



Architecture

21030

United States Capitol Building

Washington, D.C., USA



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The United States Capitol Building

The United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. is a symbol of American democracy and the meeting place of the nation's government. As well as housing an important collection of American art and being an architectural achievement in its own right, the Capitol is still a working office building and a

tourist attraction visited by millions every year. The building has been at the heart of the country's history since it was first completed in 1800.

*[We have built no temple but the Capitol.
We consult no common oracle but the Constitution]*

Rufus Choate, Congressman & Orator





History

On September 18, 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol Building at the southeast corner of its foundation. The ceremony was carried out with great pomp and celebration as it marked the building of the young nation's most symbolically important and architecturally impressive building.

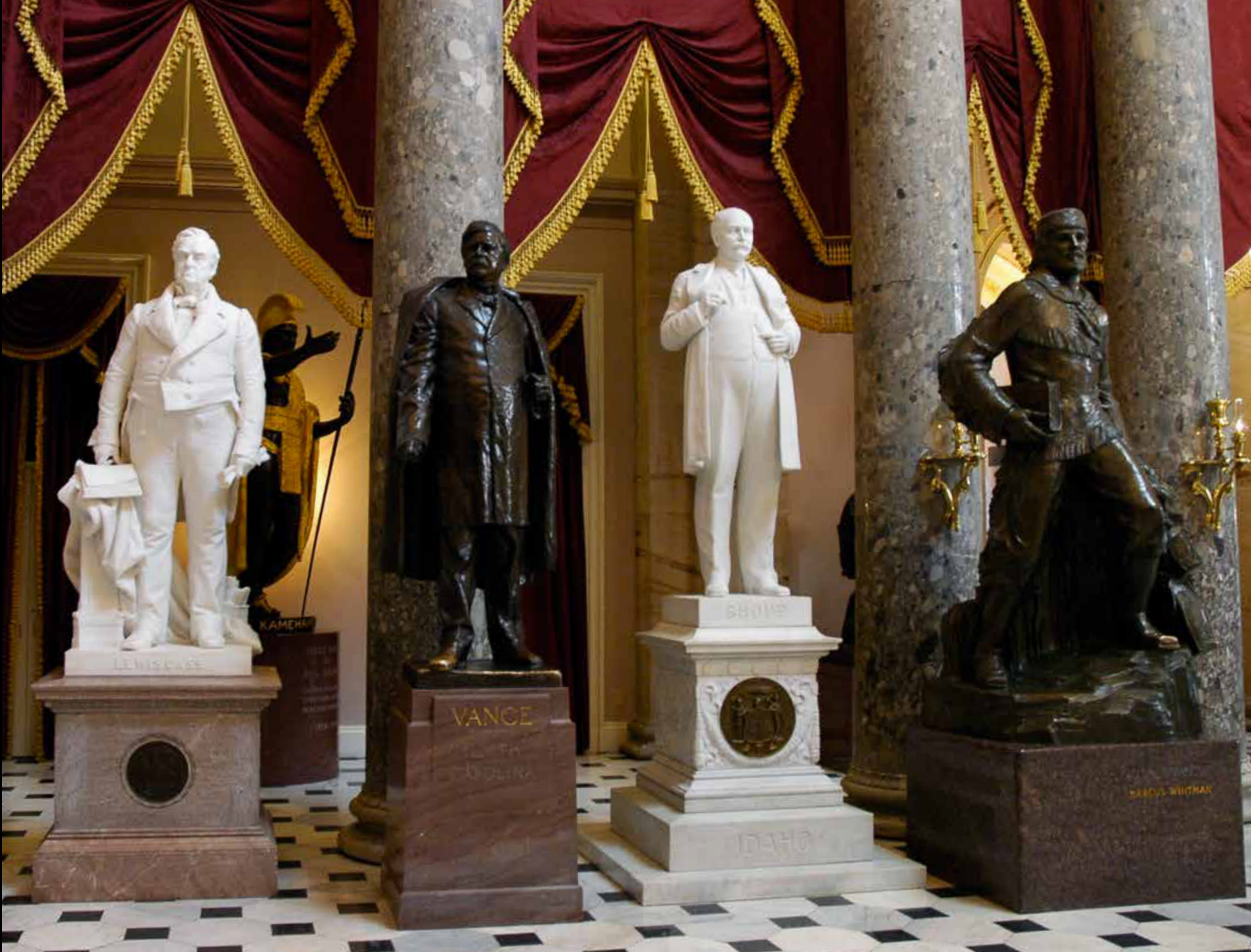
The building was to be the centerpiece in the creation of Washington, D.C. as the nation's new capital. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who created the plan of the city, selected the site and laid out the wide boulevard leading up to it, but was dismissed before he could draw the building itself.

In the democratic spirit that the building represented, the then U.S. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson announced a public competition to design the new Capitol Building.

An idea submitted by the amateur architect William Thornton was selected and received praise from President Washington for its "Grandeur, Simplicity and Beauty". Three renowned architects of the time, Stephen Hallet, George Hadfield and the designer of the White House, James Hoban, were asked to realize Thornton's plan. After seven years and many changes to Thornton's original drawings, the first stage was completed in 1800.

After being partially burned down by the British in 1814, the U.S. Capitol Building was rebuilt and the first dome at the center of the building was added in 1818. By the 1850s it was clear that the building could no longer accommodate the growing number of states joining the union and the Capitol was expanded to become the building we recognize today.





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The United States Capitol Building Today

The U.S. Capitol Building continues to be the working heart of the nation's government and the 435 Representatives and 100 Senators still sit in the two houses of Congress within the building. Here they debate legislation, hold hearings and conduct investigations as the voice of the American people.

But the U.S. Capitol Building is also an attraction in its own right and houses some of the nation's greatest art treasures. The heart of the Capitol is the rotunda, a 96 ft. (29 m) diameter circular hall crowned by an inner dome. Visible through the eye of the dome, 180 ft. (55 m) above the floor is a massive fresco painted by Italian artist Constantino Brumidi. The 4,664 sq. ft. (433 m²) mural, entitled The Apotheosis of George Washington, consists of a portrait of the nation's first president rising to the heavens. Brumidi also designed the frieze at the top of the walls below the rotunda depicting famous events and people in American

history. Eleven statues currently encircle the rotunda and include former U.S. Presidents such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

To accommodate the ever-increasing number of visitors to the U.S. Capitol Building, a new Visitor Center was opened in 2008. At nearly 580,000 sq. ft. (54,000 m²), the Visitor Center was the largest project in the Capitol's more than two-century history and is approximately three quarters the size of the Capitol itself. The entire facility is located underground on the east side of the Capitol so as not to detract from the building's appearance.

[Here, sir, the people govern]

Alexander Hamilton



The Architects

The U.S. Capitol Building has become a landmark of 19th century neoclassical architecture, but the history behind its design and construction is full of controversy and drama.

The amateur architect William Thornton (1759-1828) was born in the British West Indies and became an American citizen in 1787 after completing a medical degree in Scotland. While his design for the Capitol won him praise from the President (as well as \$500 and a building lot in the city), the professional architects employed to oversee the construction were less impressed and tried to alter his design at every turn.

Stephen Hallet (1755-1825) was a professionally trained architect from France. He arrived in the U.S. around 1790 and submitted at least five designs of his own for the Capitol building. Placed in charge of the construction process in 1793, Hallet revised the floor plan of the two wings before being dismissed a year later for insubordination.

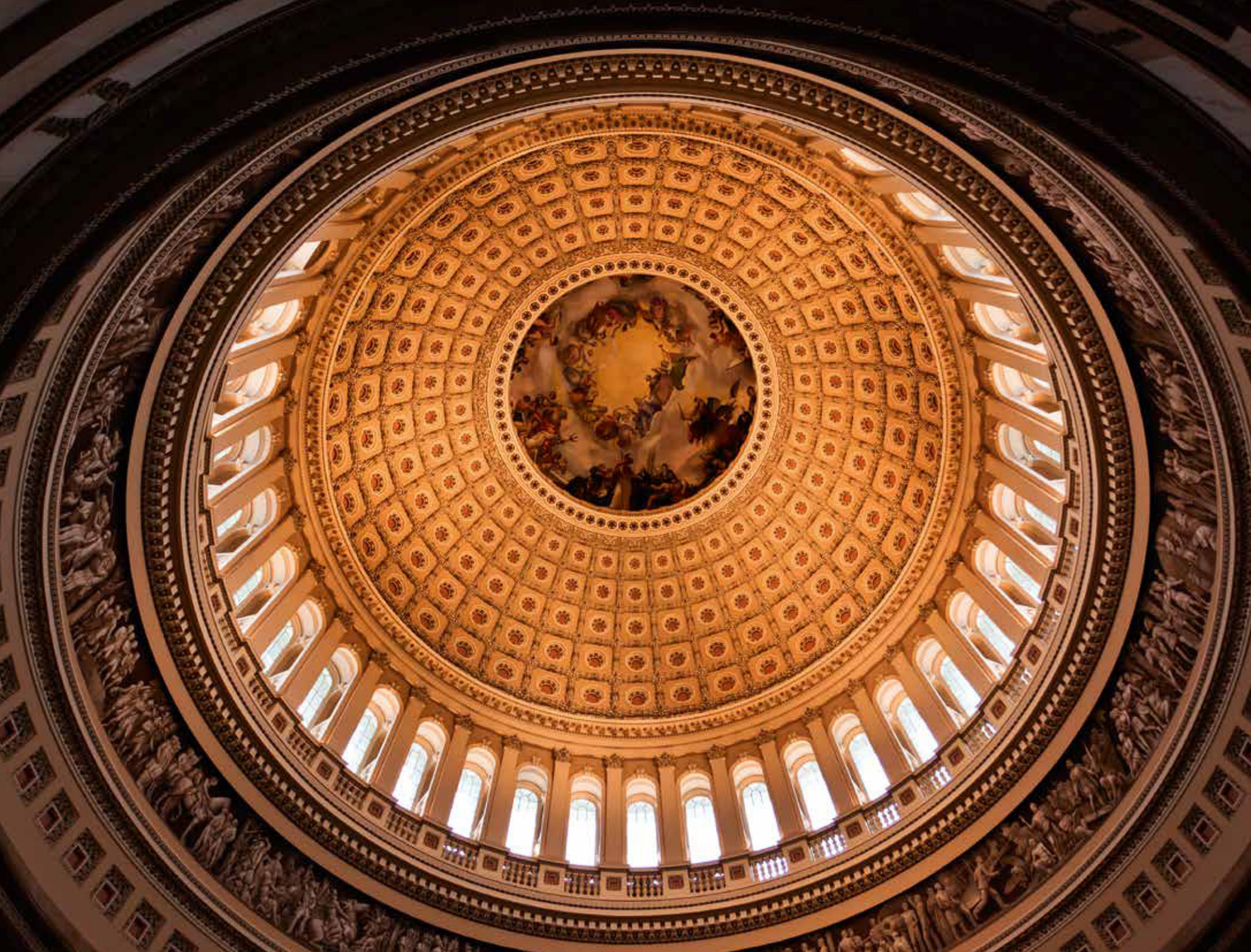
The English born architect George Hadfield (1763-1826) took over from Hallet and straightaway suggested major alterations to the original plan. Before his dismissal in 1798, he designed the first office buildings for the cabinet departments.

James Hoban (1758-1831) had supervised both Hallet and Hadfield and now took over the day-to-day supervision. Born in Ireland, he had moved to the U.S. in 1785 after studying architecture in Dublin. Hoban supervised the completion of the north wing and designed its interior, while also overseeing the building of the White House.

The 1850 expansion of the U.S. Capitol was carried out by the American architect Thomas U. Walter (1804-1887). The construction of his two new wings more than doubled the length of the Capitol. As the original dome of 1818 no longer matched the bigger building, Walter replaced it with the larger dome that still stands today.

