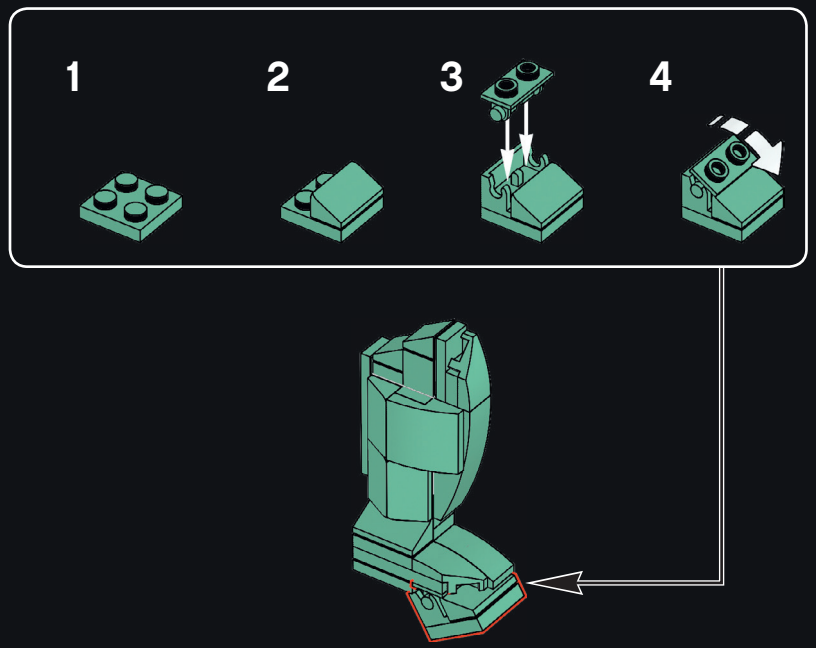

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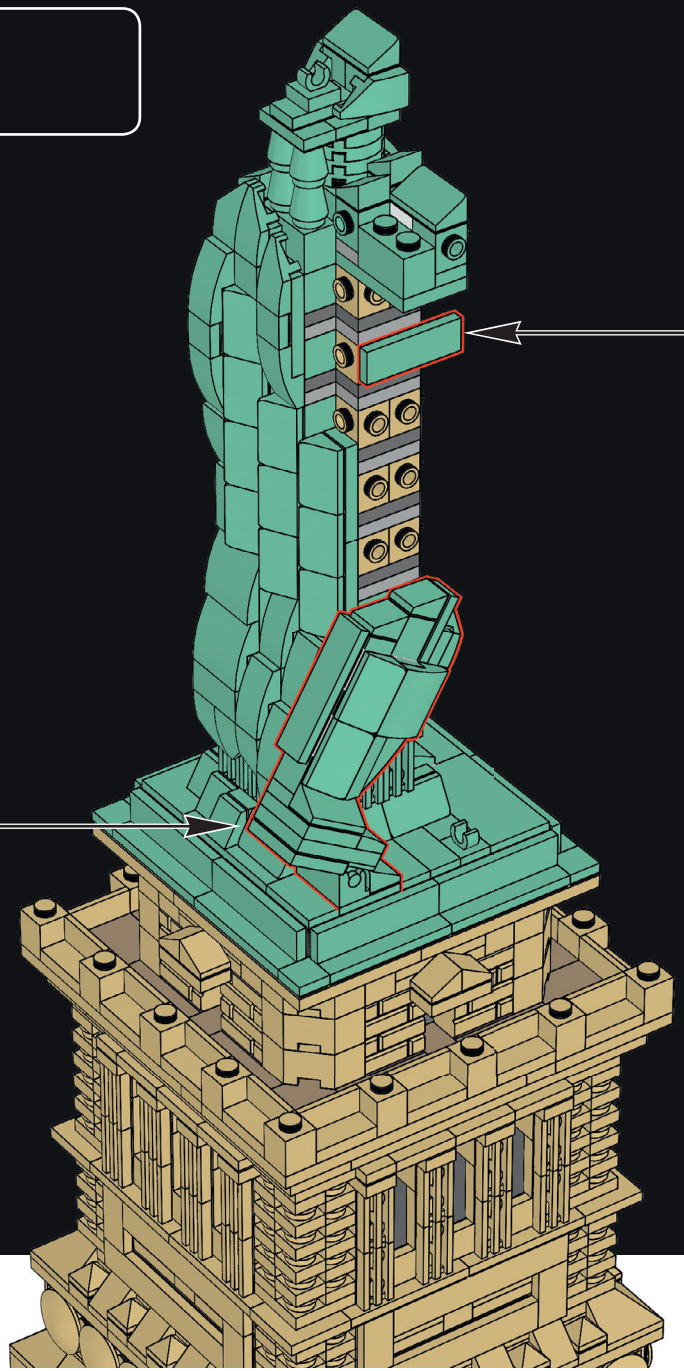

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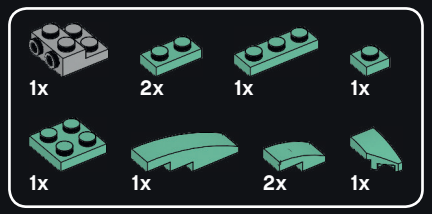

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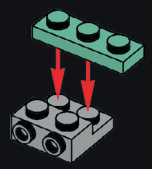

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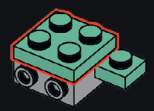

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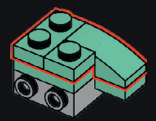

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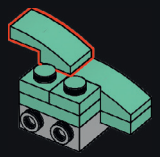

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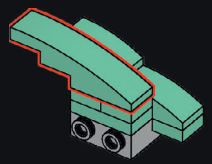

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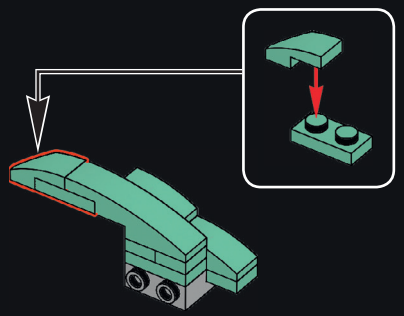

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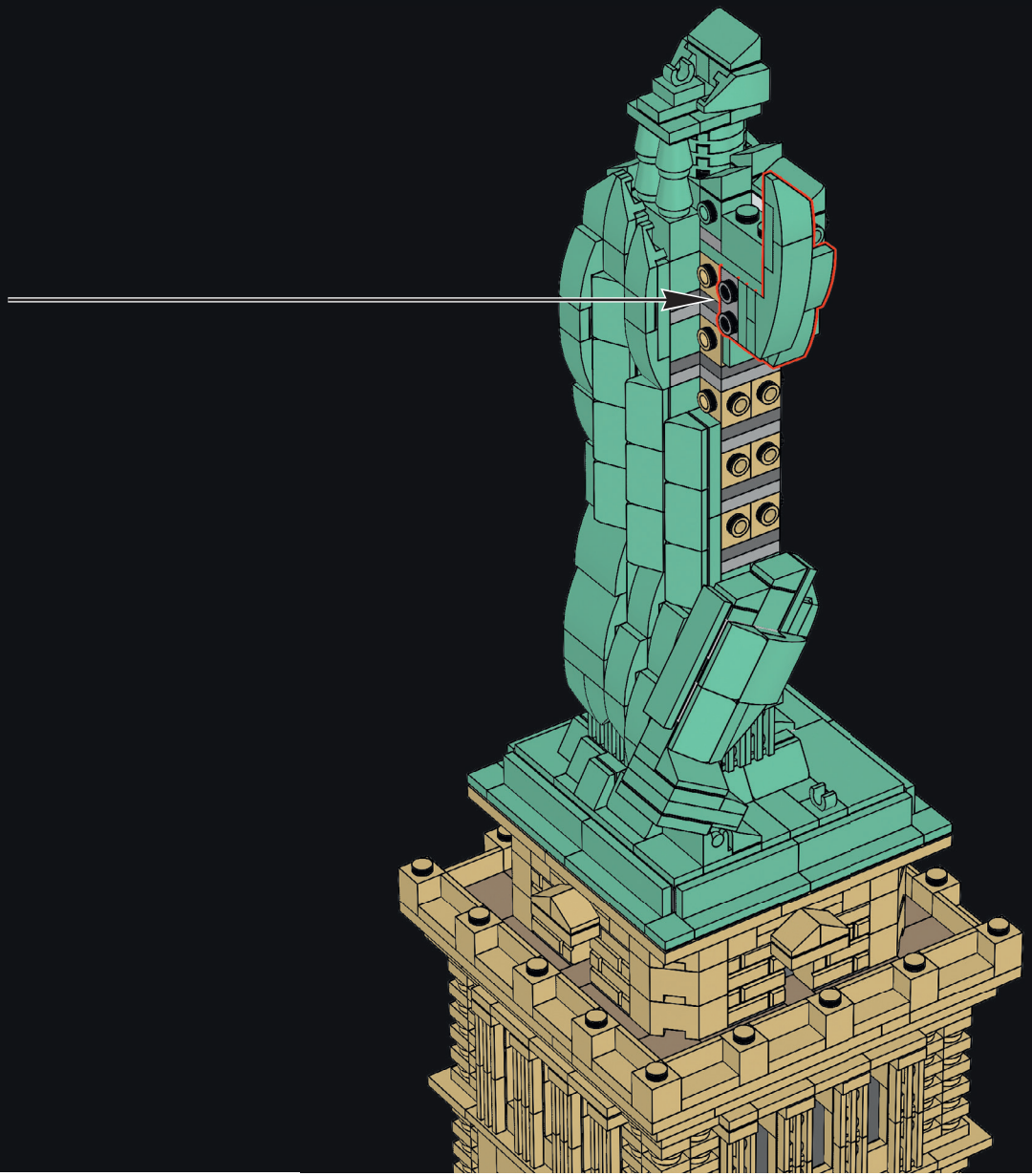

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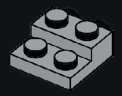

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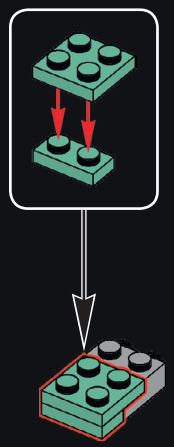

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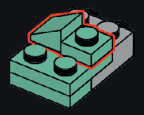

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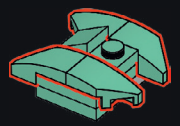

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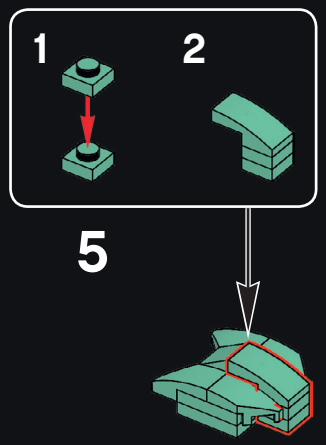

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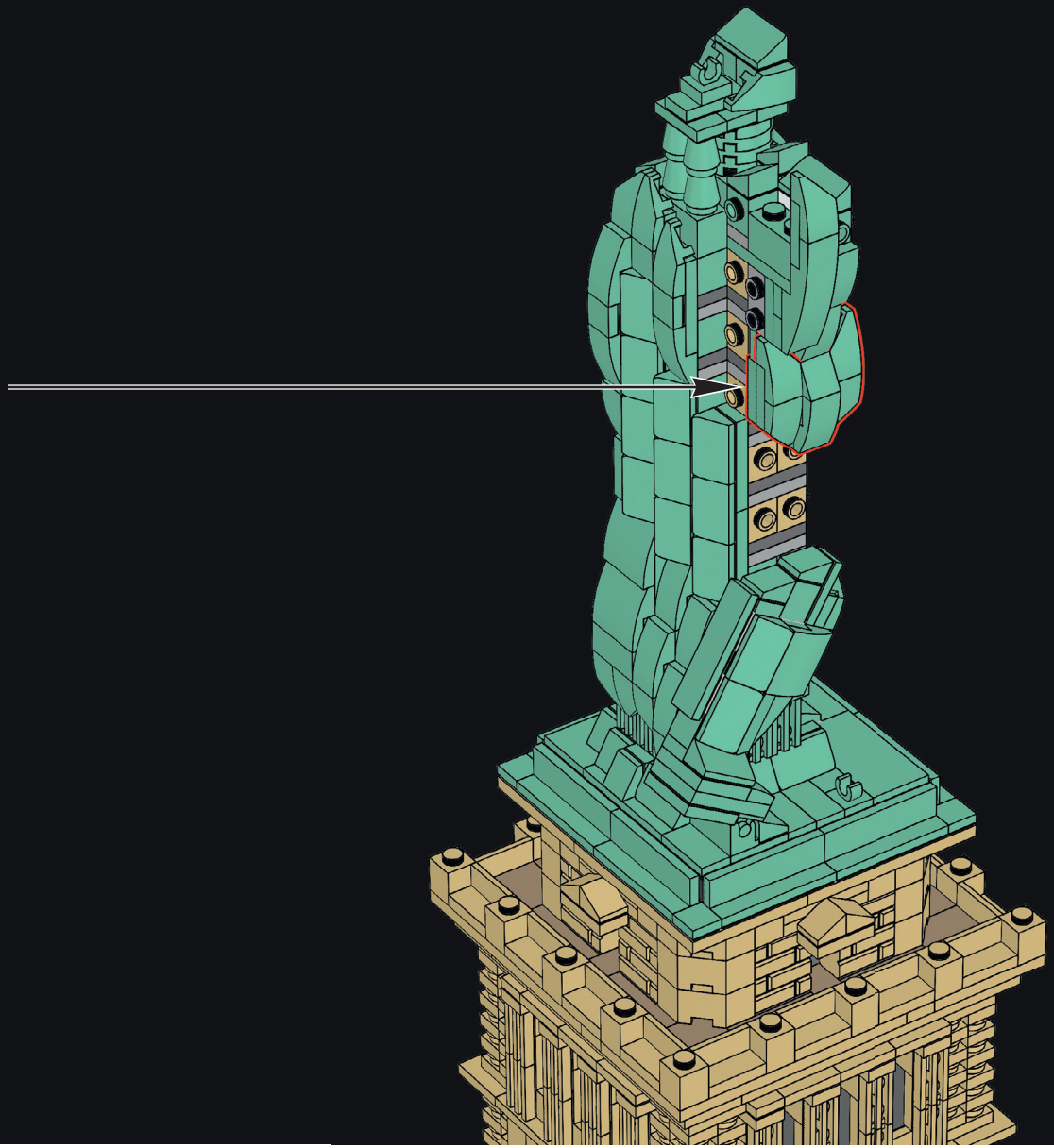

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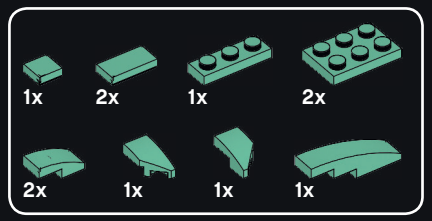

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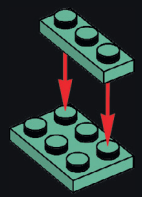

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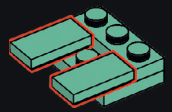

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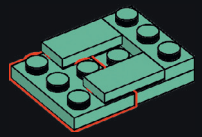

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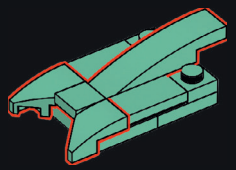

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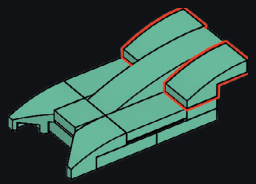