*[...the Capitol "ought to be upon
a scale far superior to anything
in this Country"]*

George Washington to Thomas Jefferson, 1792



Facts about the United States Capitol Building

Location: Washington, D.C., USA

Construction Periods: 1793, 1815, 1850, and 2000

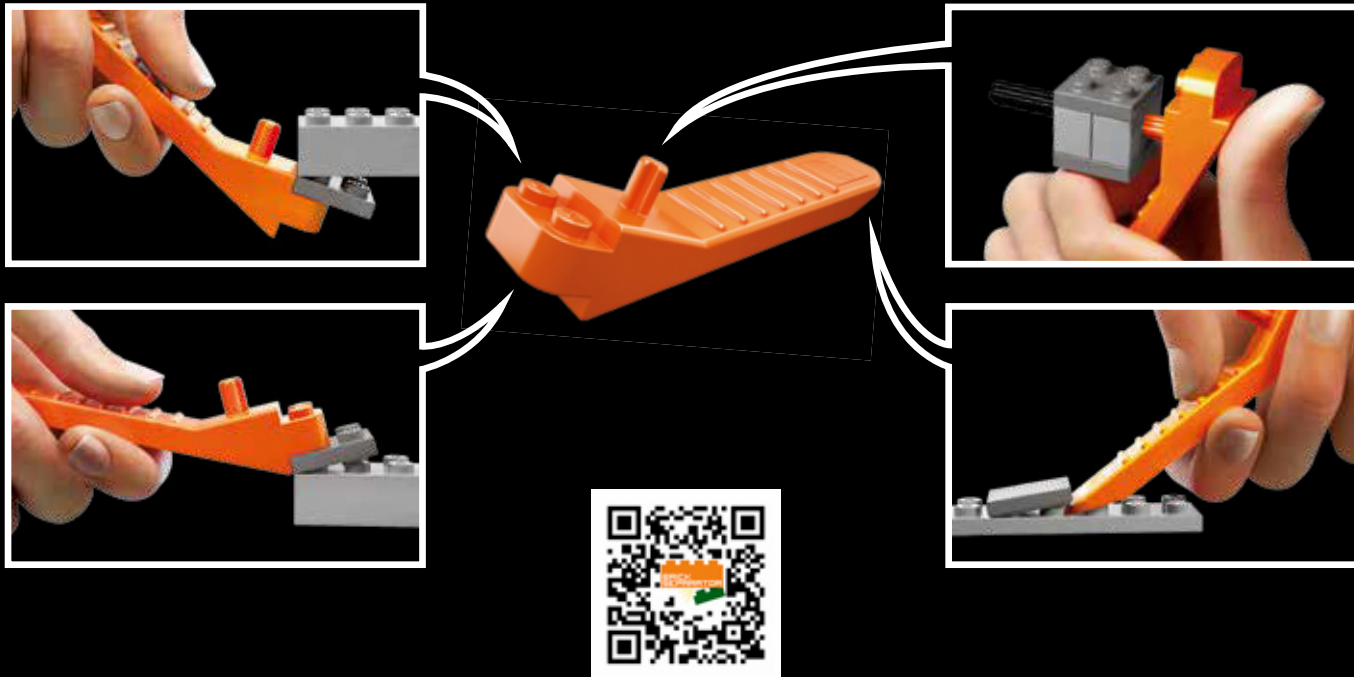
Architectural Style: 19th century Neo-Classical

Dimensions: 751 ft. (229 m) by 350 ft. (106 m)

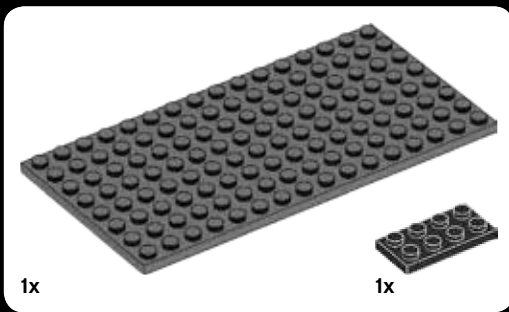
Height: 288 ft. (87 m)

Building Footprint: 175,170 sq. ft. (16,258 m²)

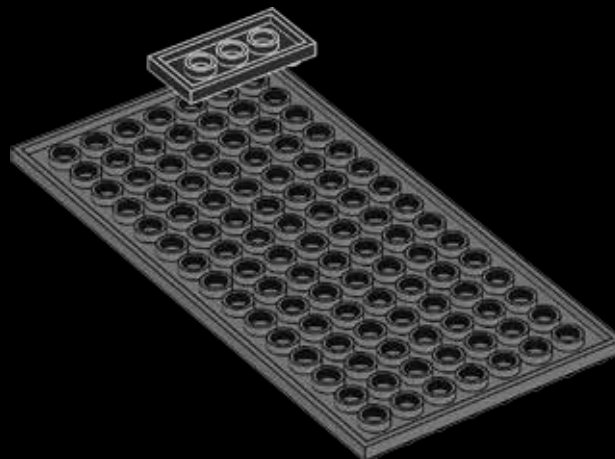


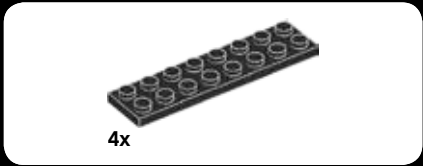


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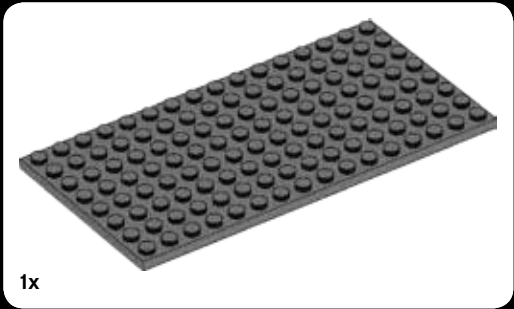
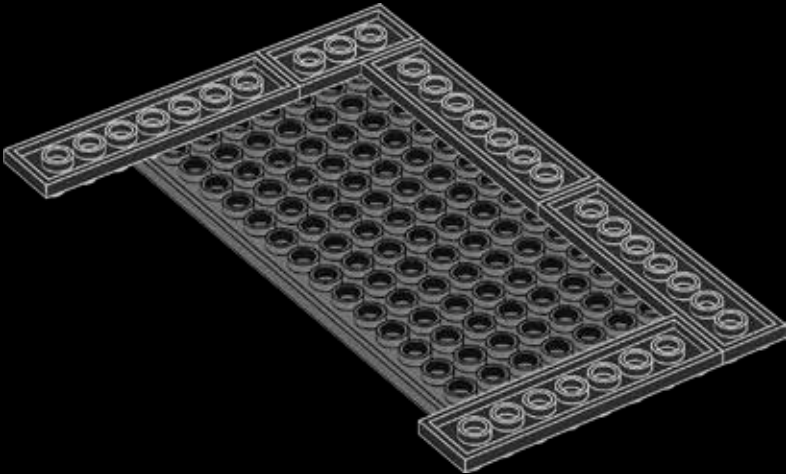


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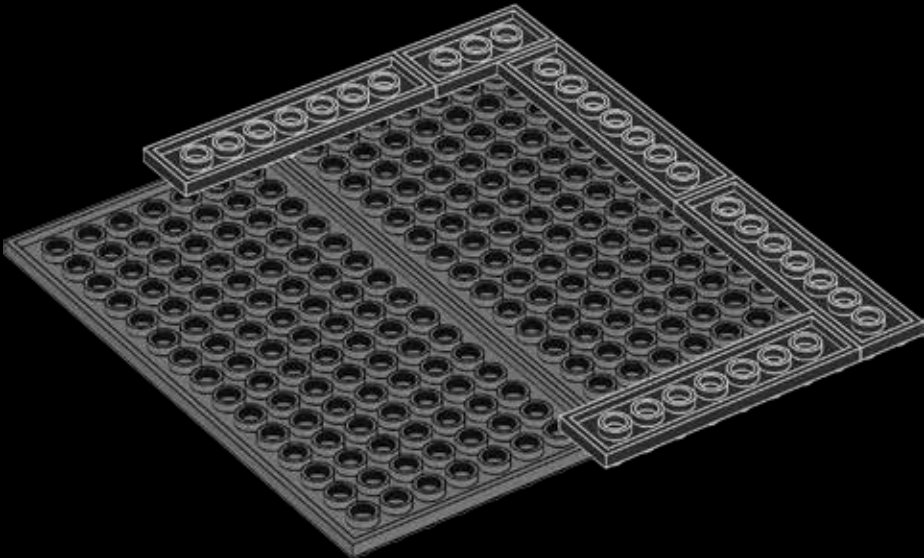




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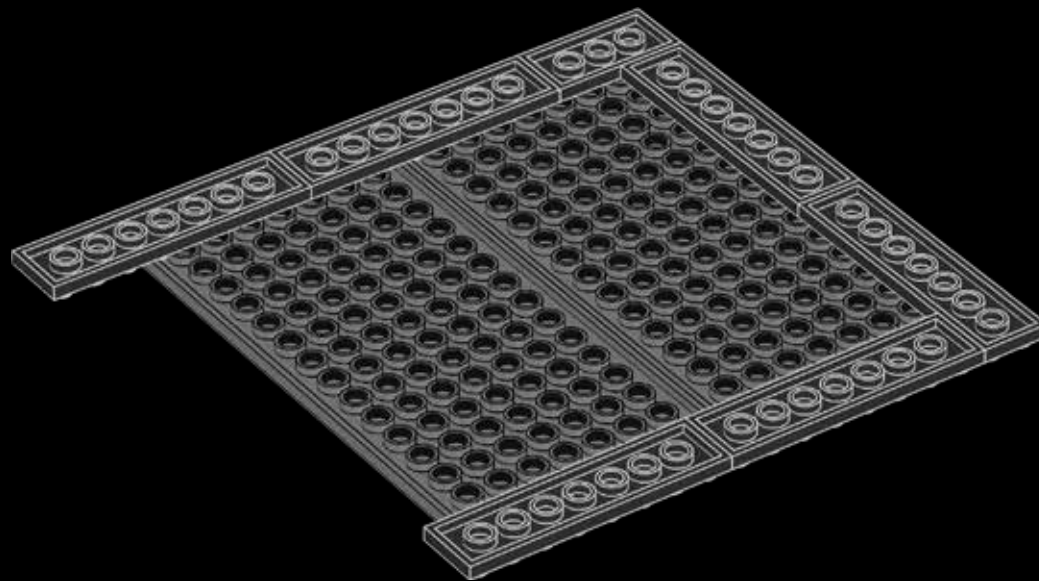
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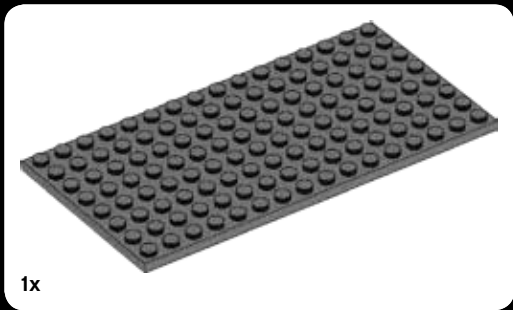




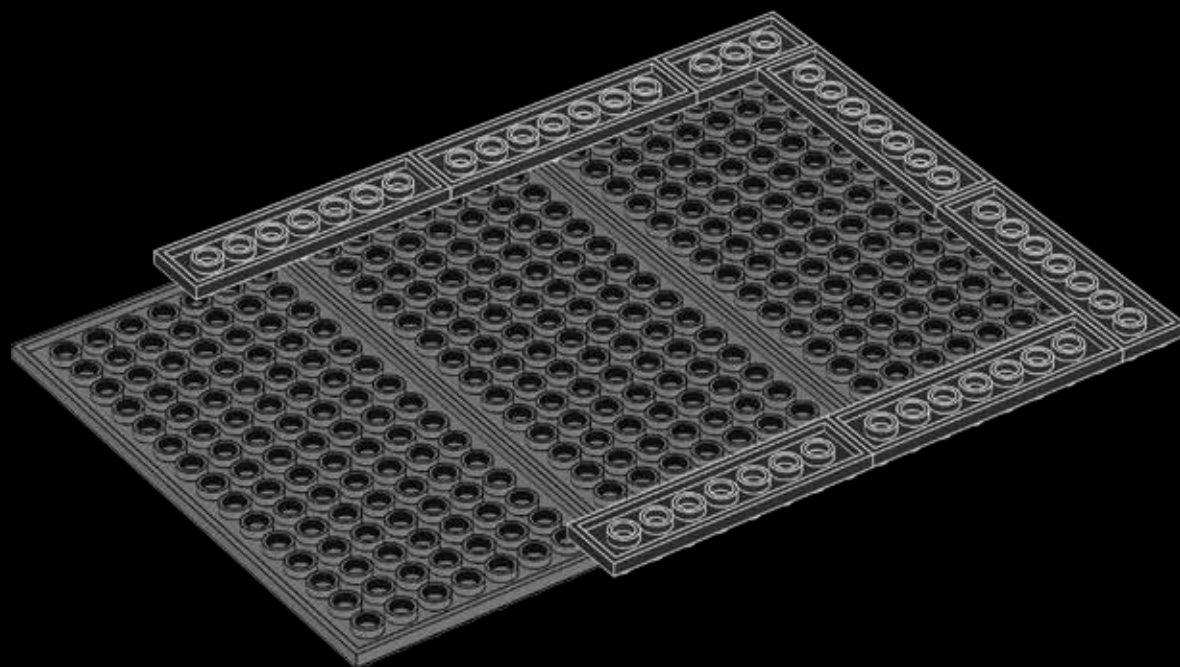
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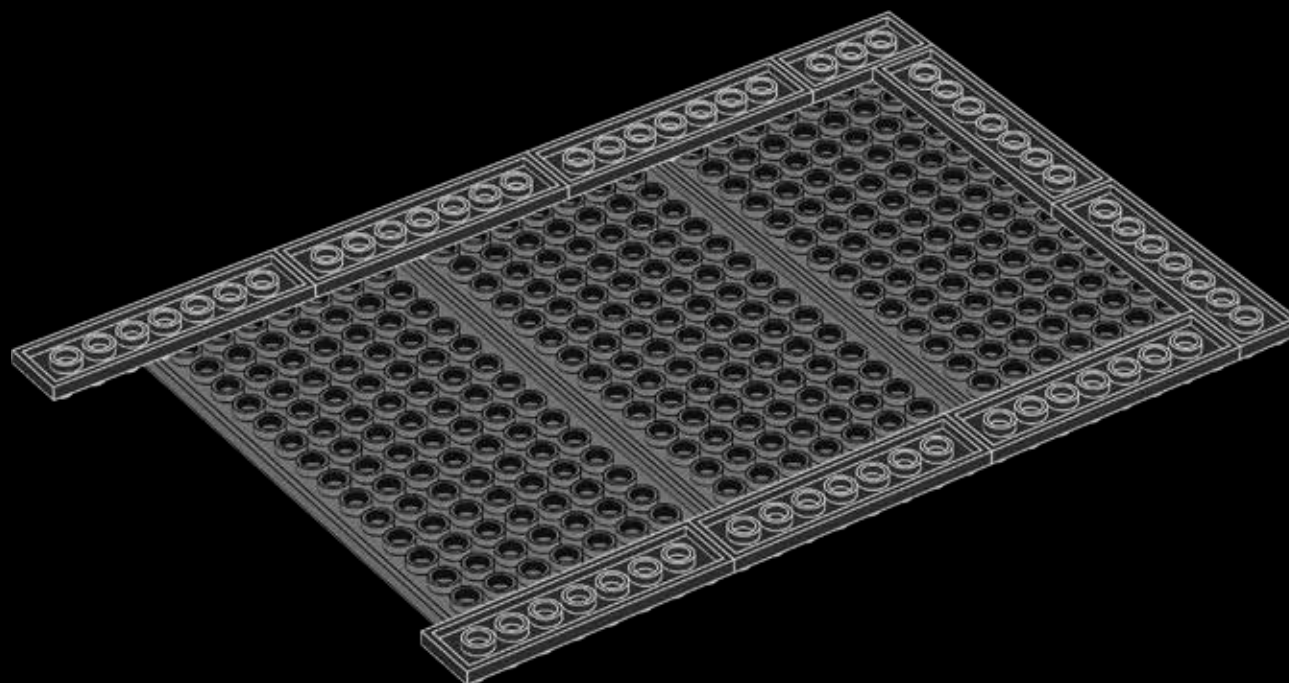
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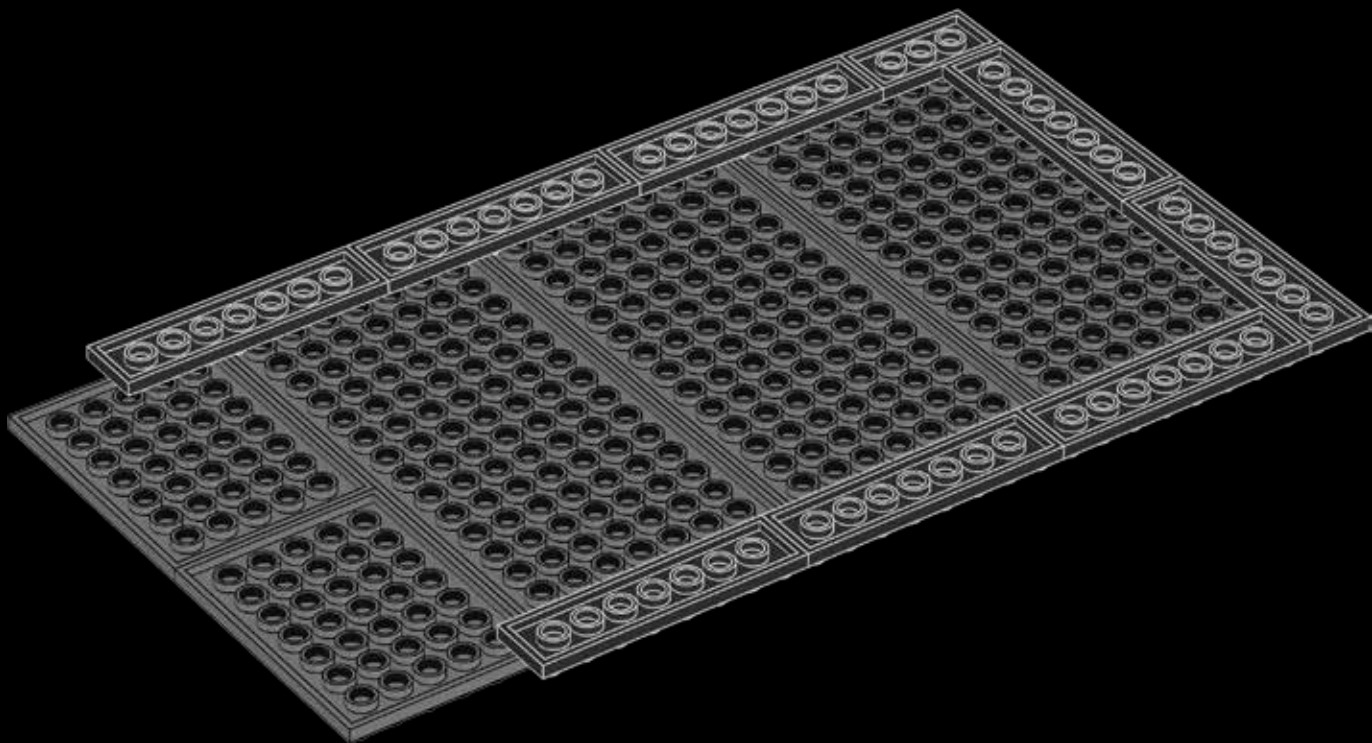
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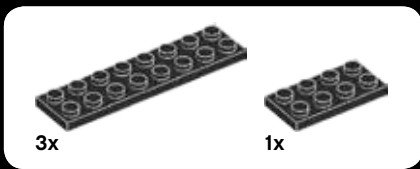
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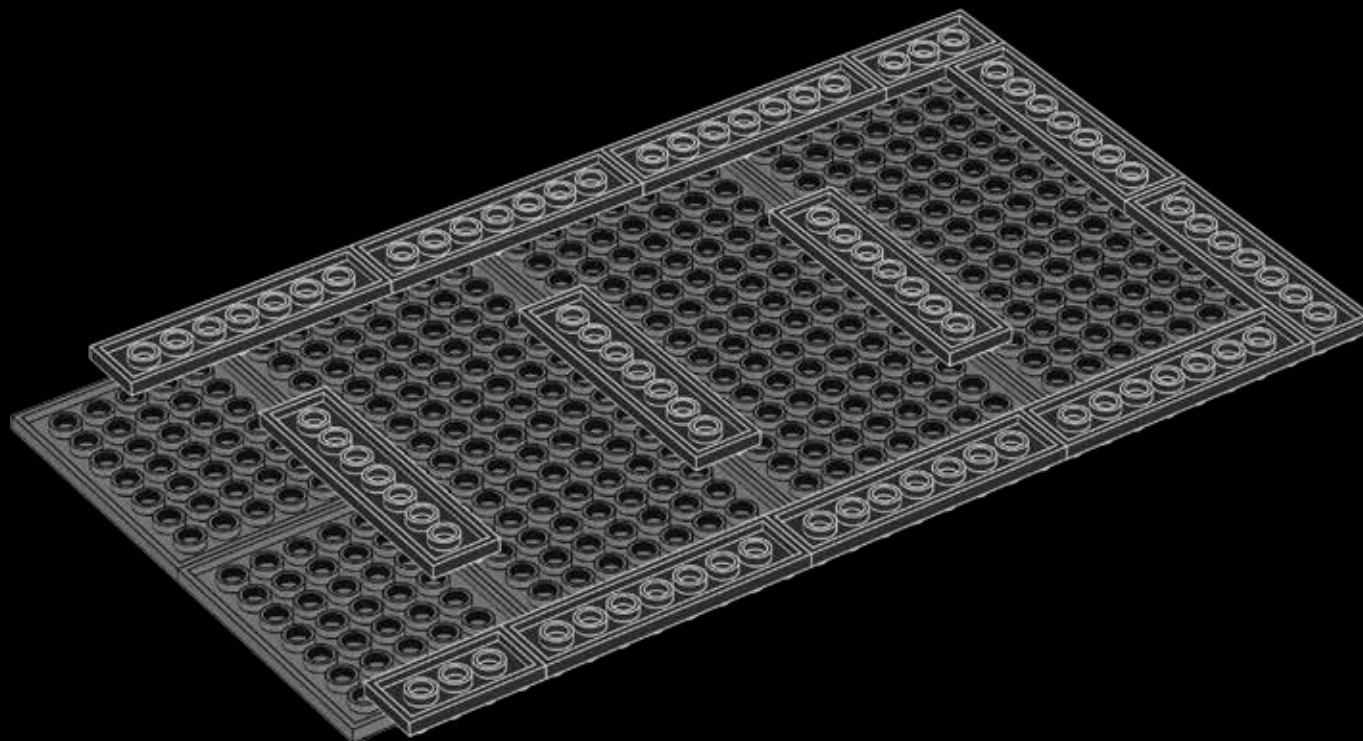