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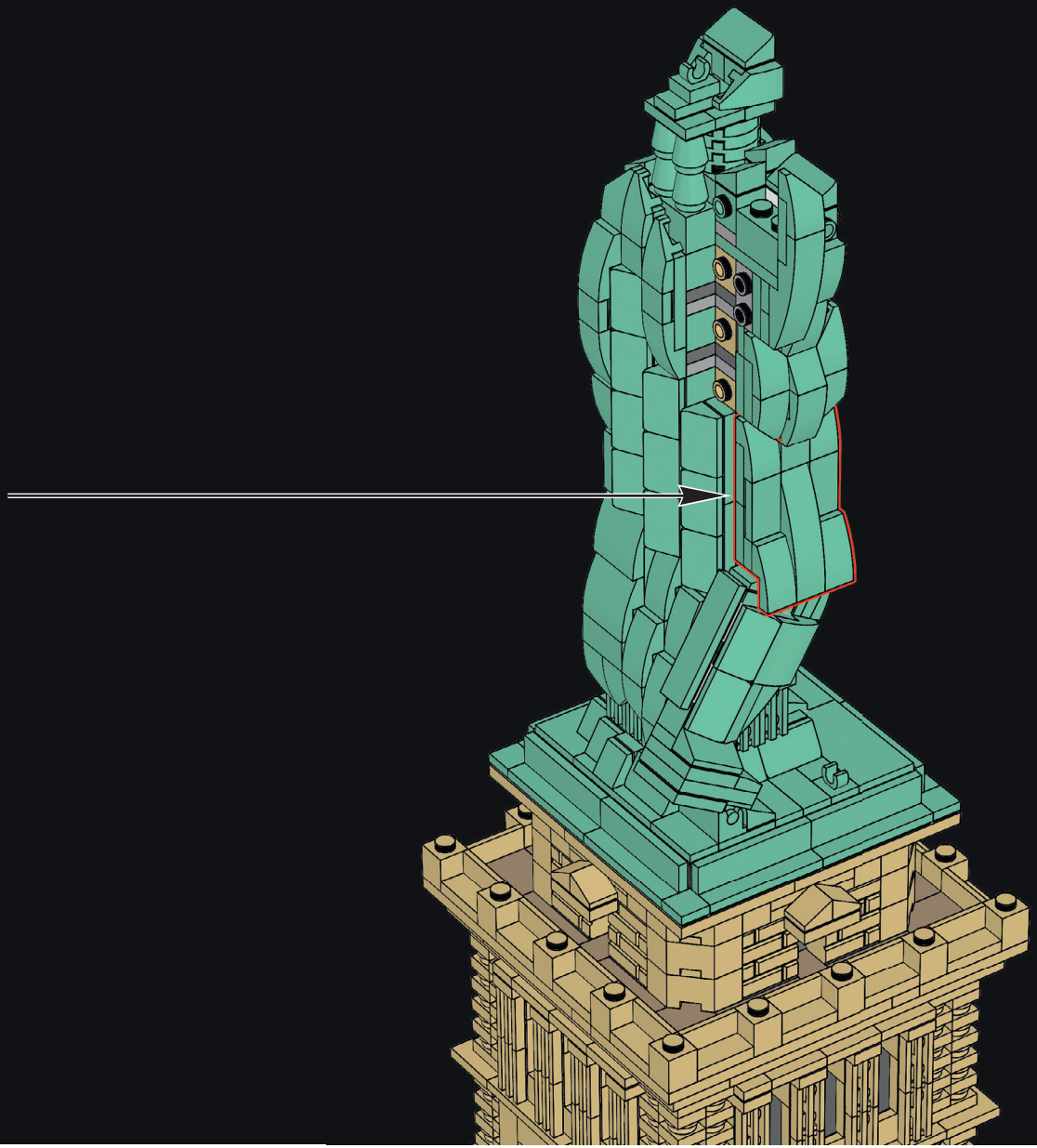

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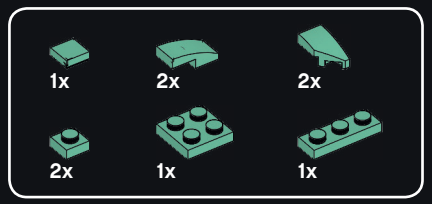

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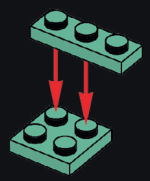

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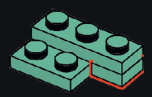

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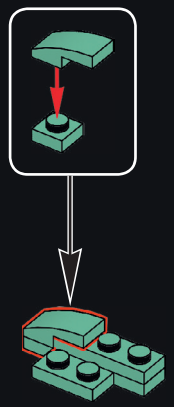

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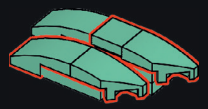

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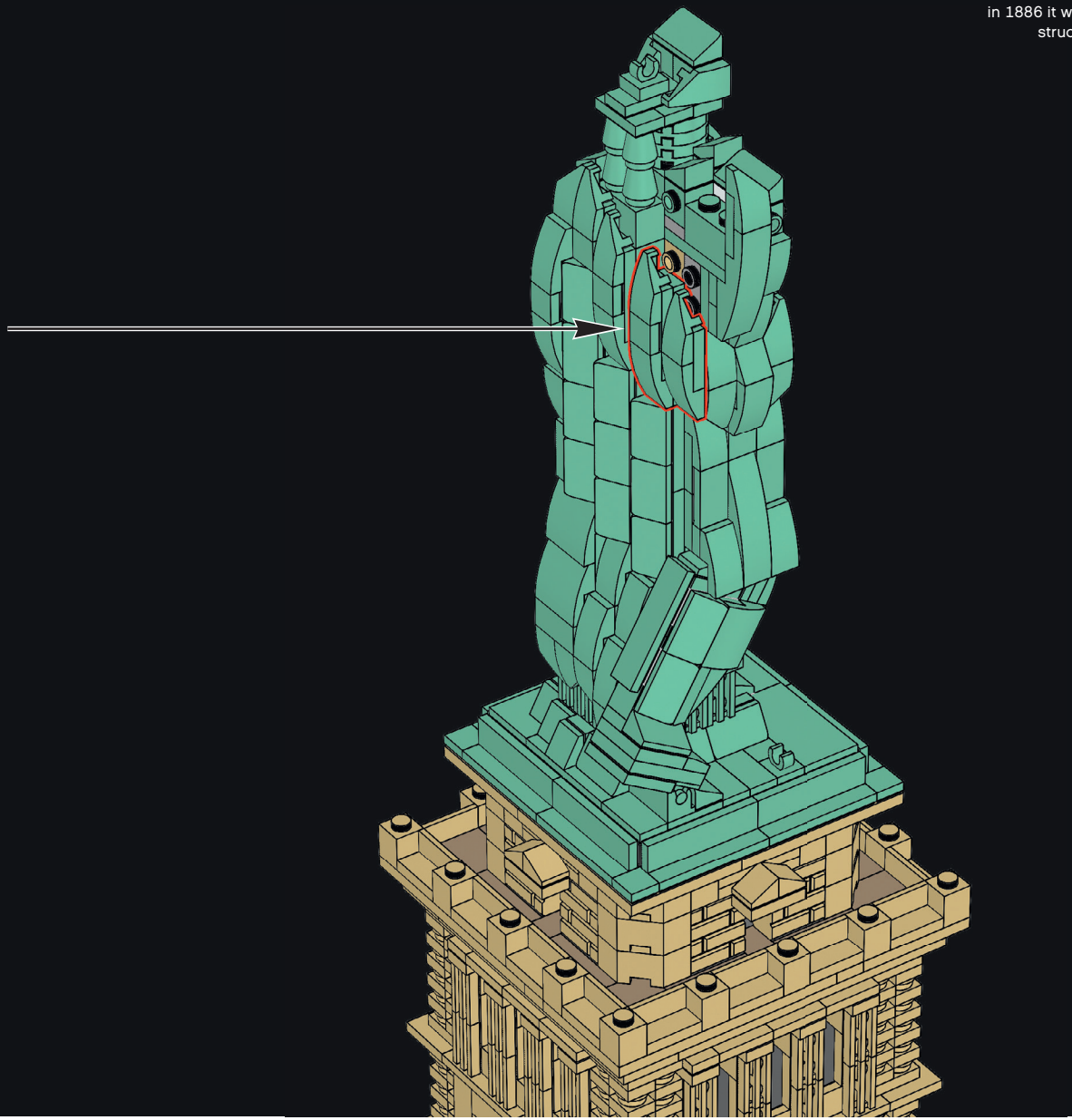
When the Statue was first erected in 1886 it was the tallest iron structure in the world.



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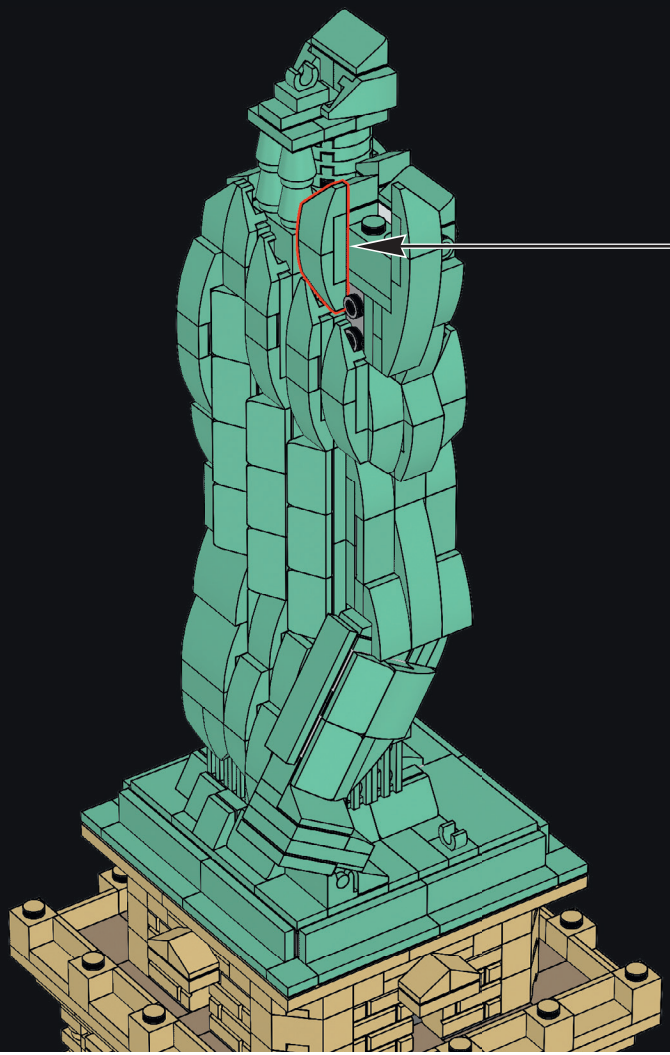

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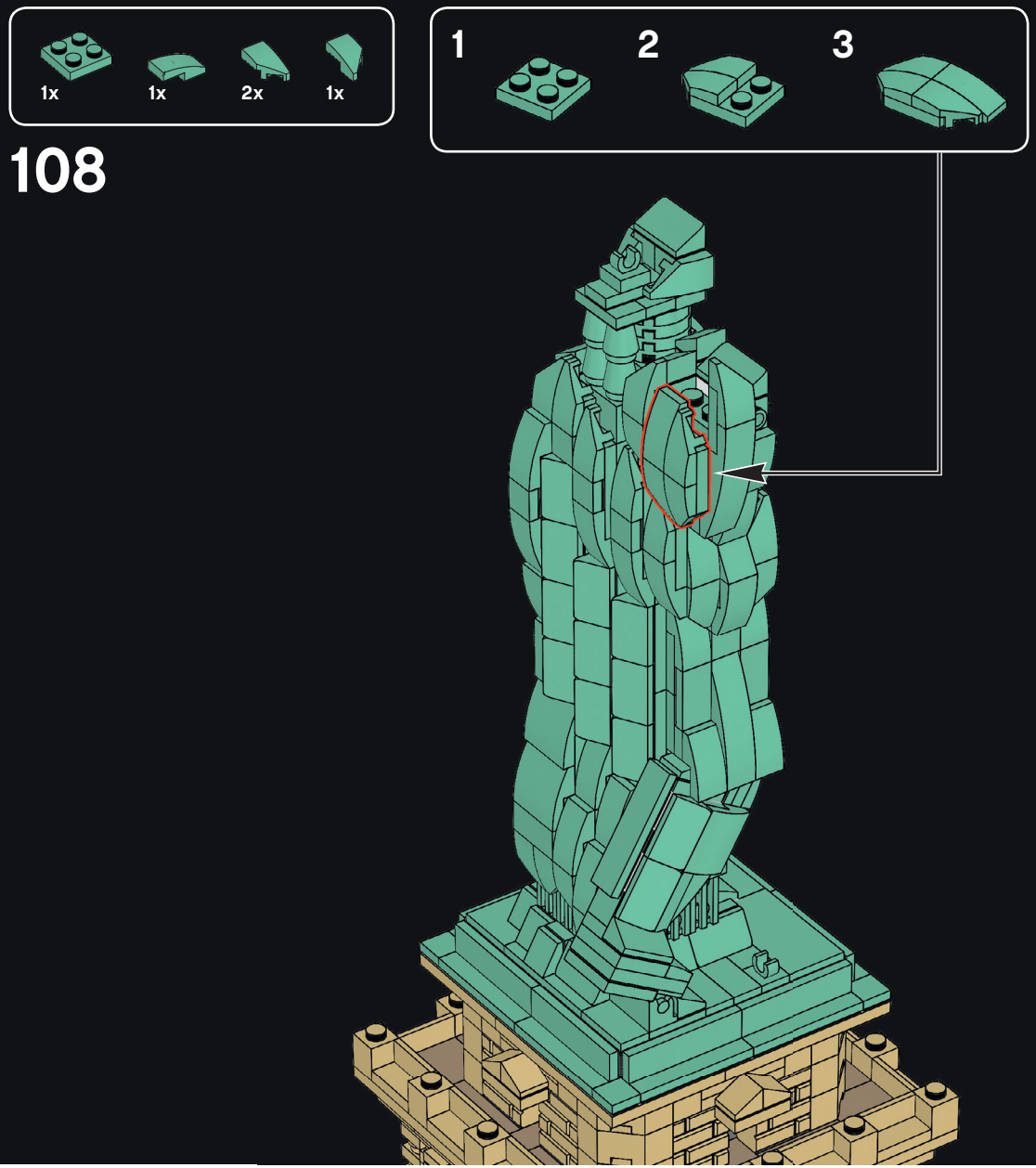

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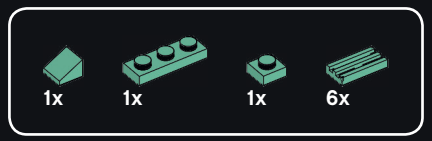

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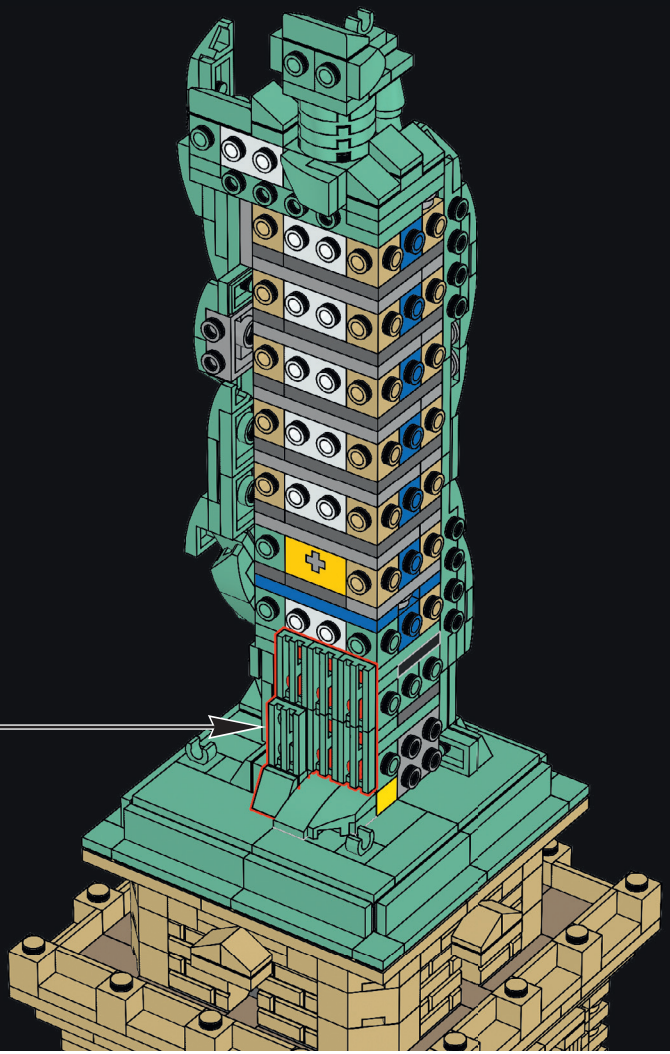