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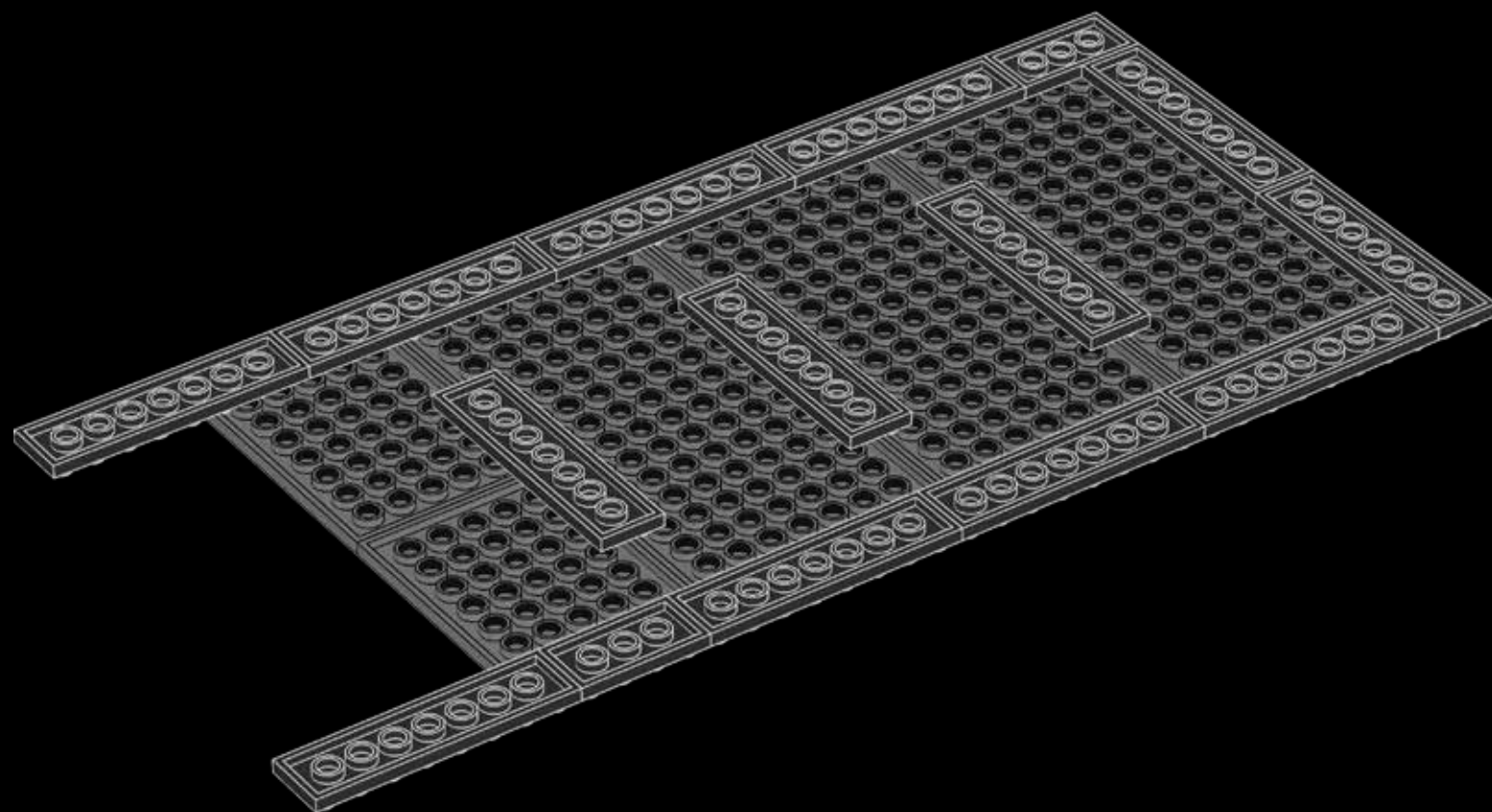
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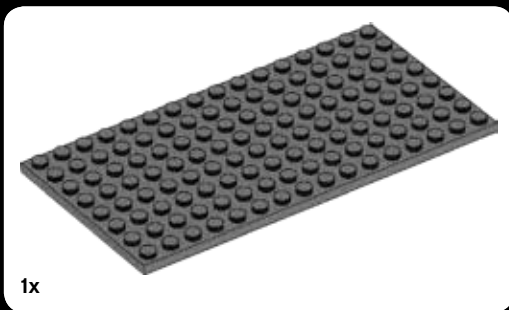




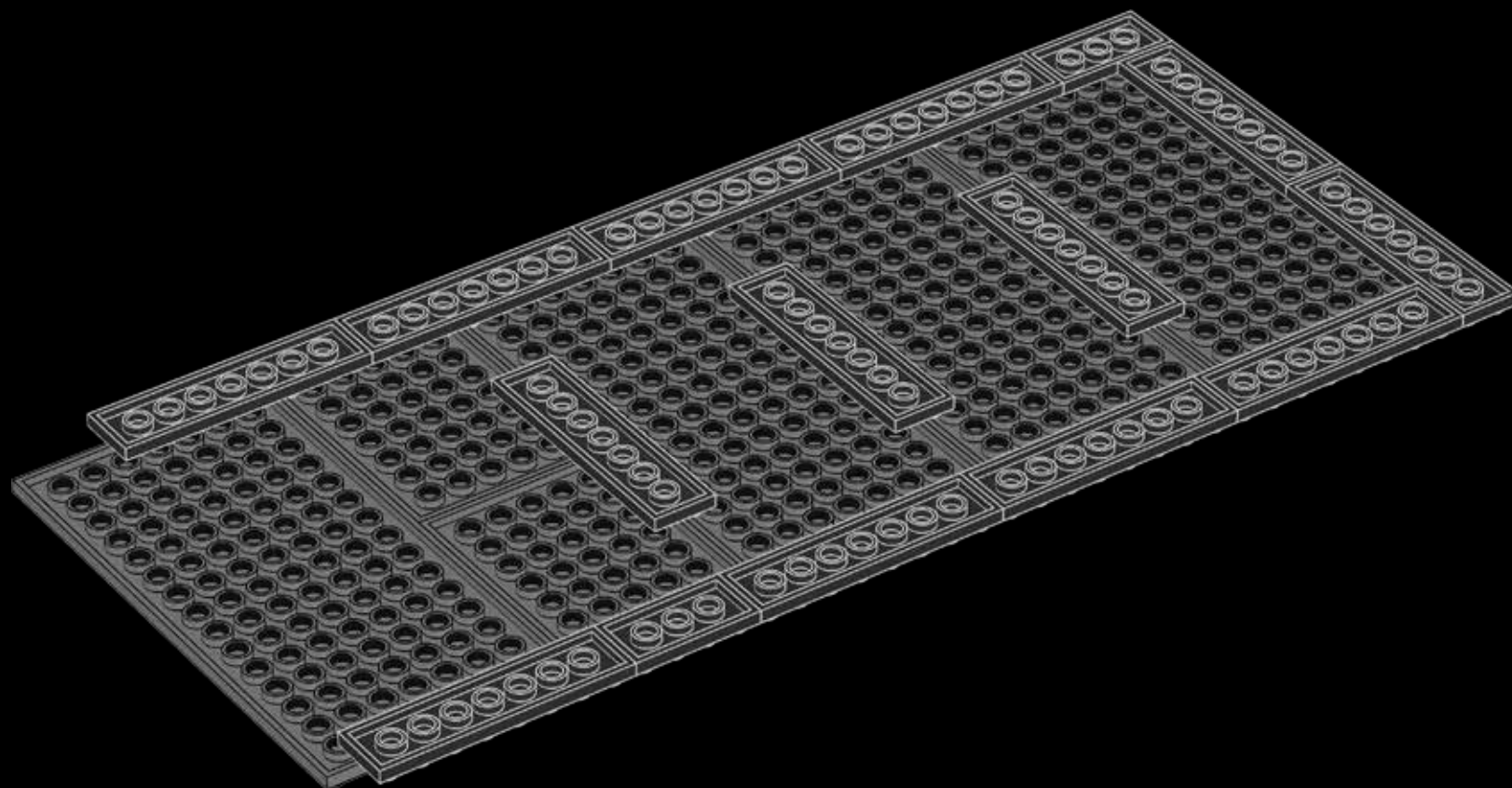
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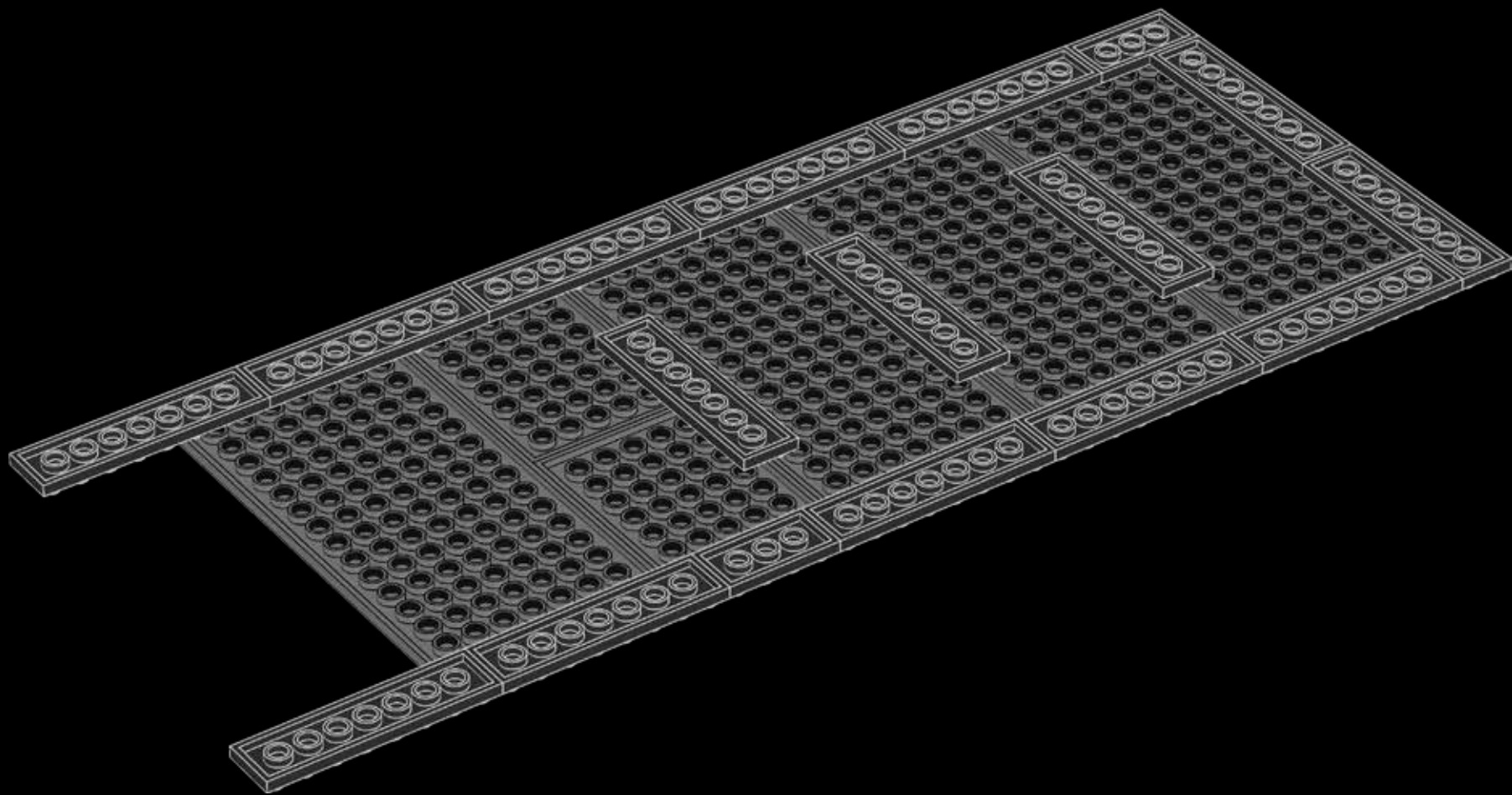
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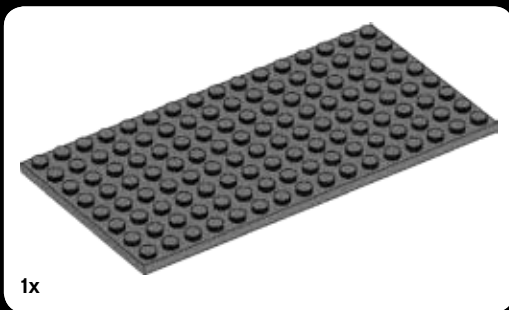




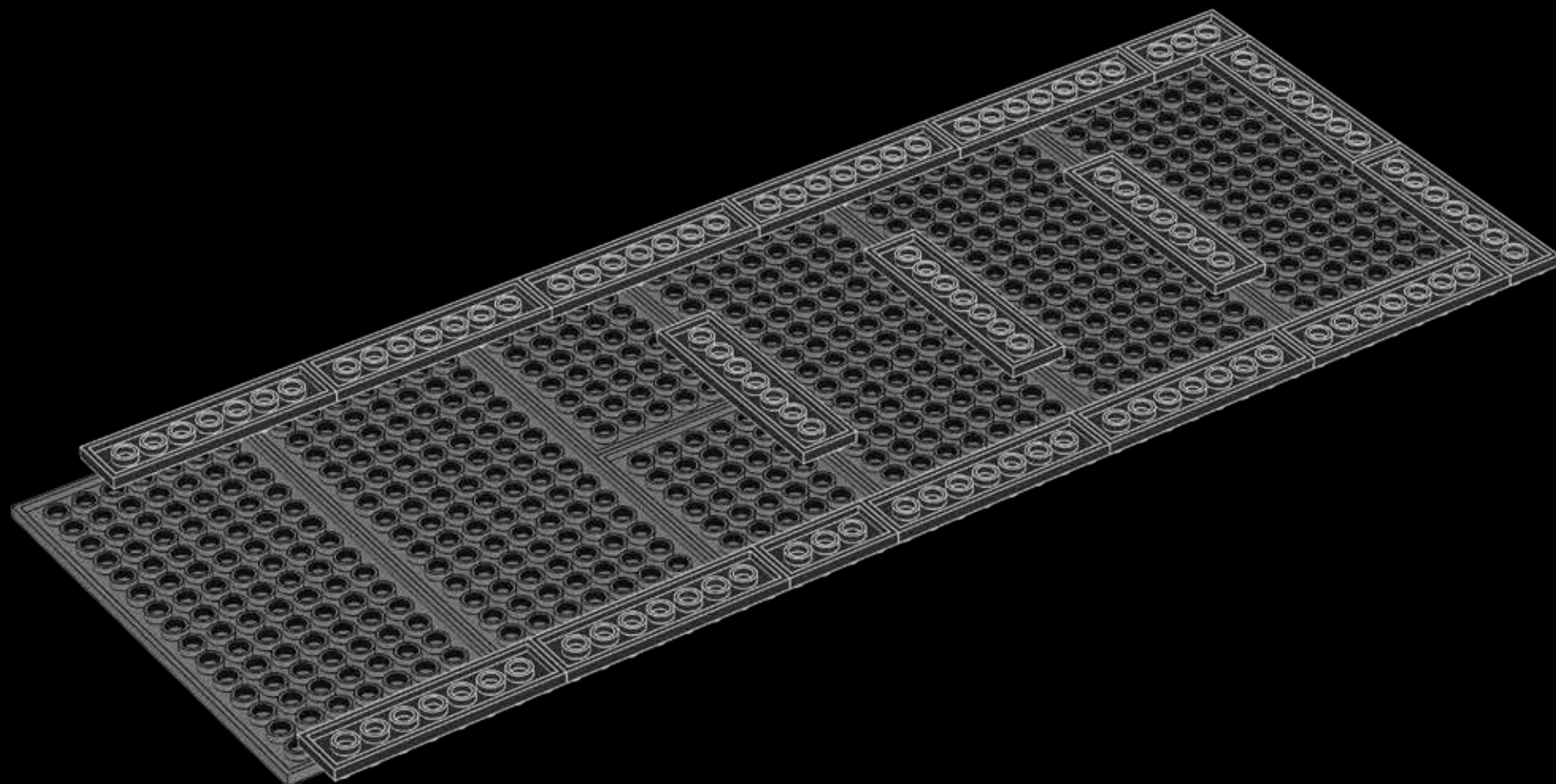
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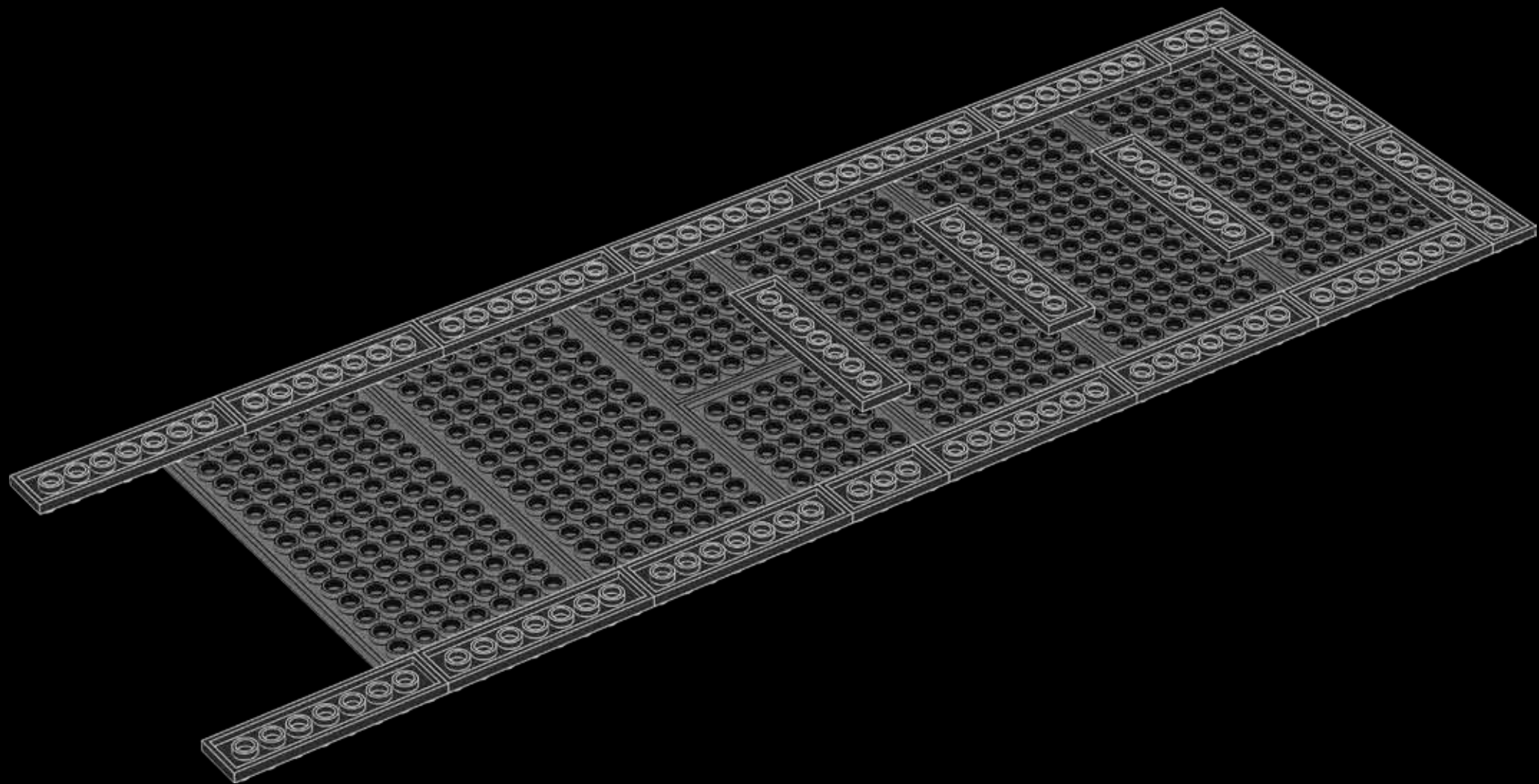
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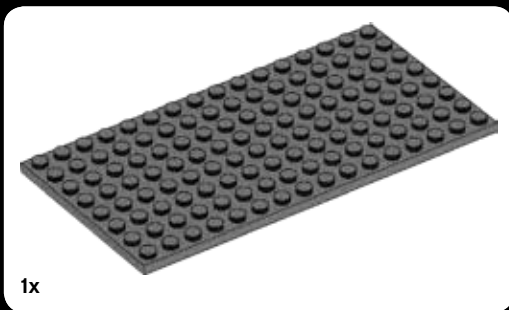