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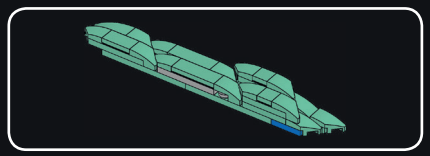

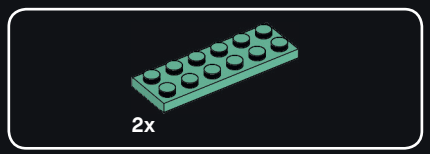

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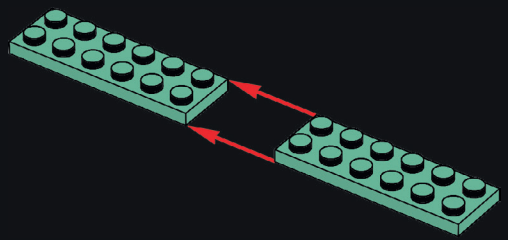

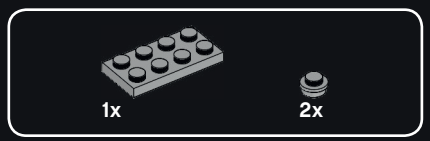

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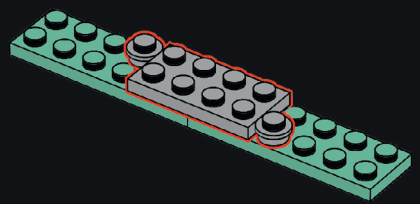

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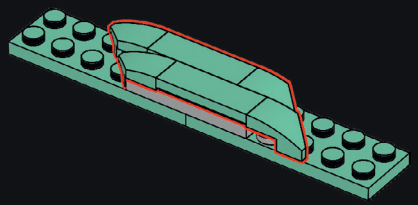

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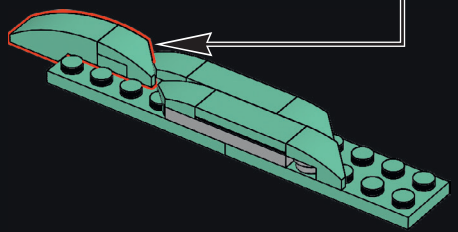

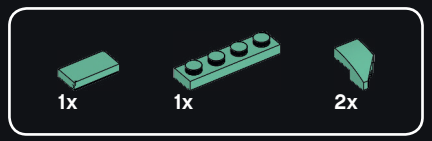

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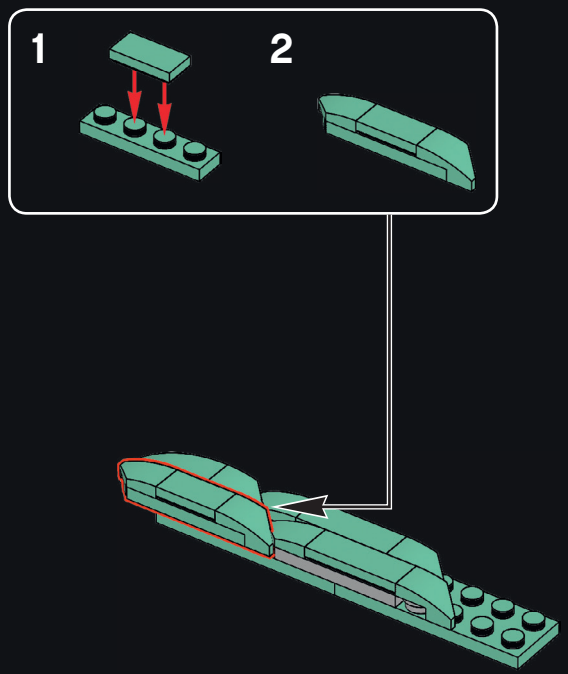

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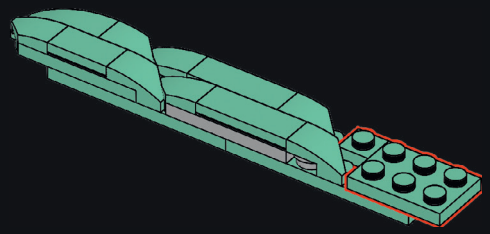

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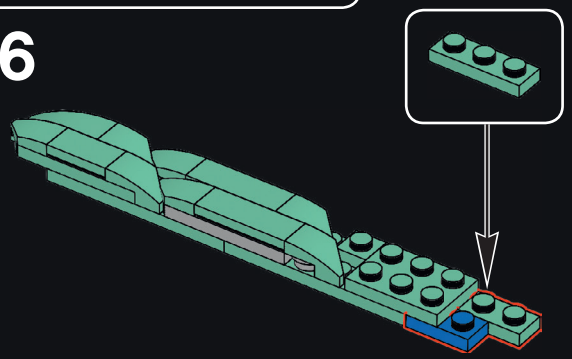

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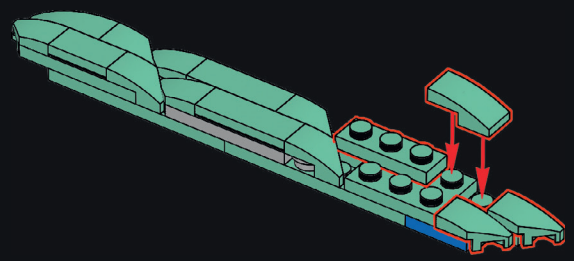

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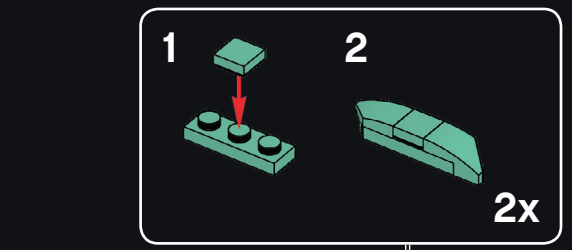

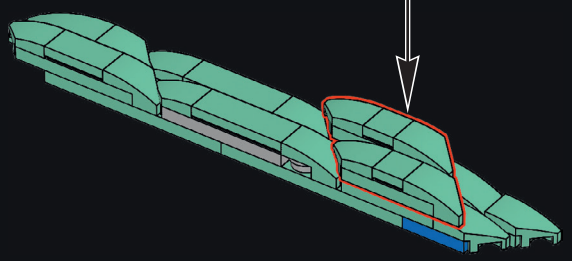

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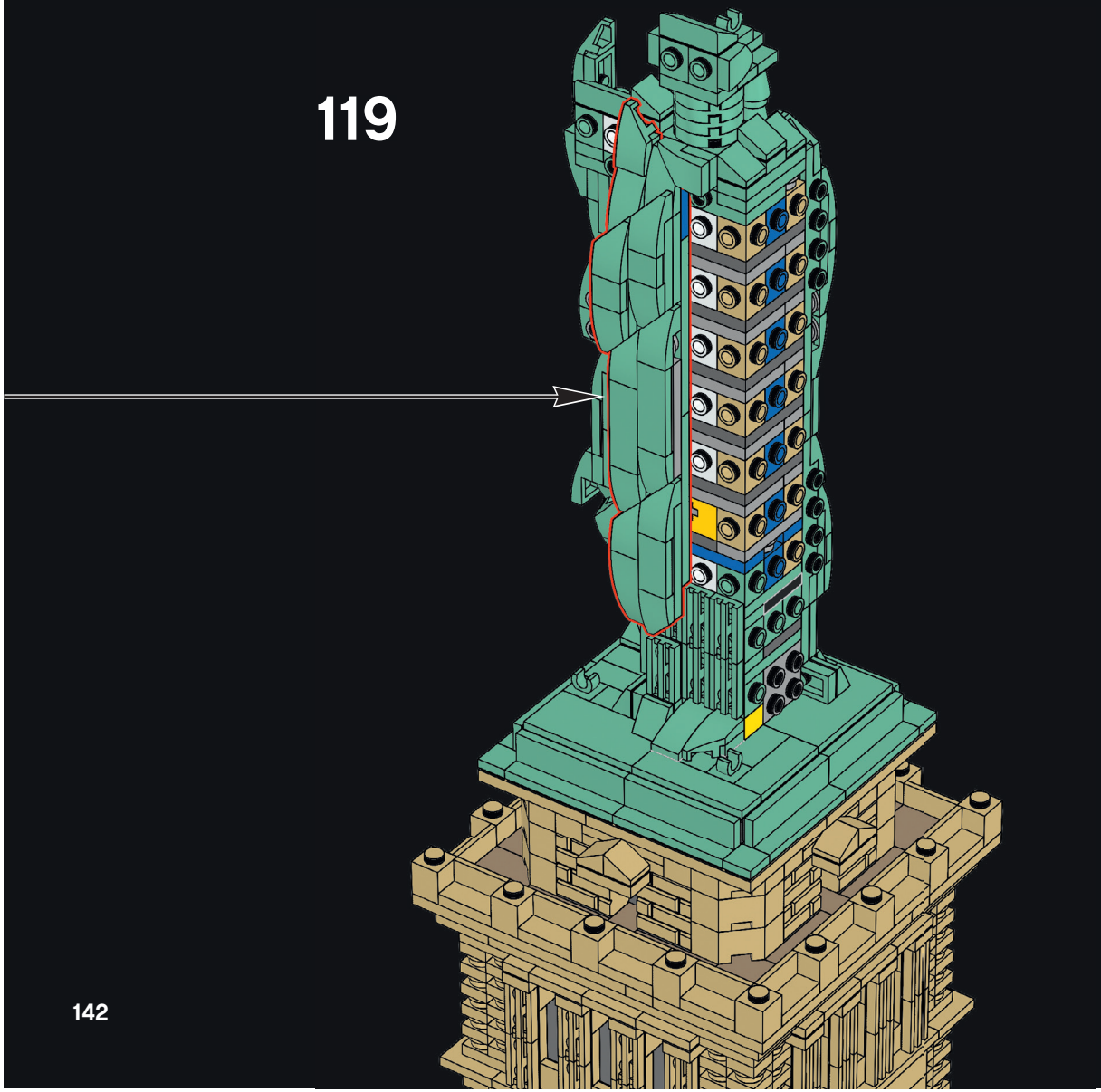

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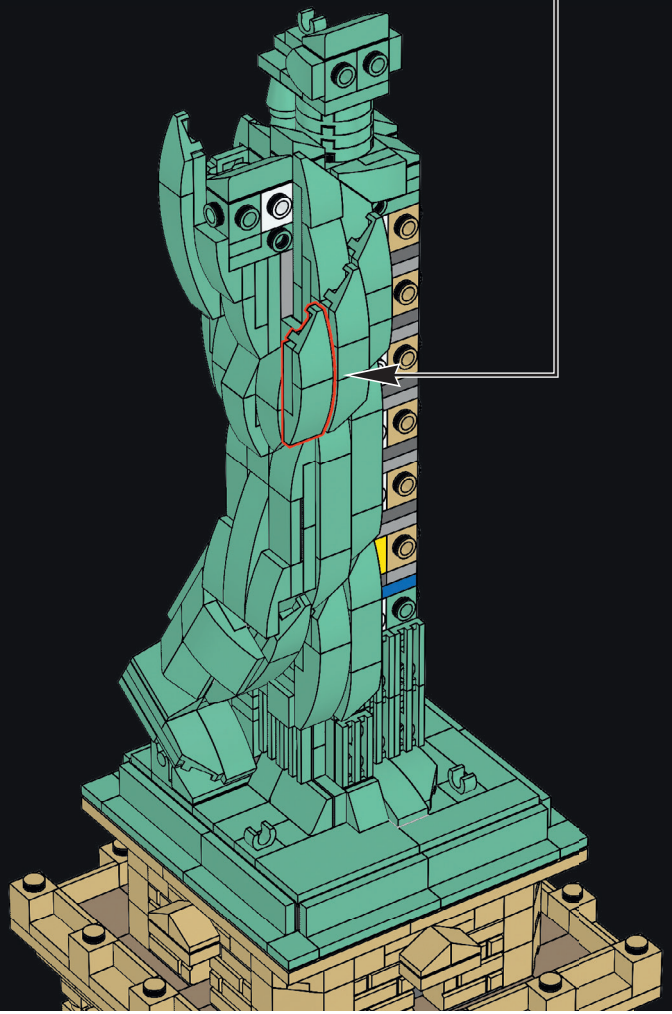

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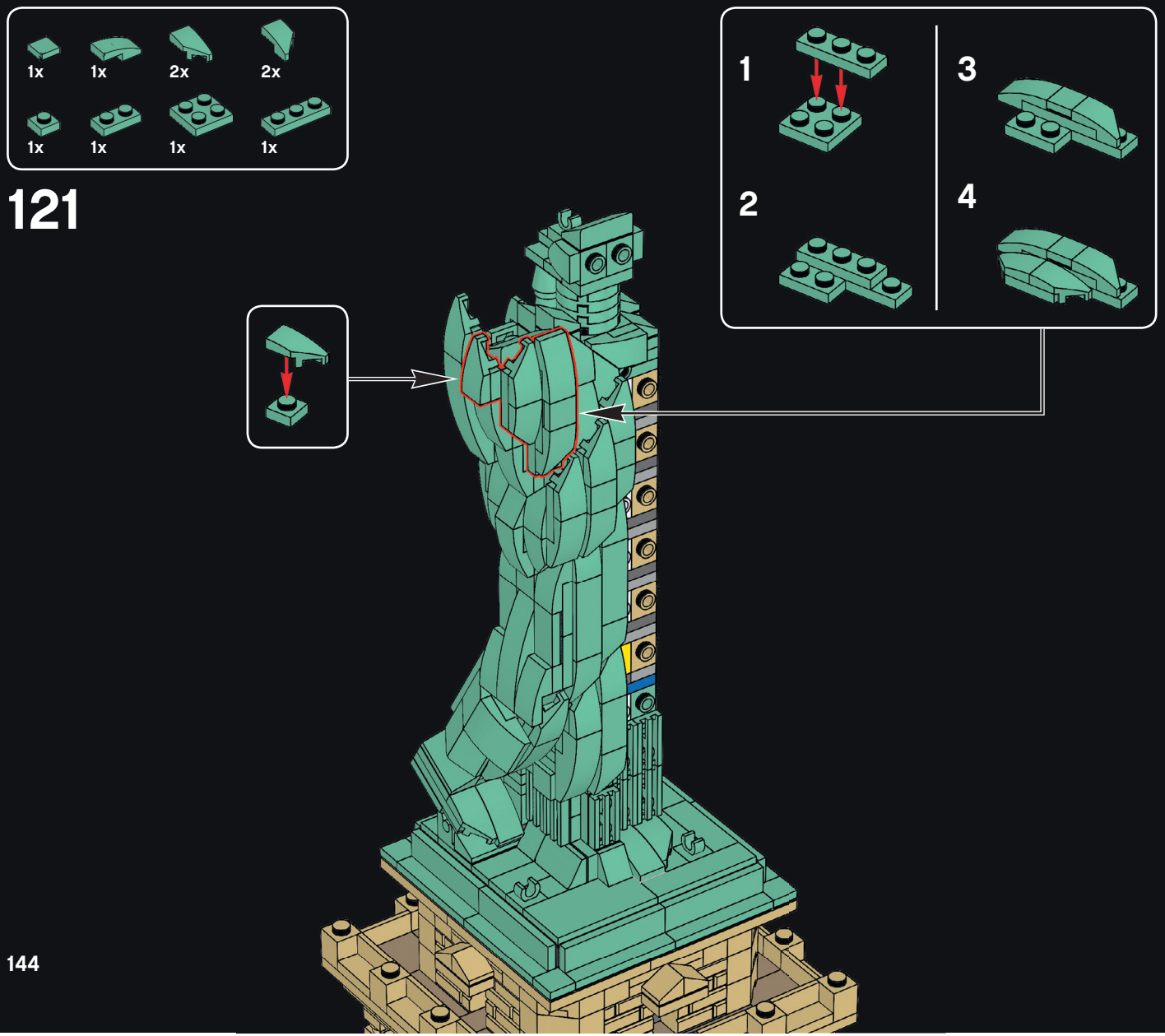