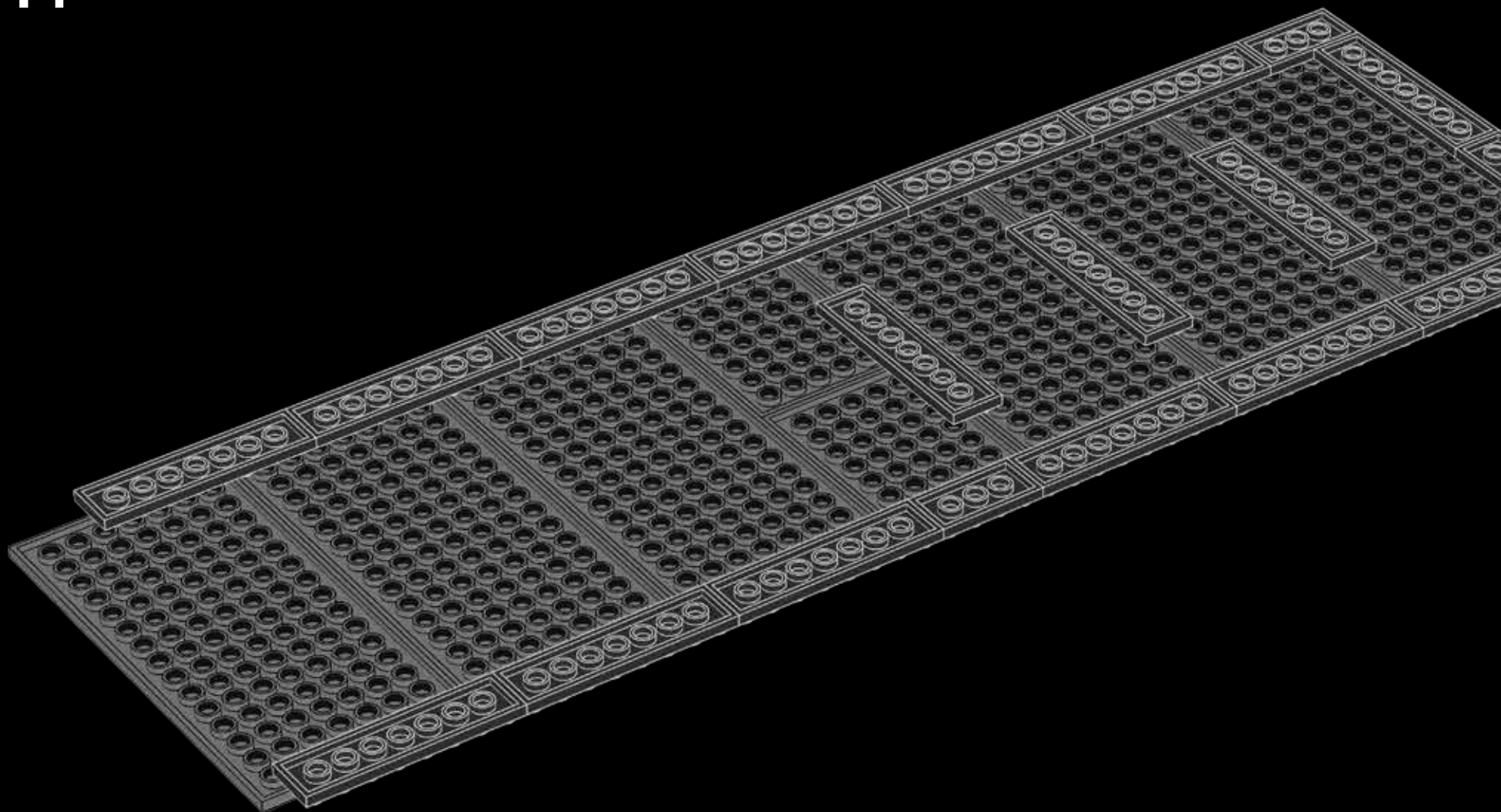
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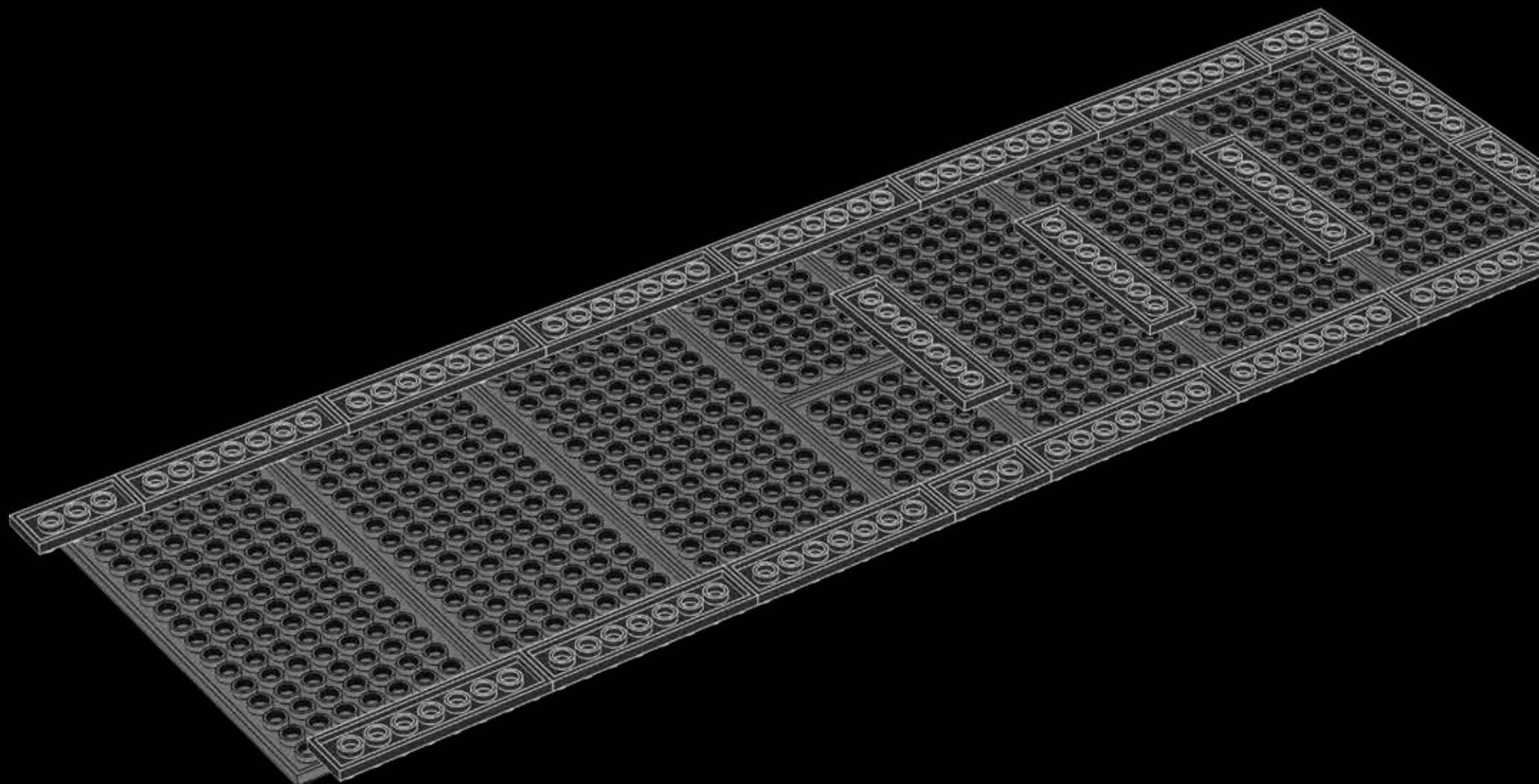
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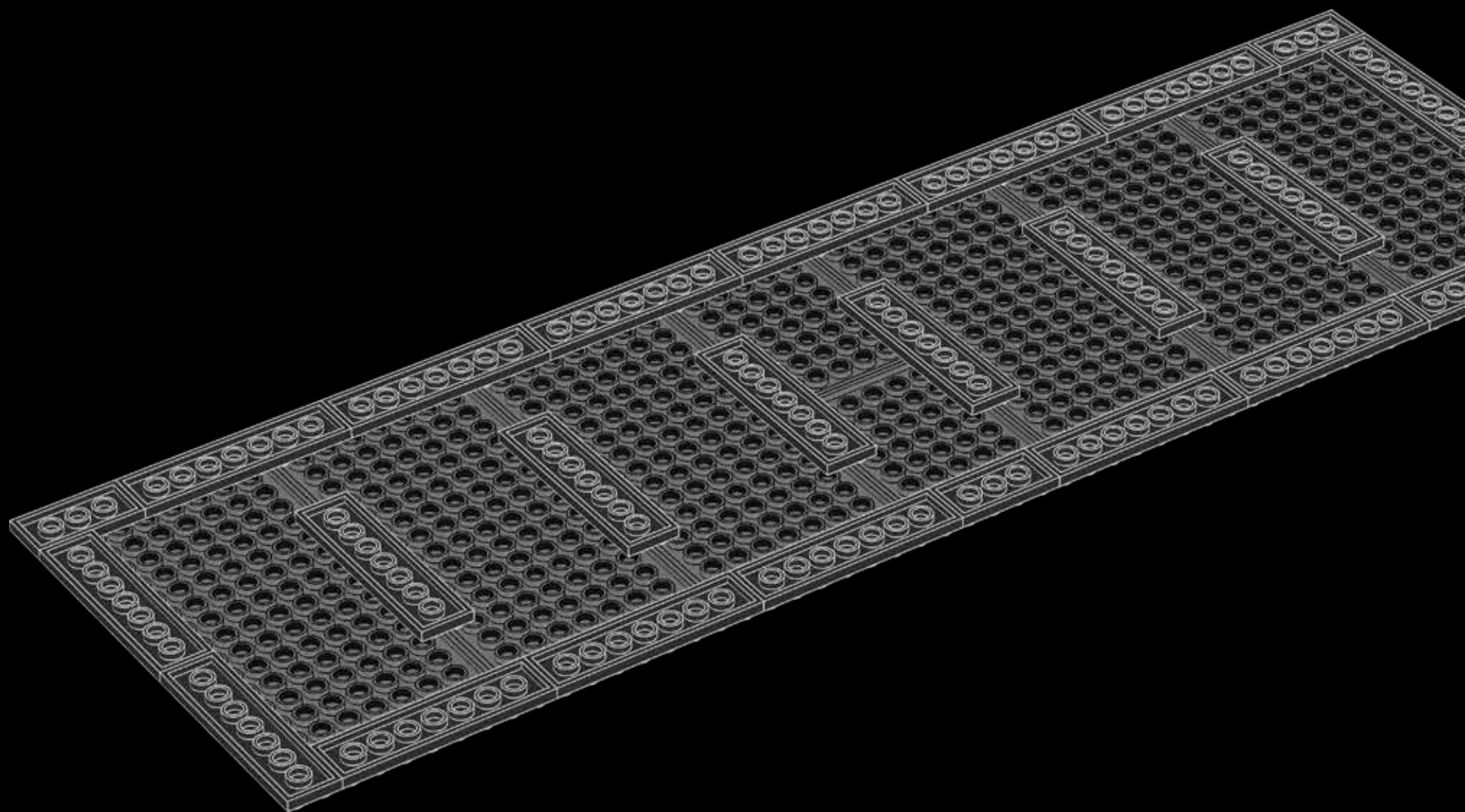
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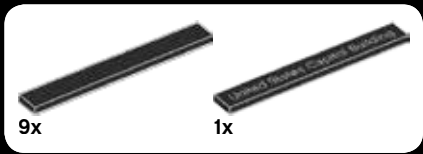




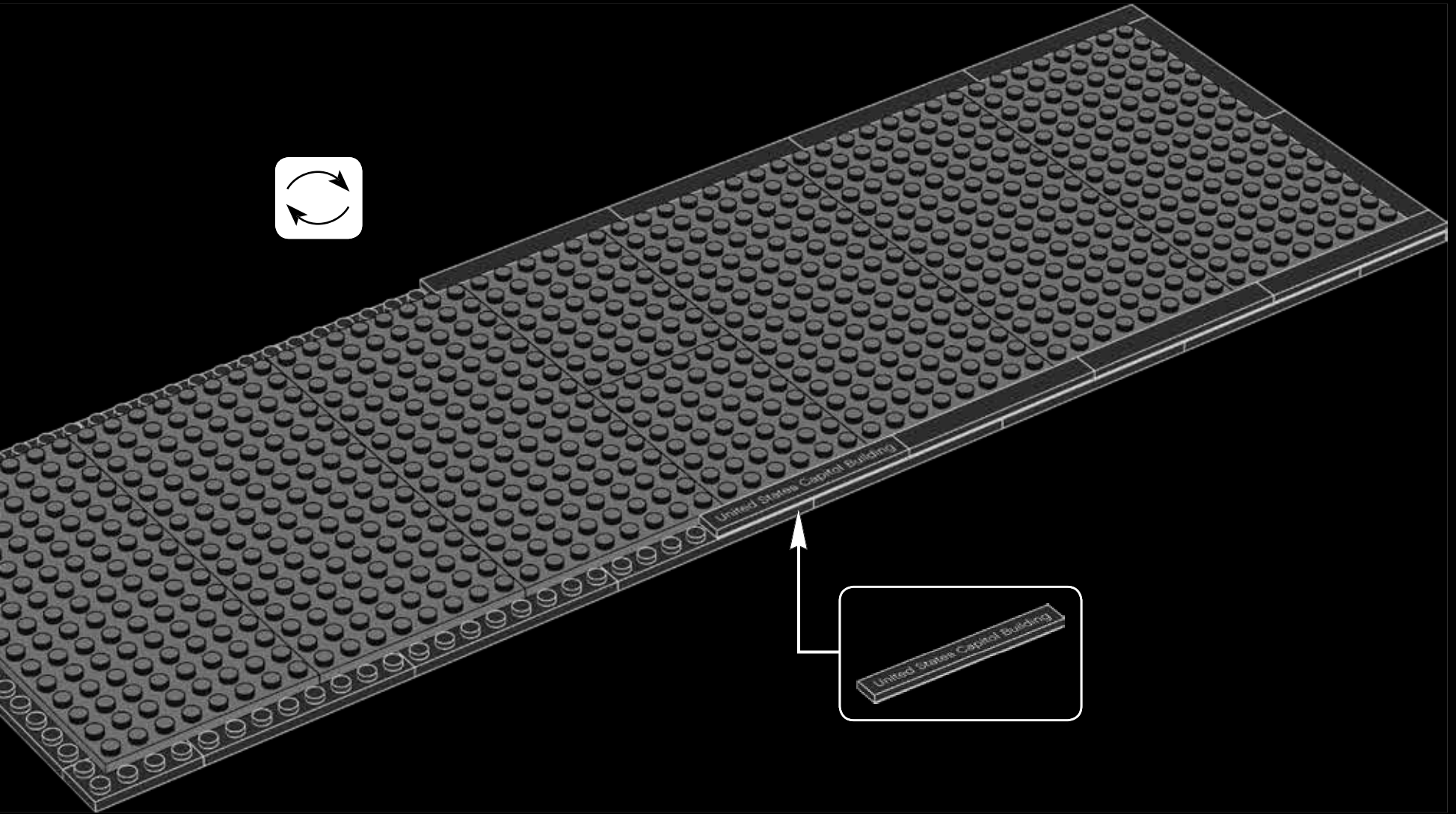
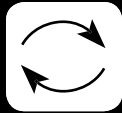
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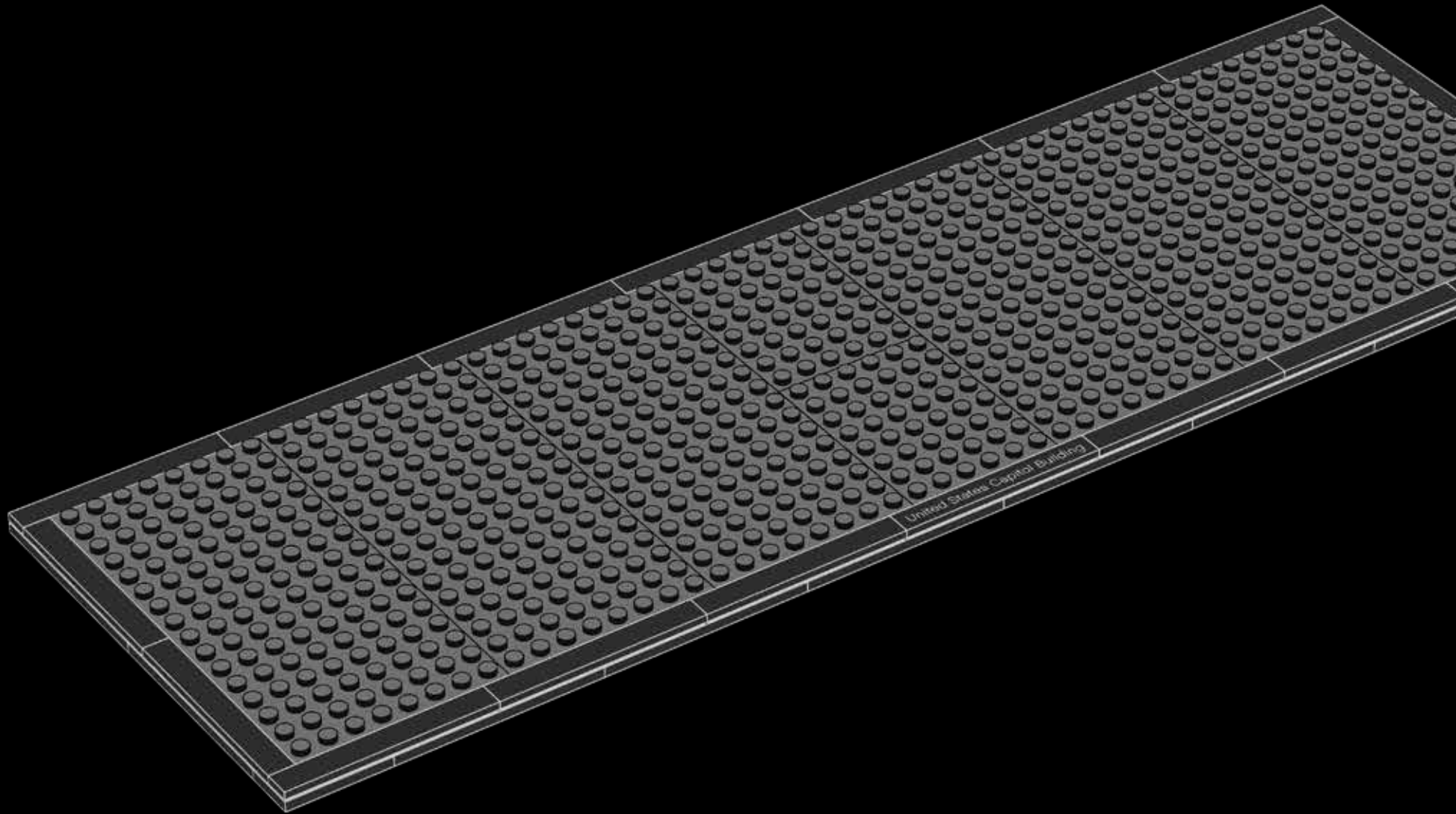