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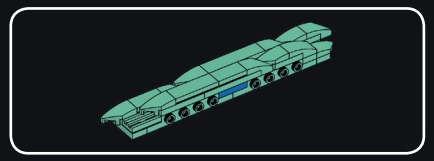

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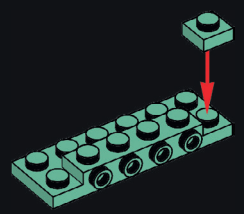

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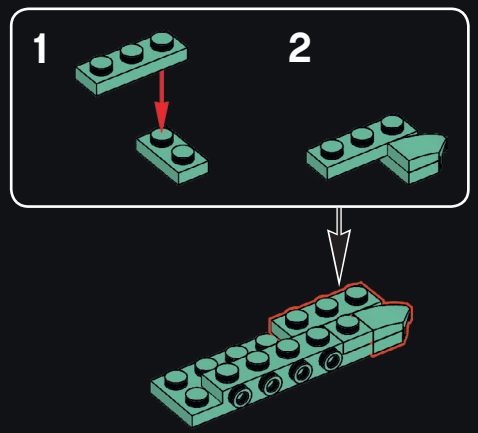

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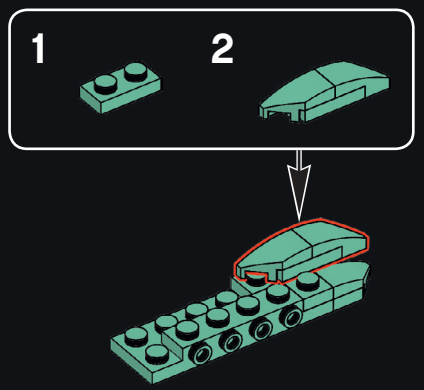

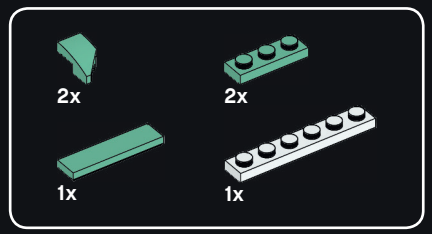

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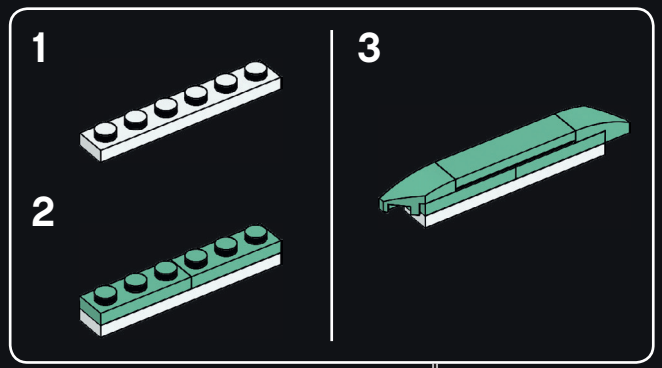

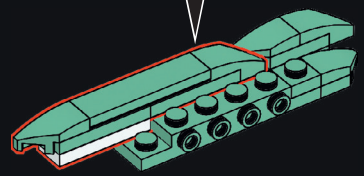

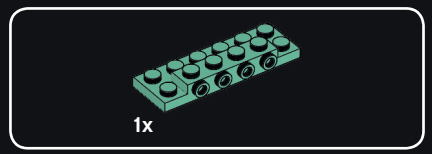

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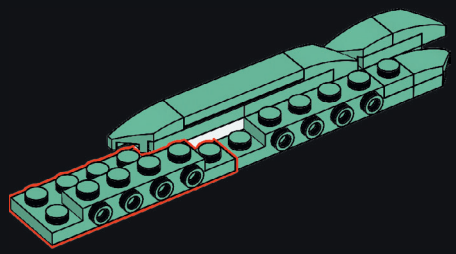

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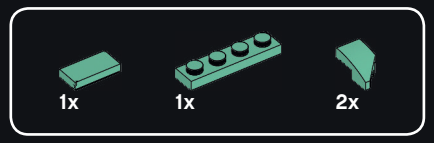

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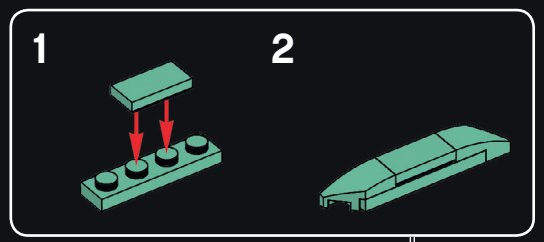

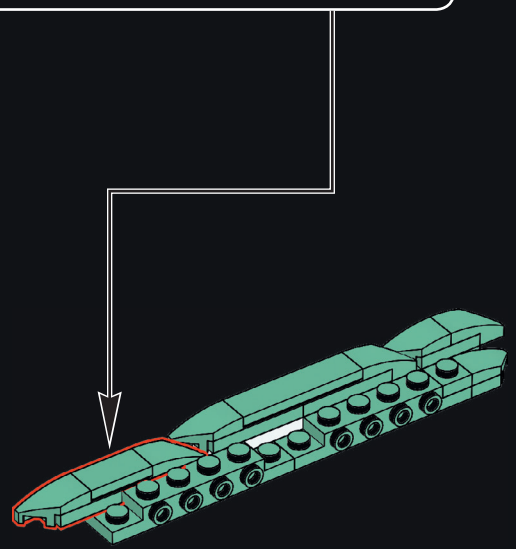

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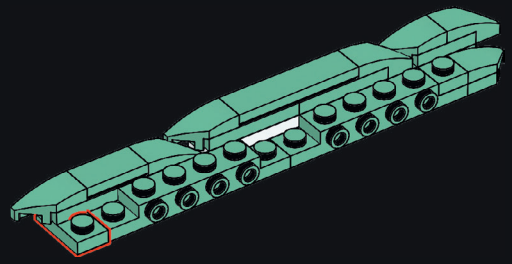

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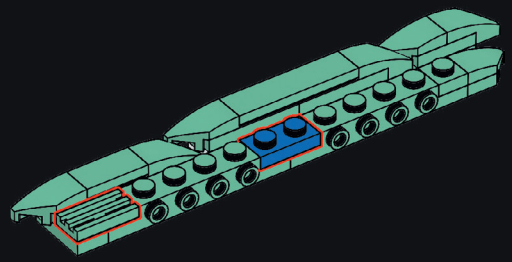

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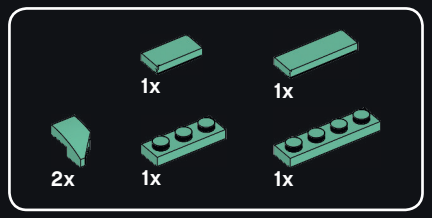

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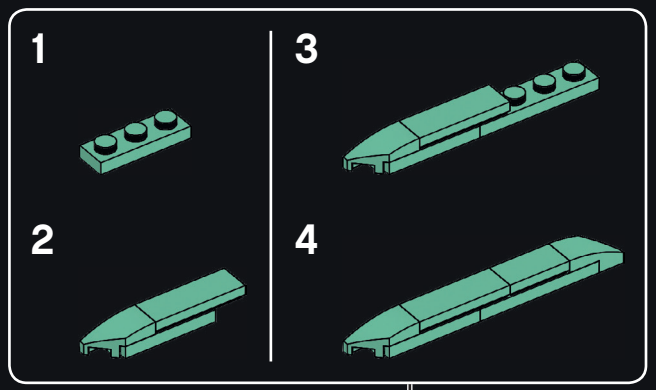

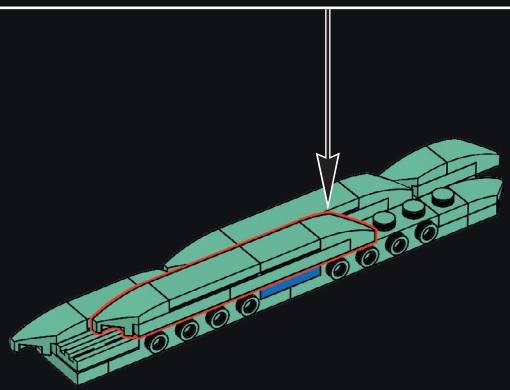

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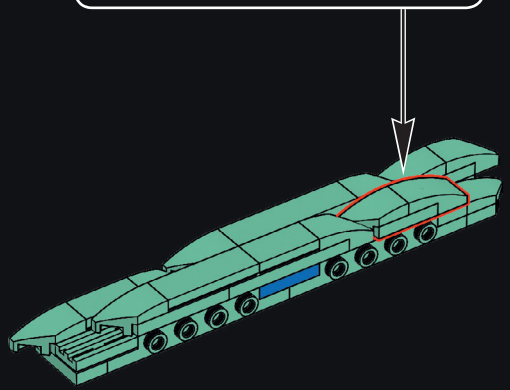

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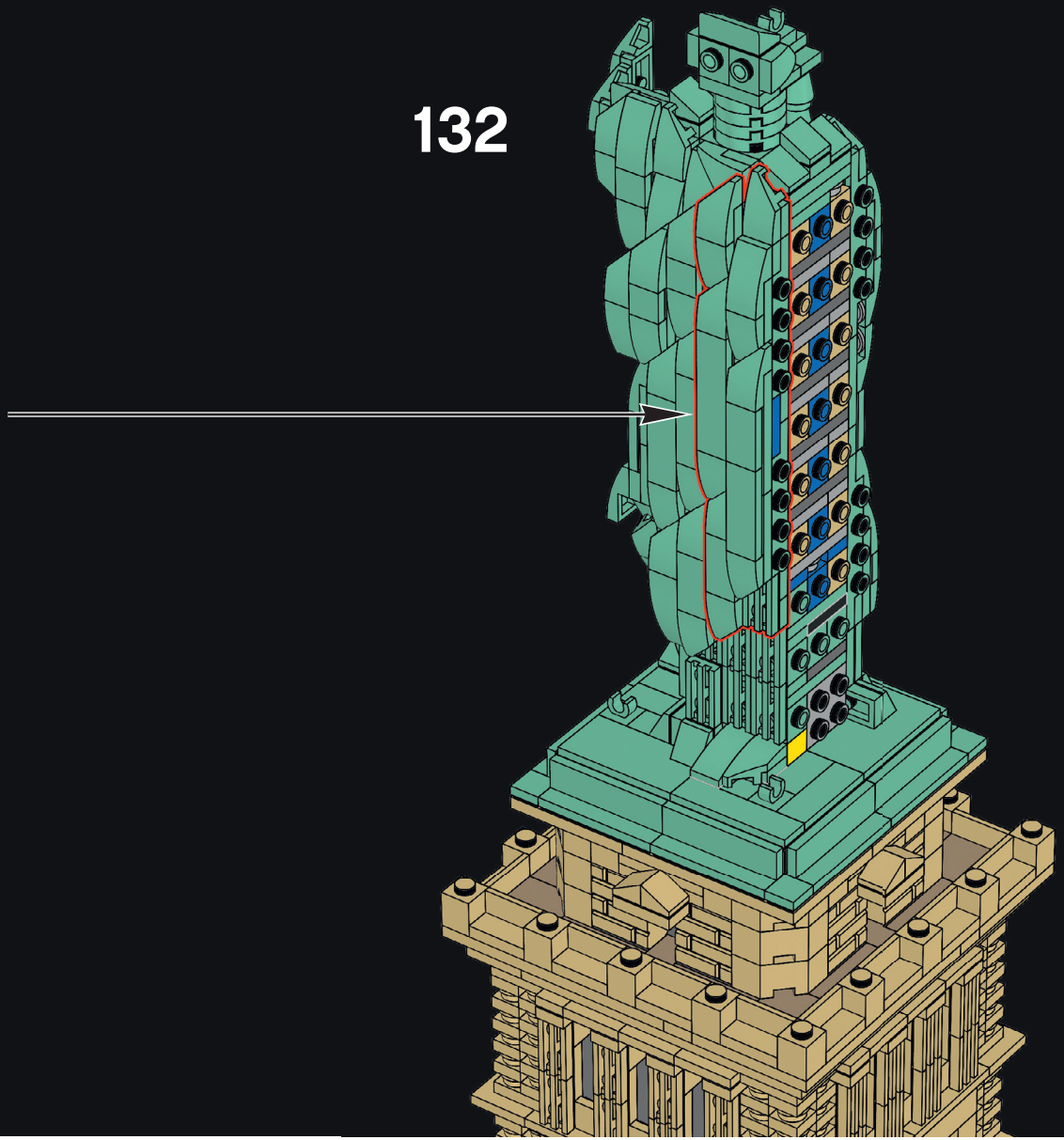

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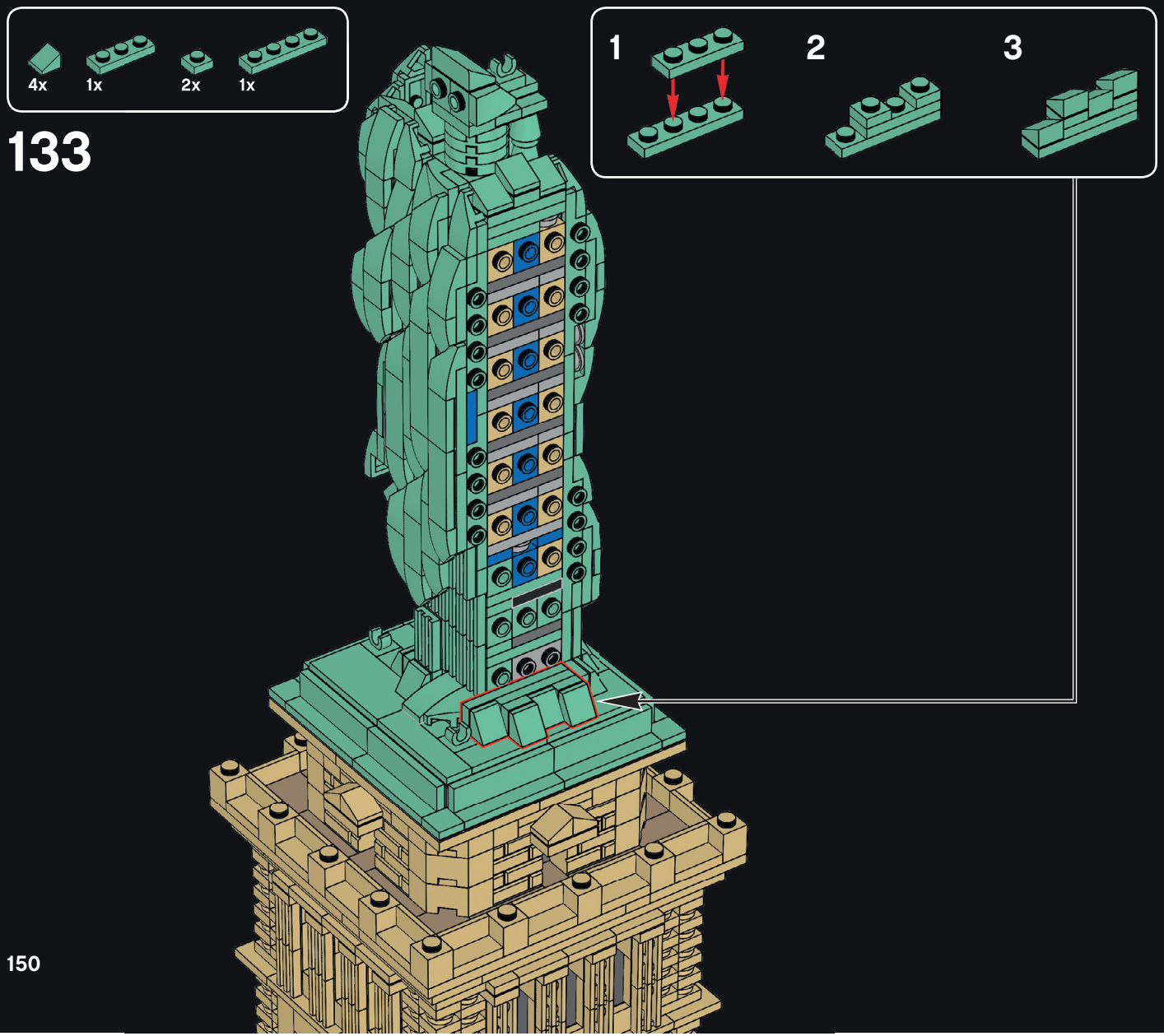

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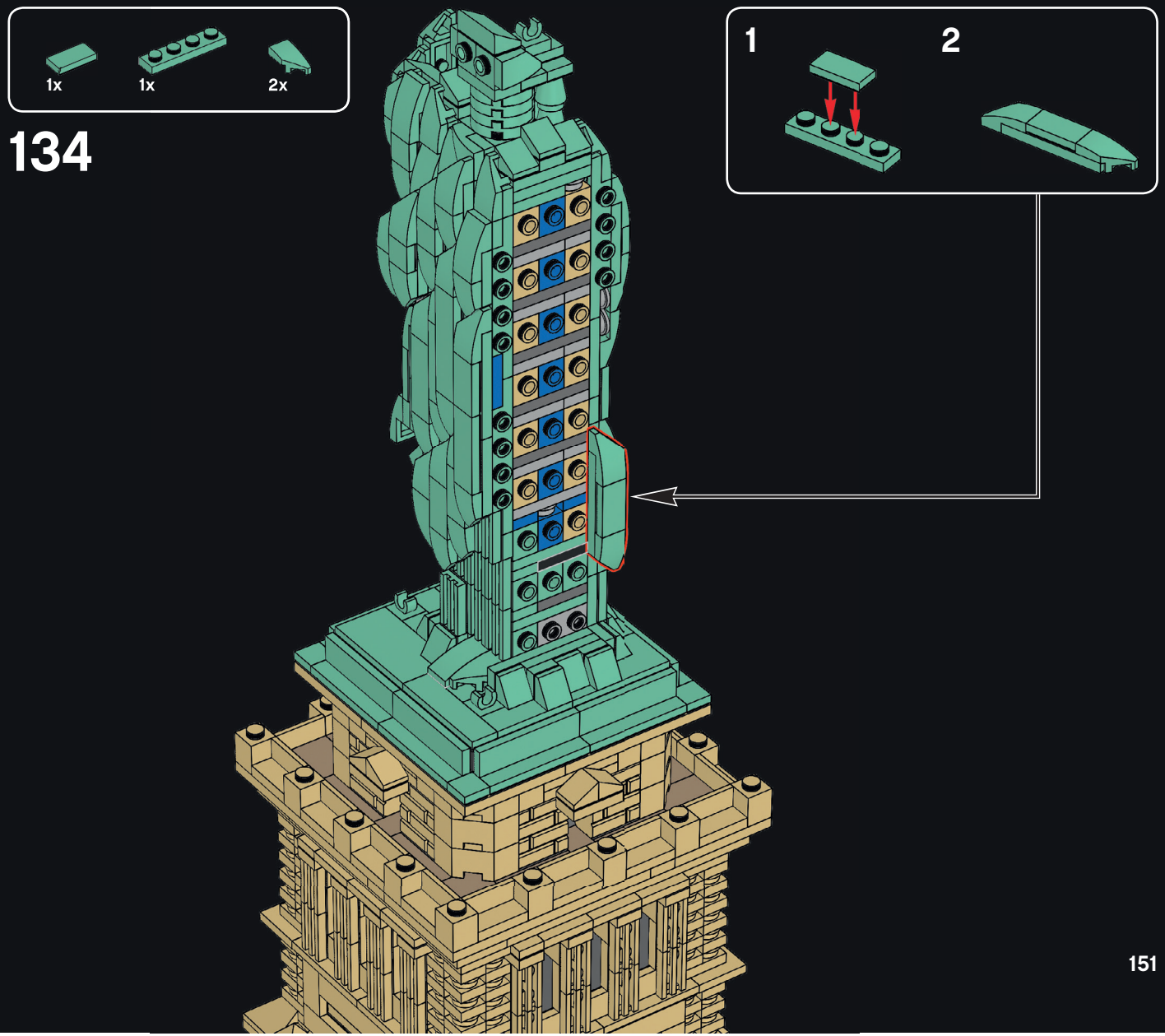
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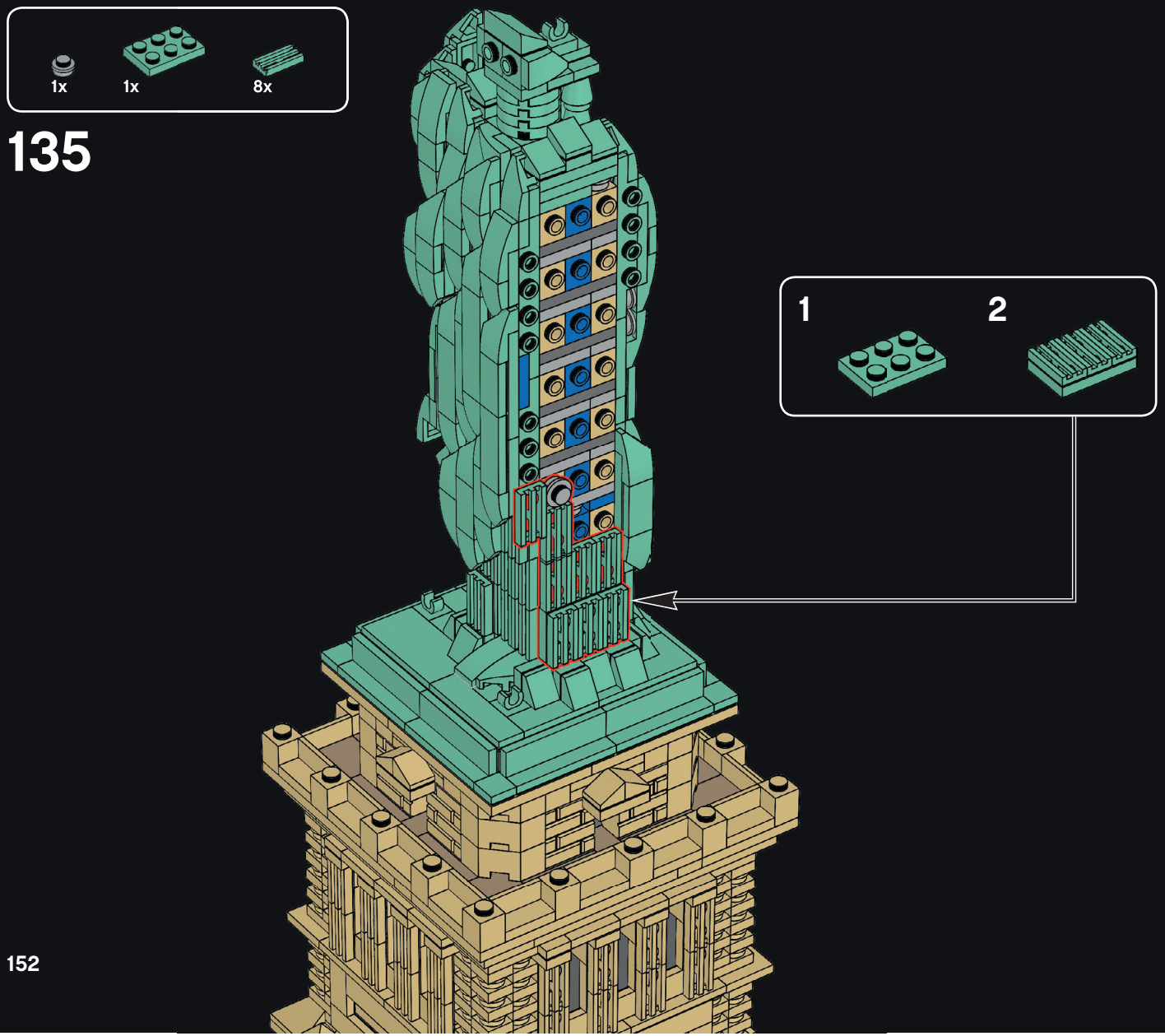

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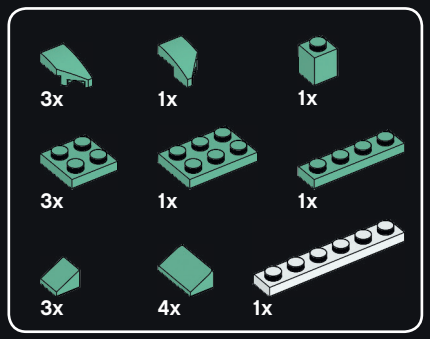

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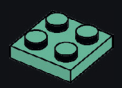

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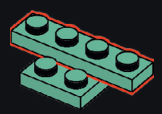

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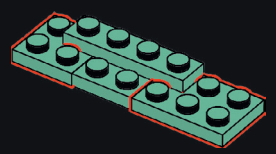

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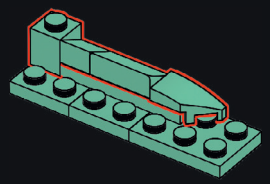

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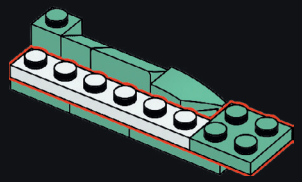

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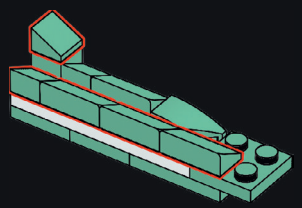

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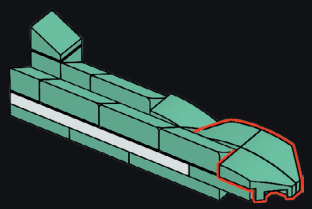

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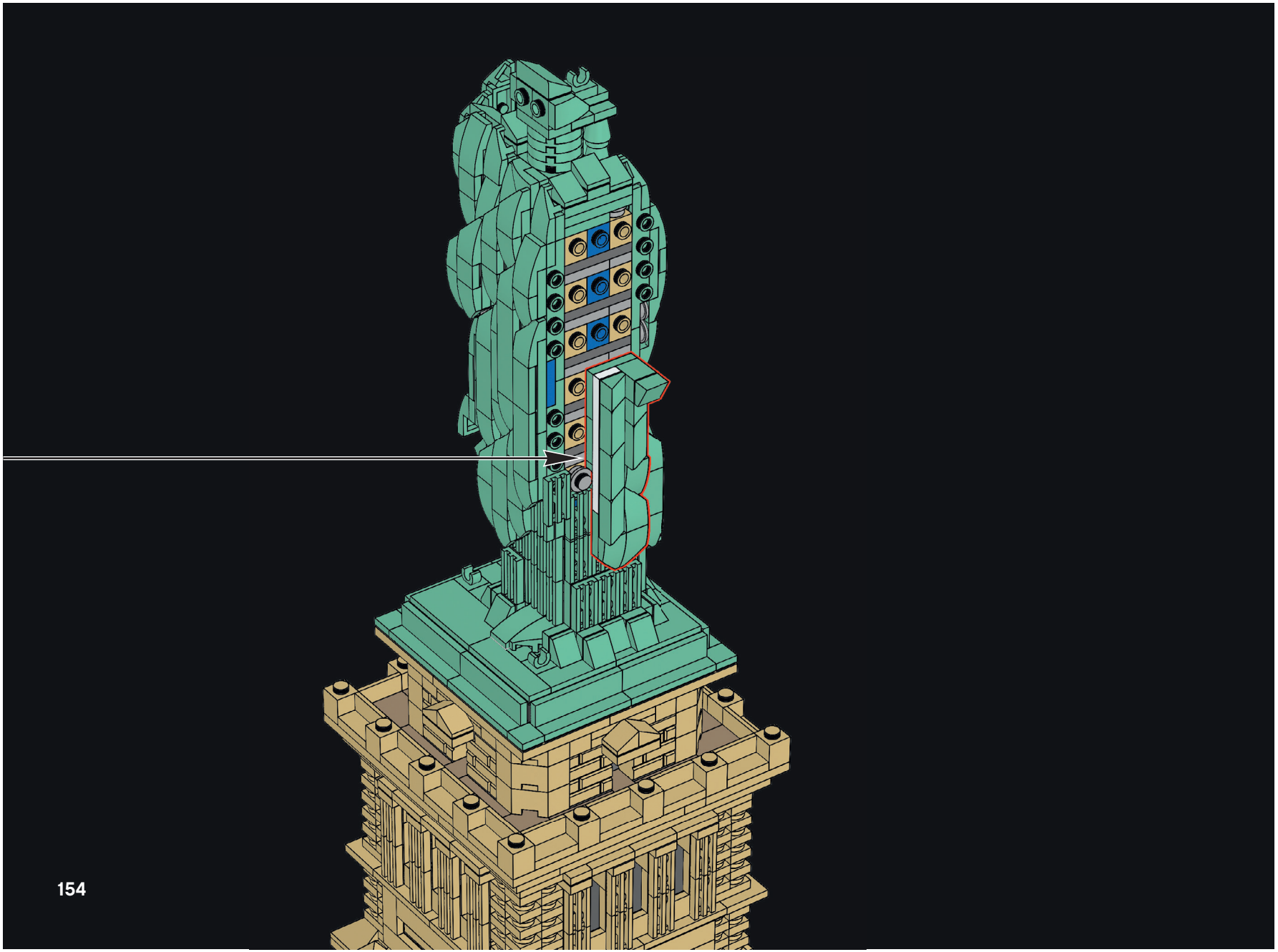

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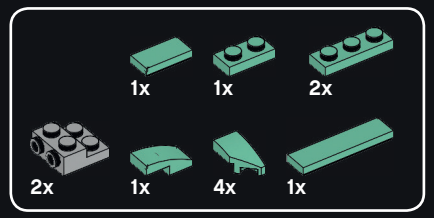

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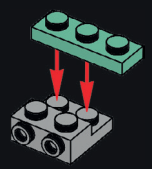

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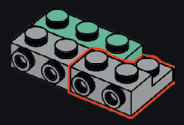

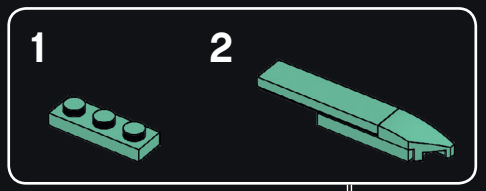

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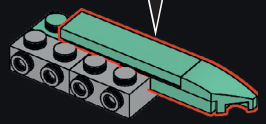

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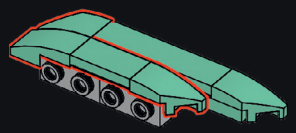