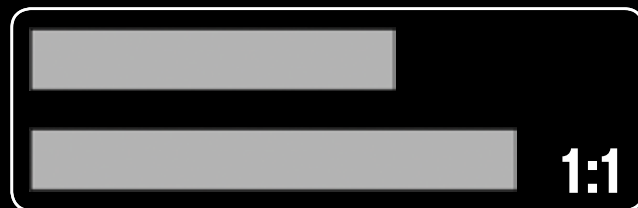
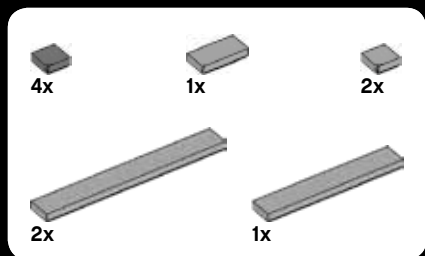


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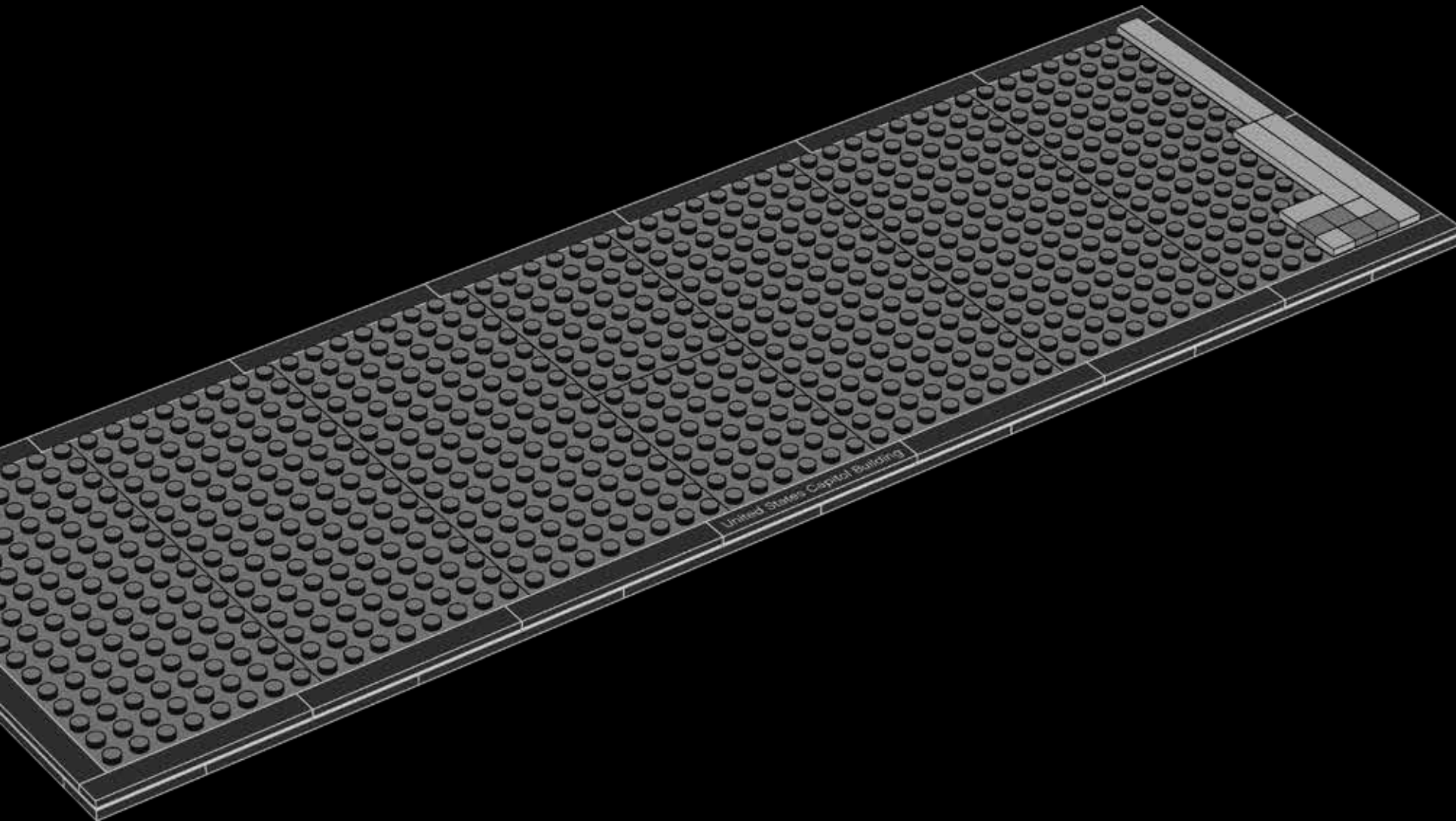
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The Capitol's architect William Thornton's design was inspired by the east front of the Louvre in Paris, France.





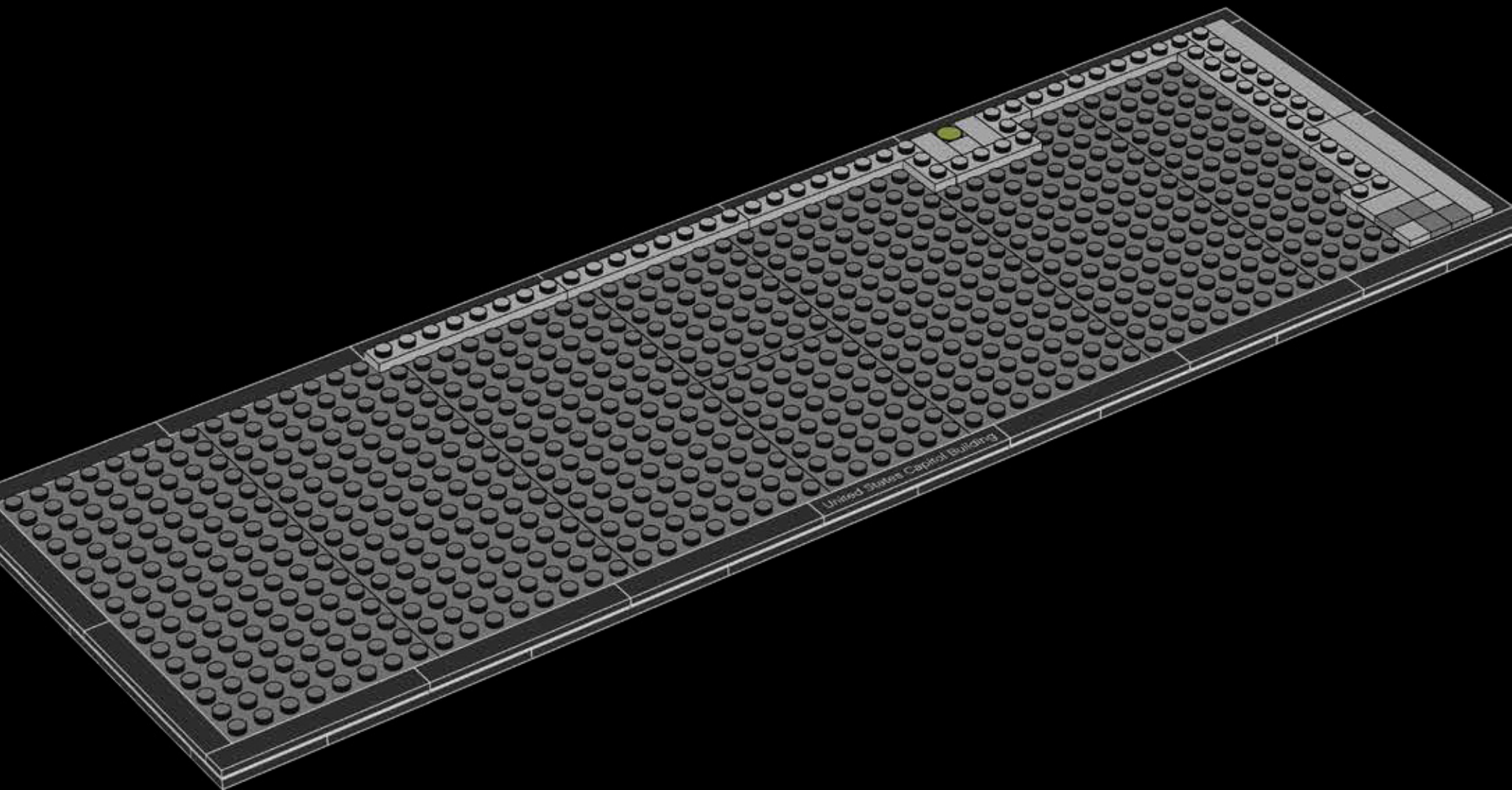
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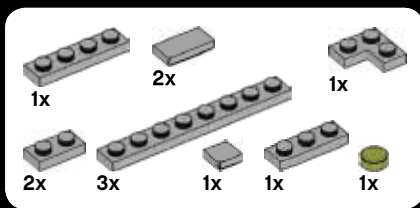