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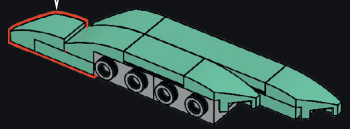

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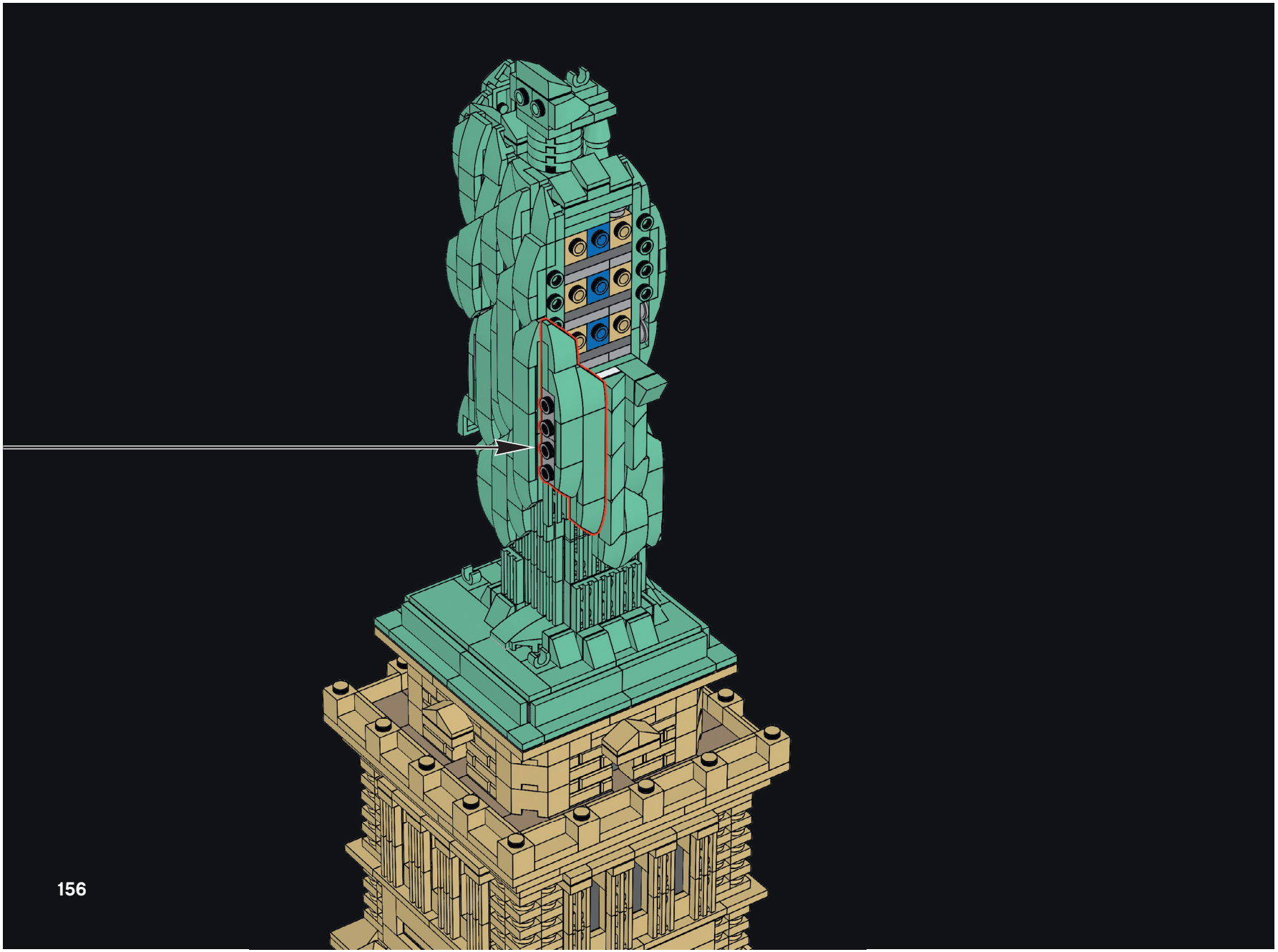

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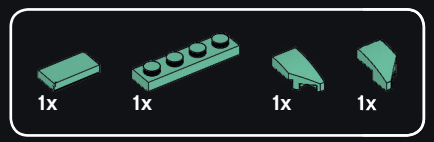

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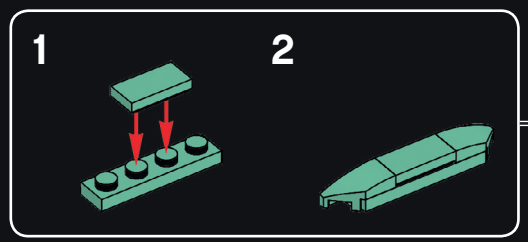

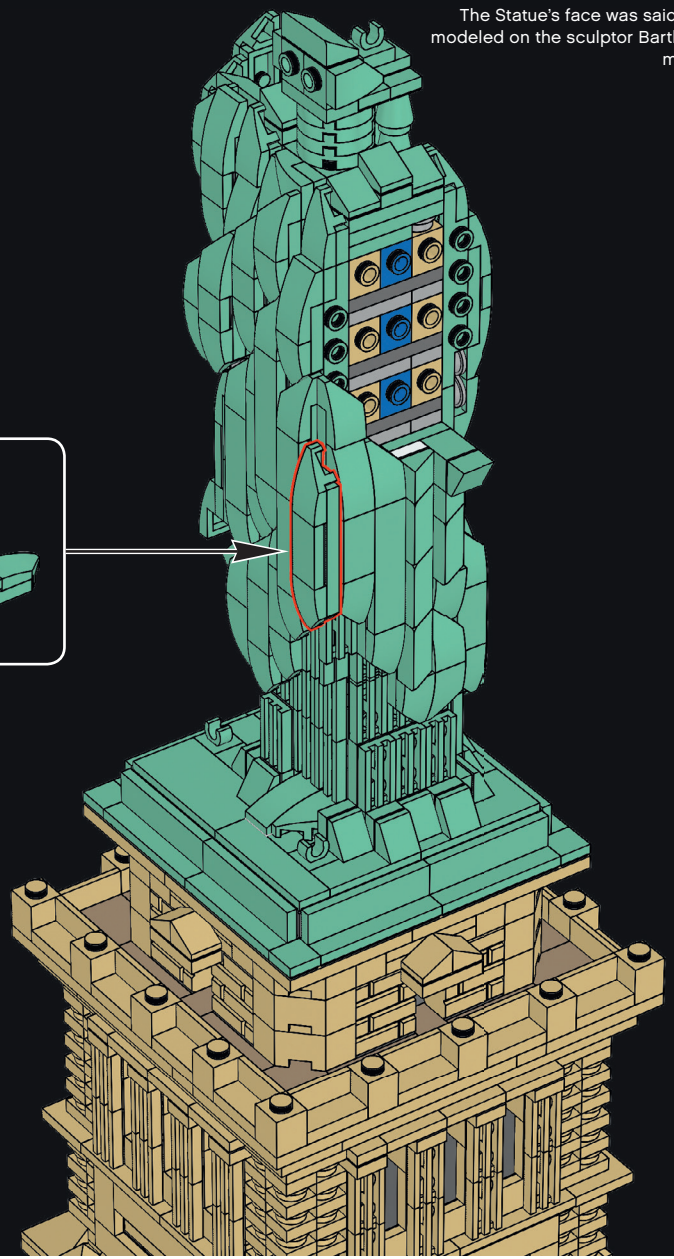

The Statue's face was said to be modeled on the sculptor Bartholdi's mother.

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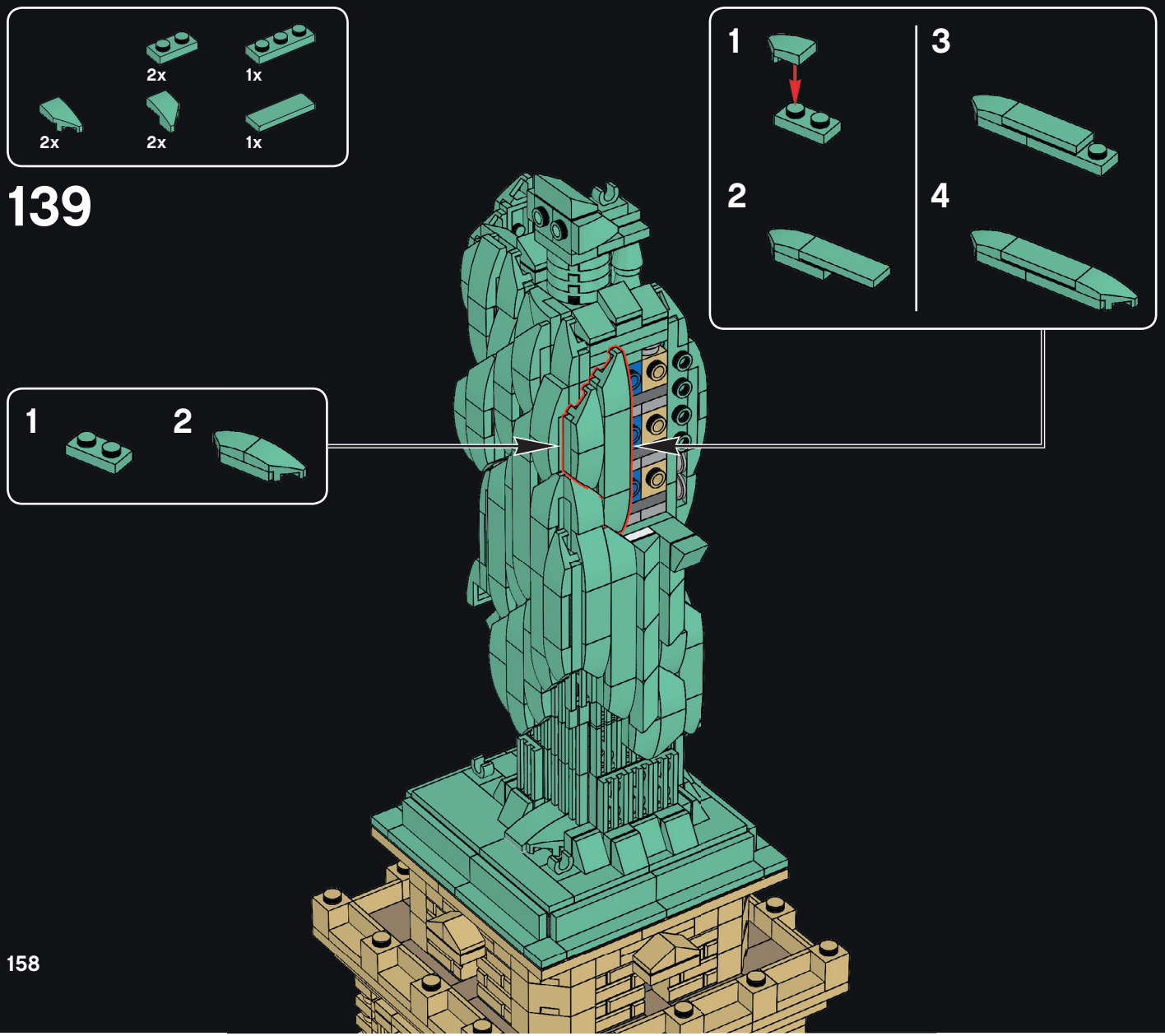

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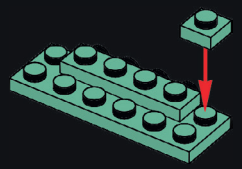

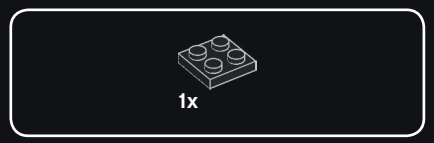

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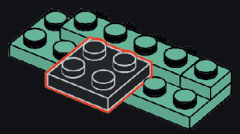

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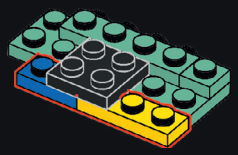

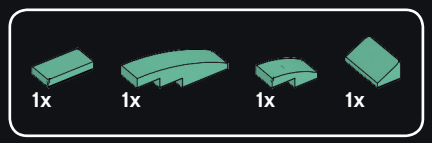

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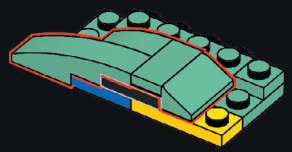

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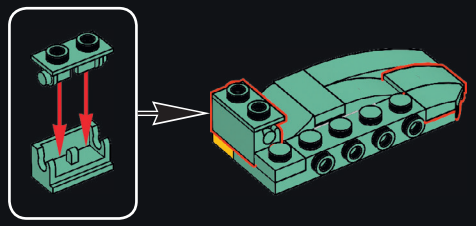

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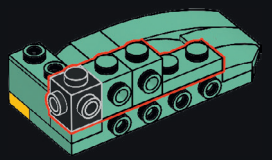

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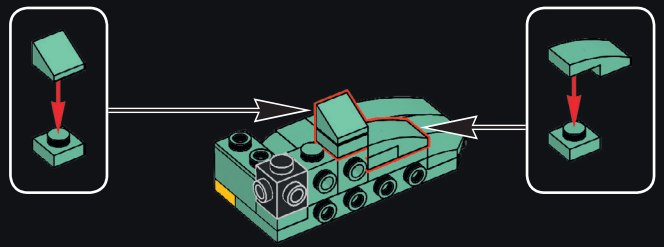

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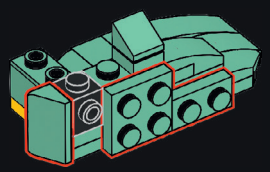

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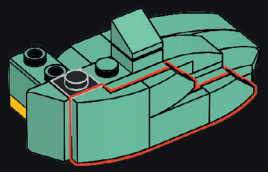

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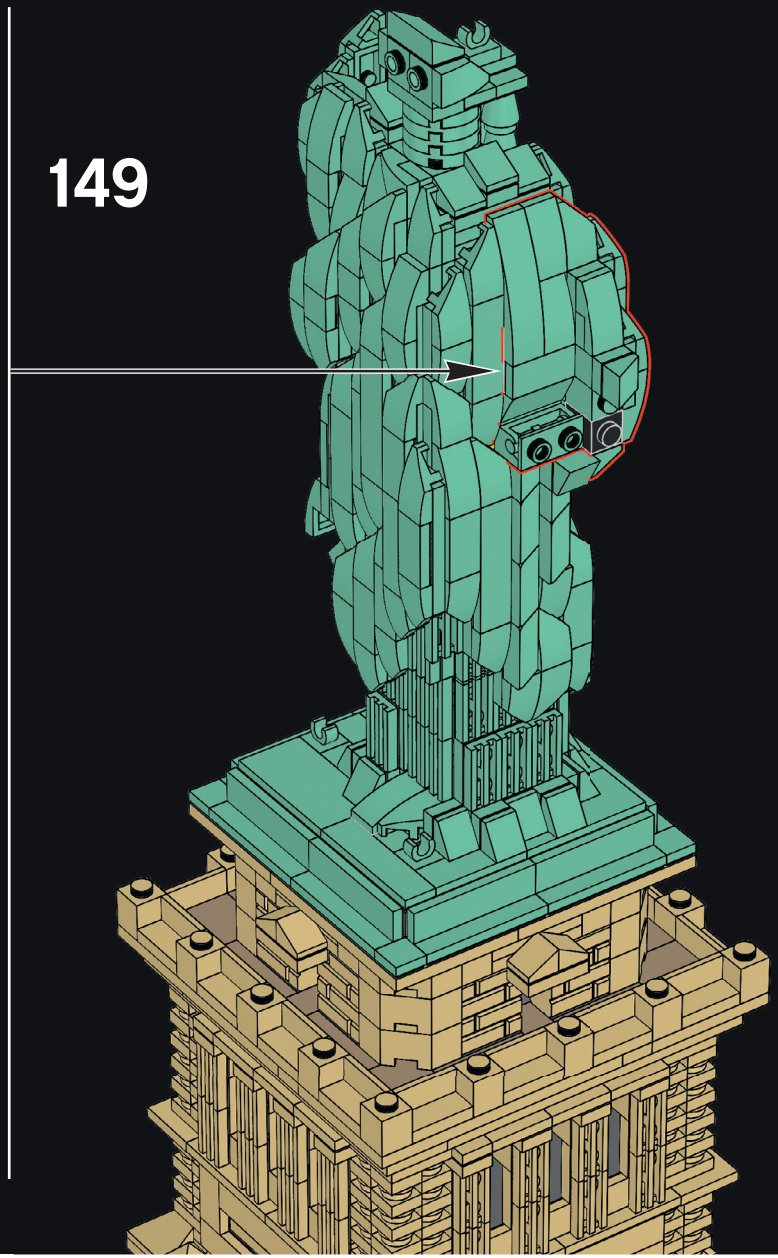

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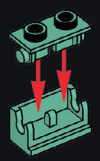

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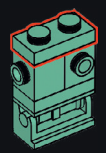

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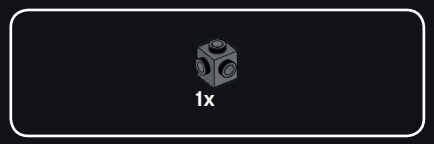

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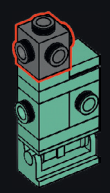

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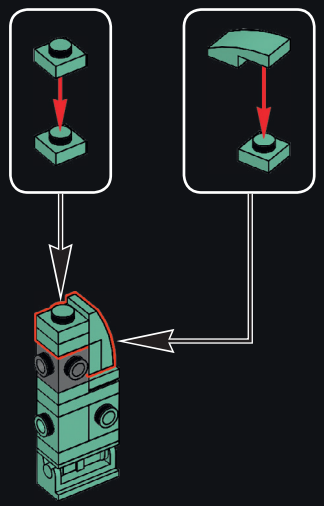

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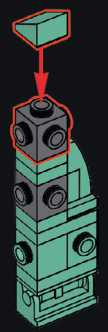

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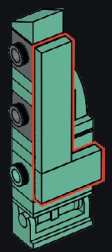

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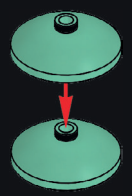

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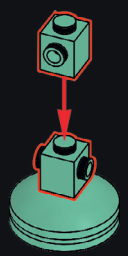

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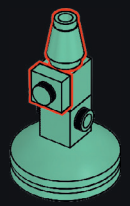

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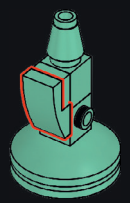

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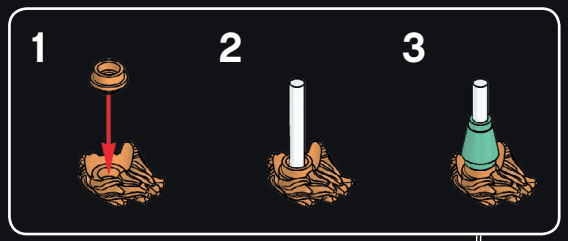

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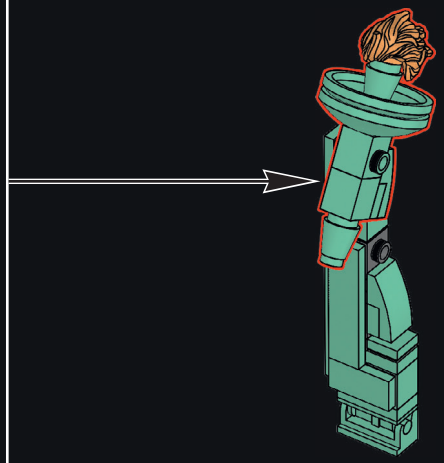

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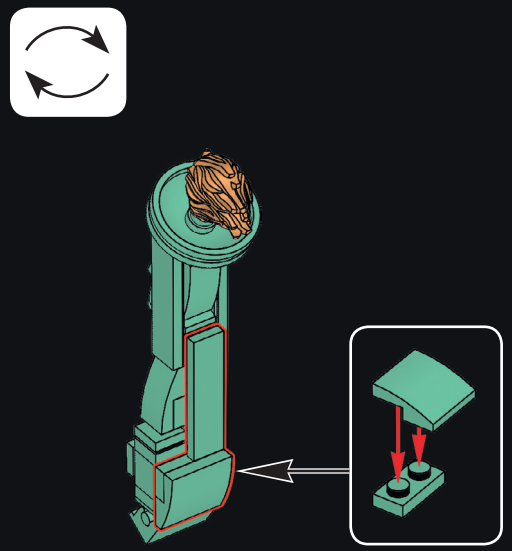

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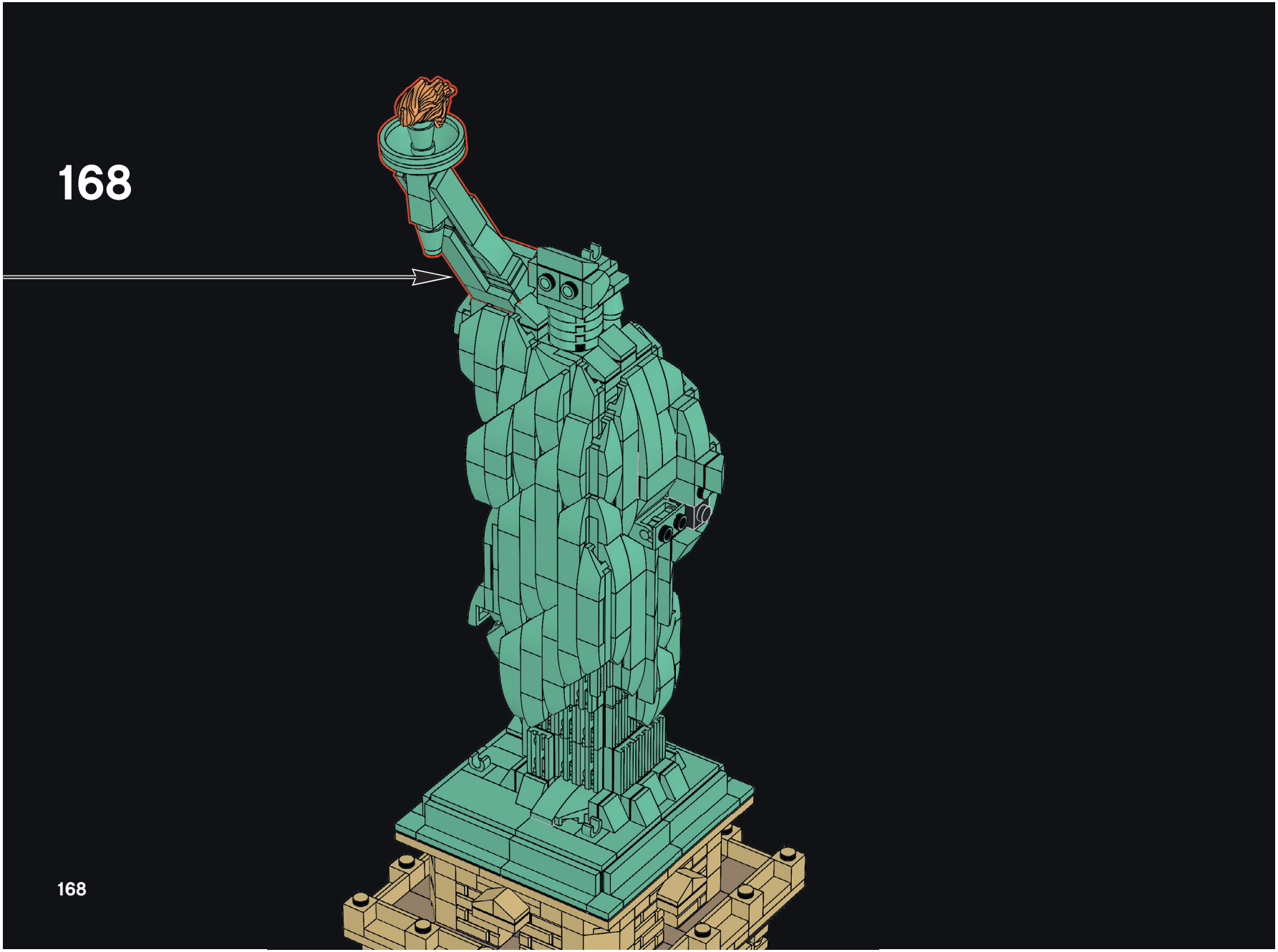

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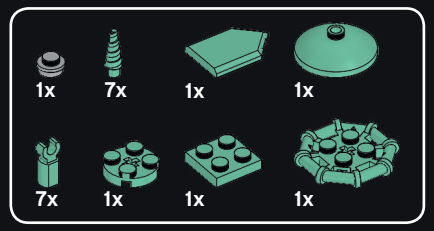

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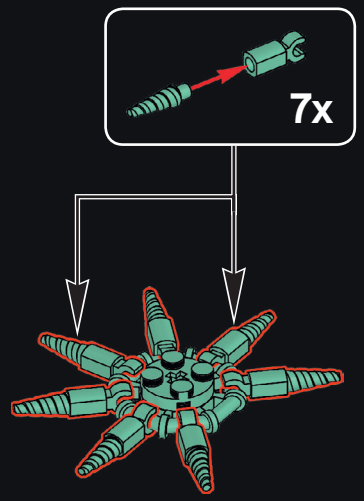

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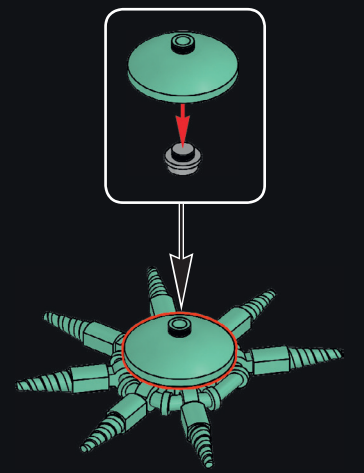

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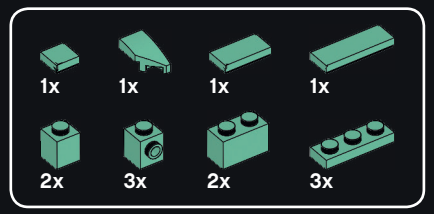

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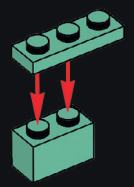

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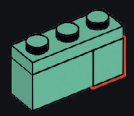

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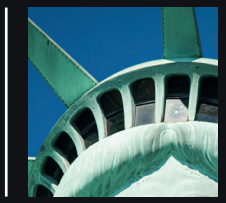
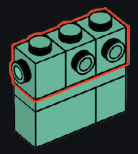
There are 25 windows in the crown.





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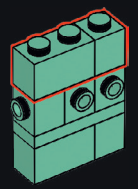

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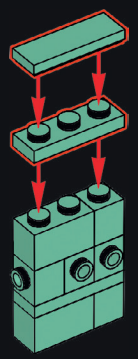

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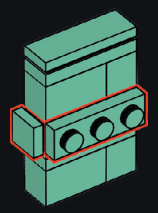

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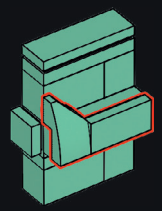

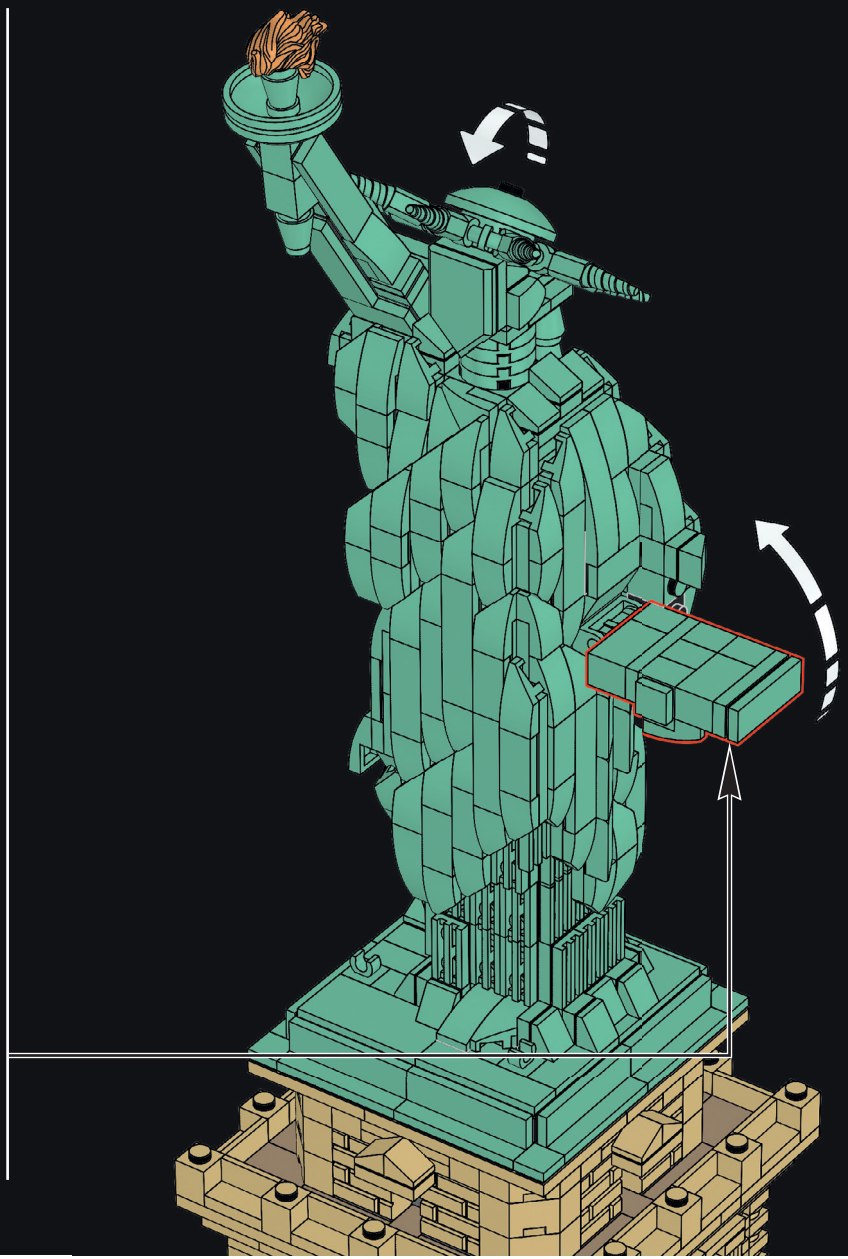

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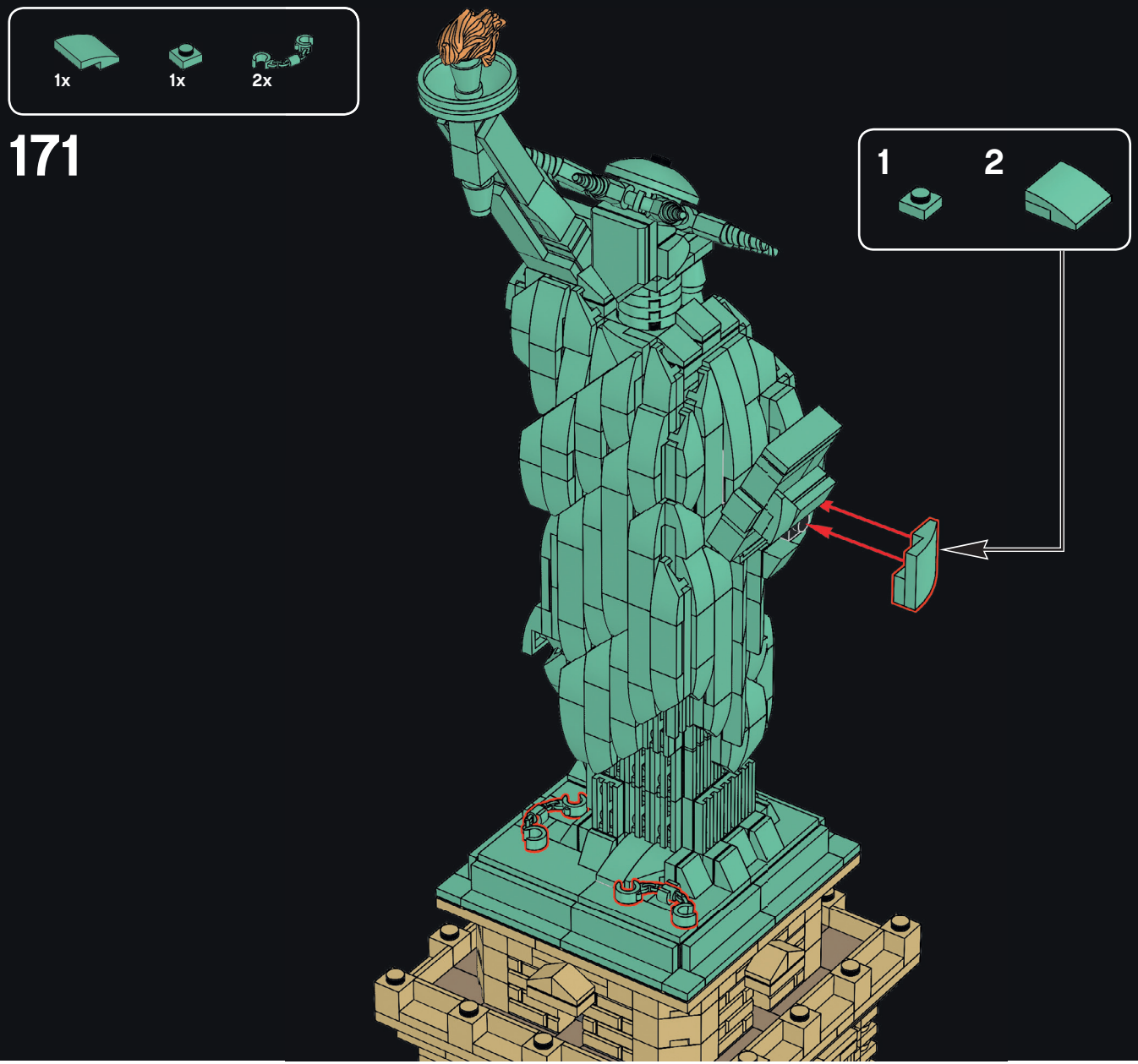

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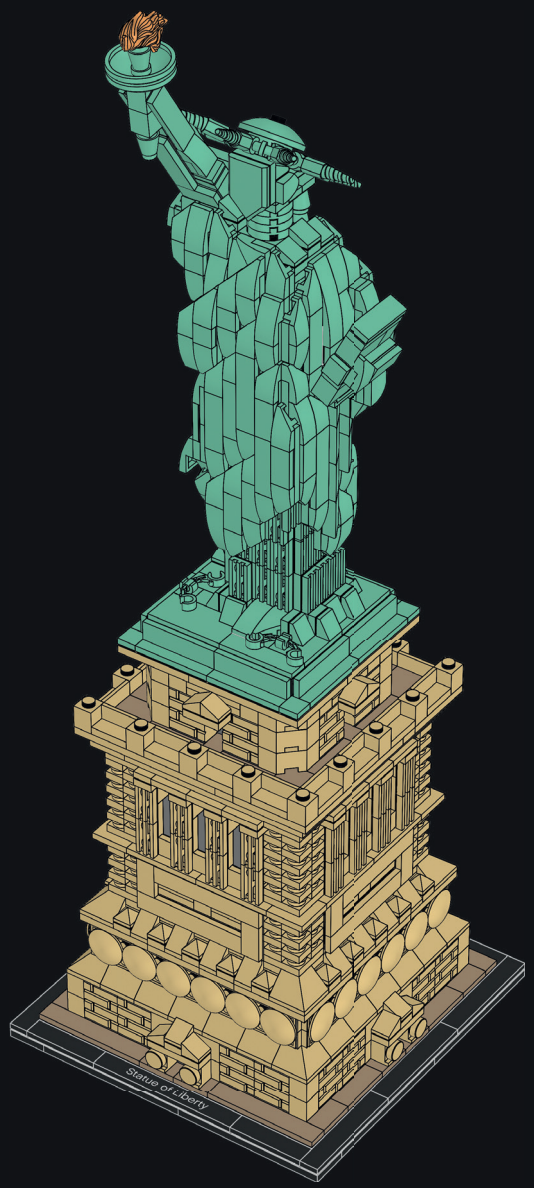

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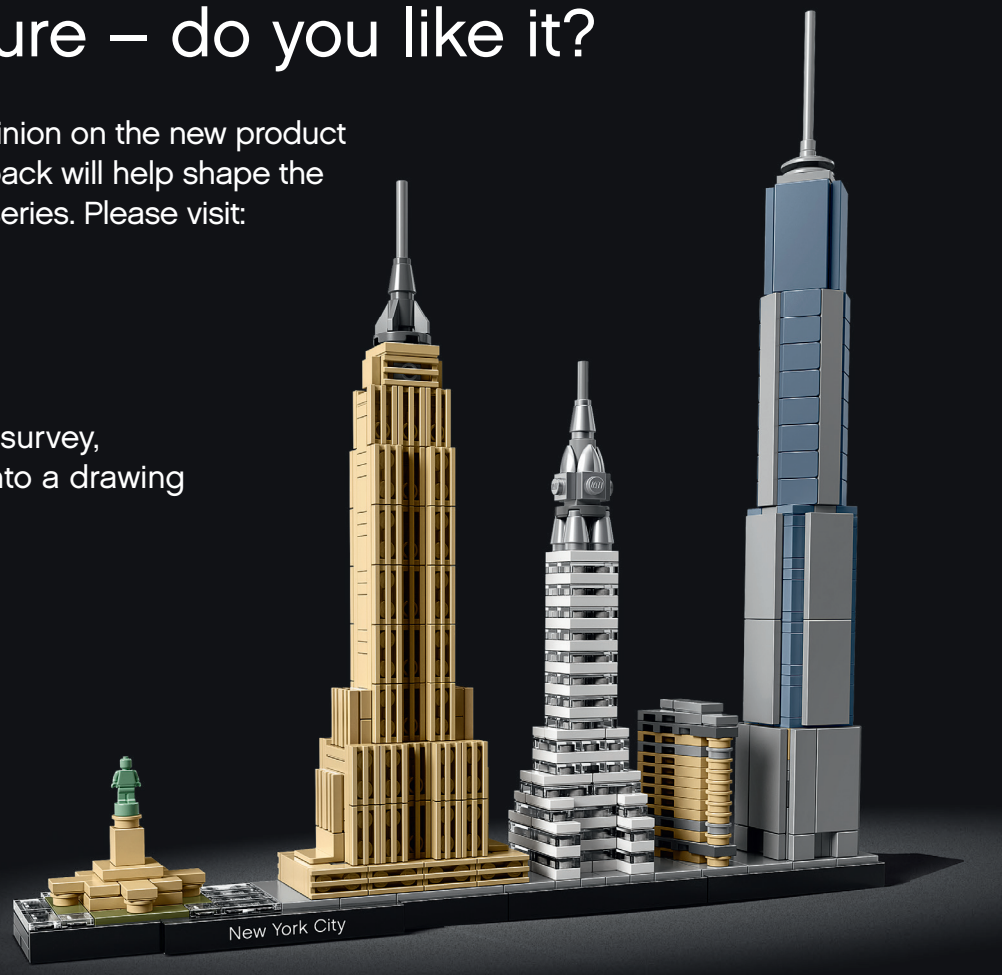

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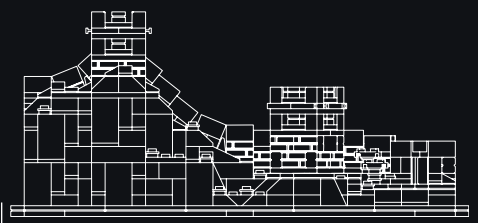
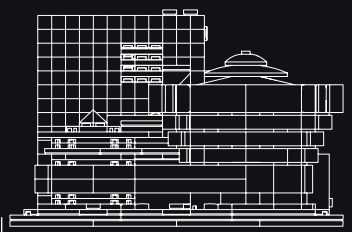


21041
Great Wall of China

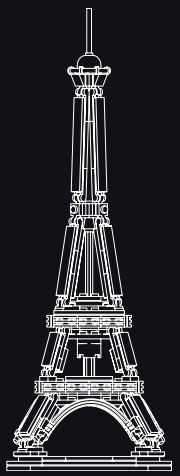
21030
United States Capitol Building



21035
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum®

21042
Statue of Liberty

21036
Arc de Triomphe



21019
The Eiffel Tower

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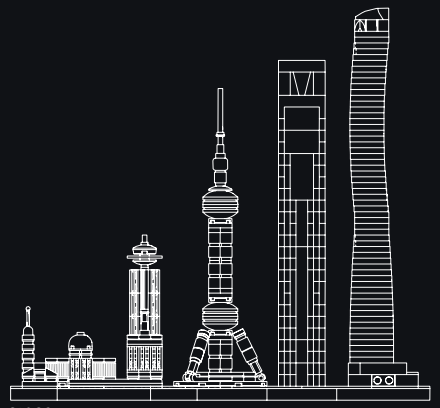

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Shanghai

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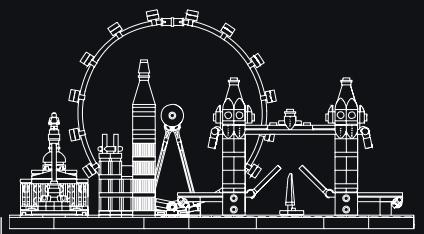

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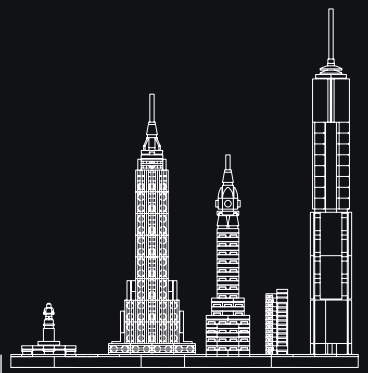

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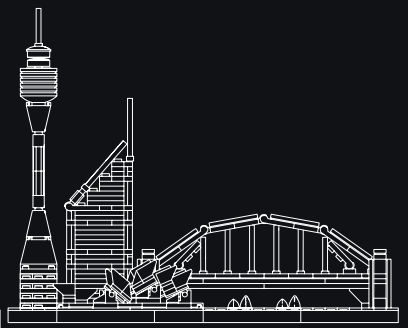
New York City



21032
Sydney

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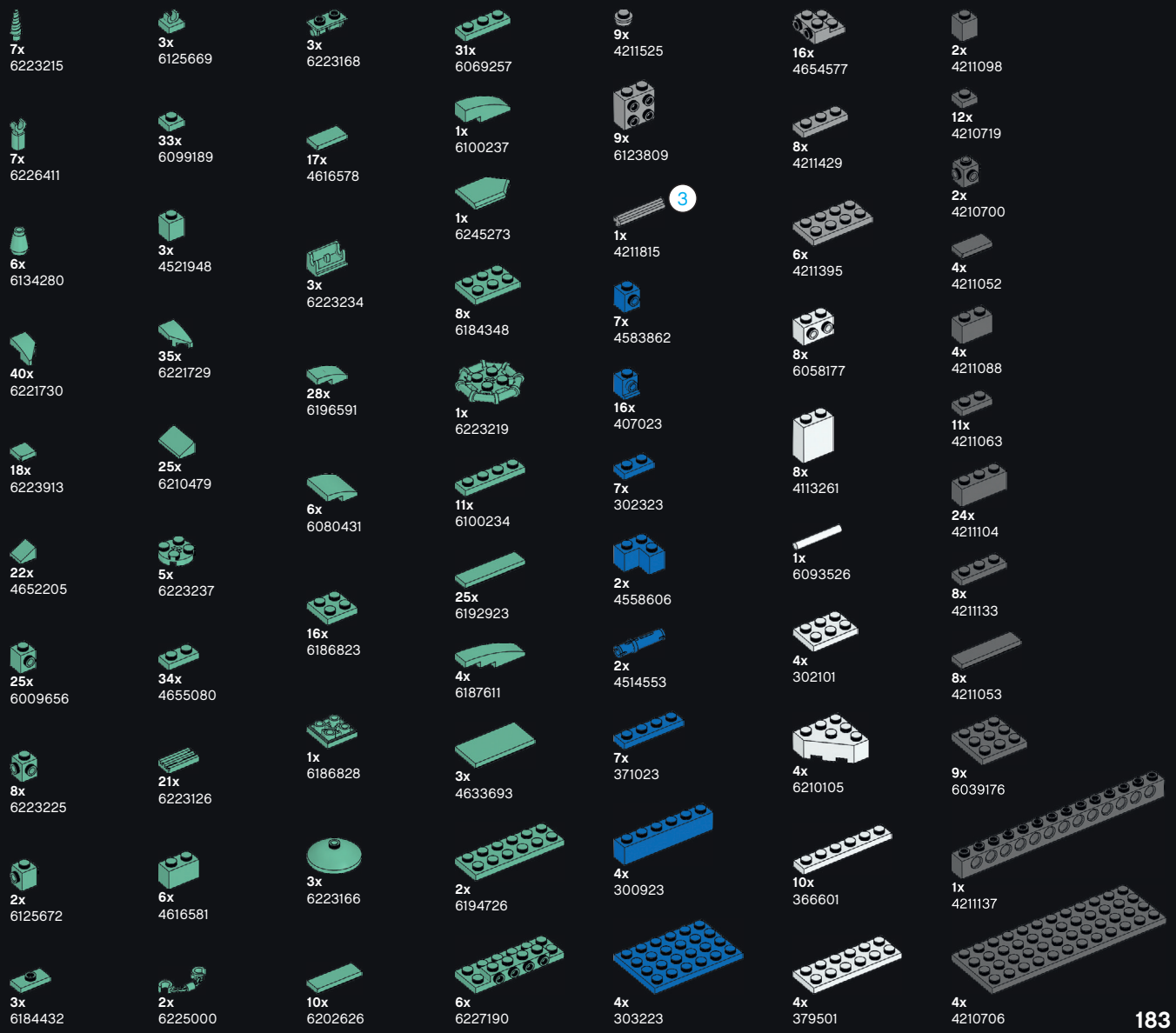

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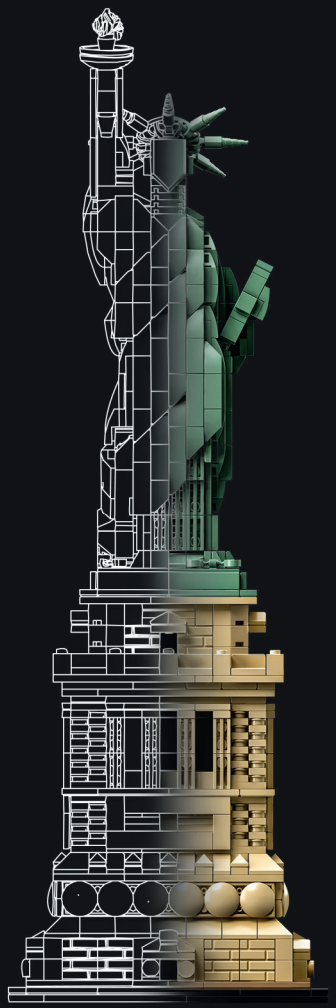

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