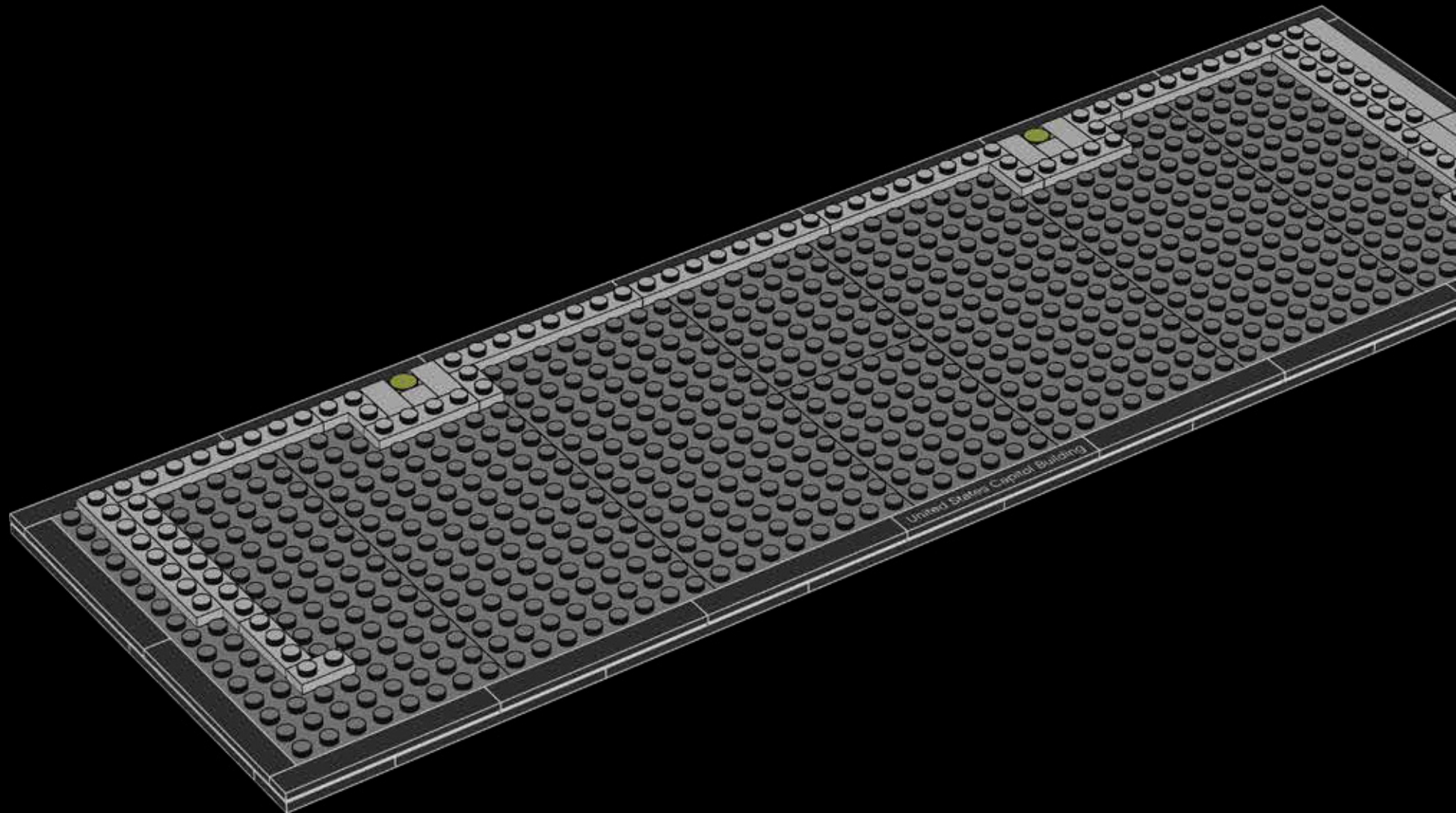


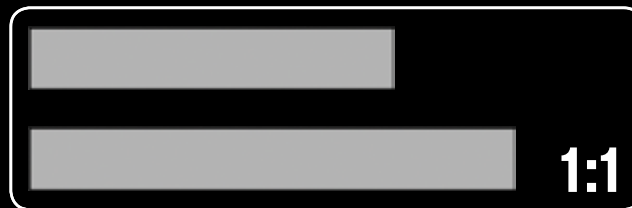
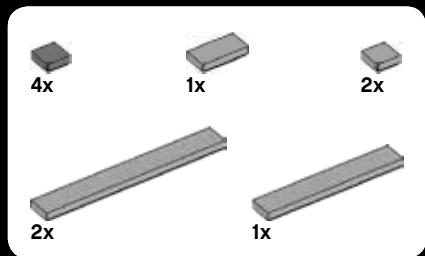
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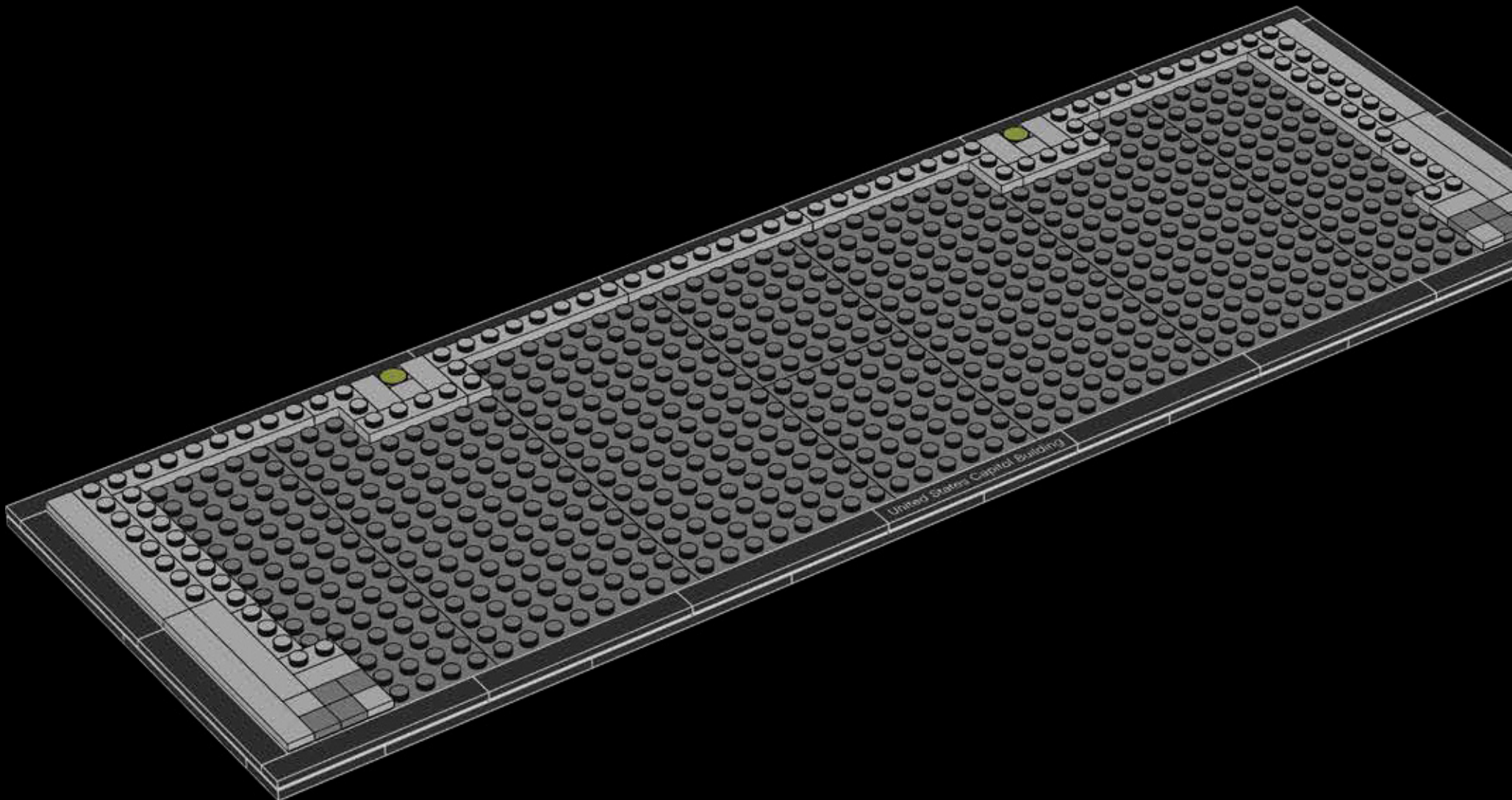


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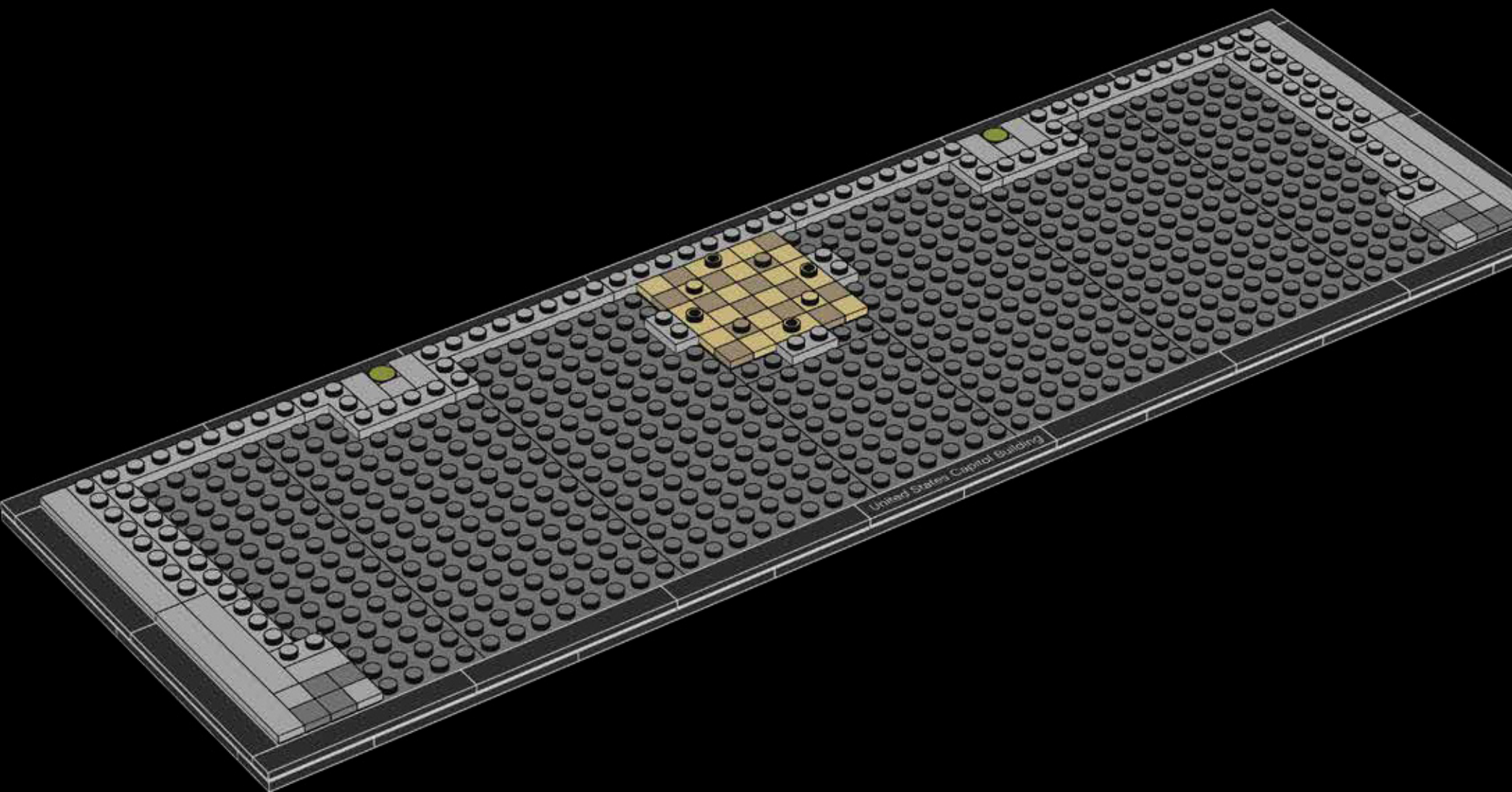


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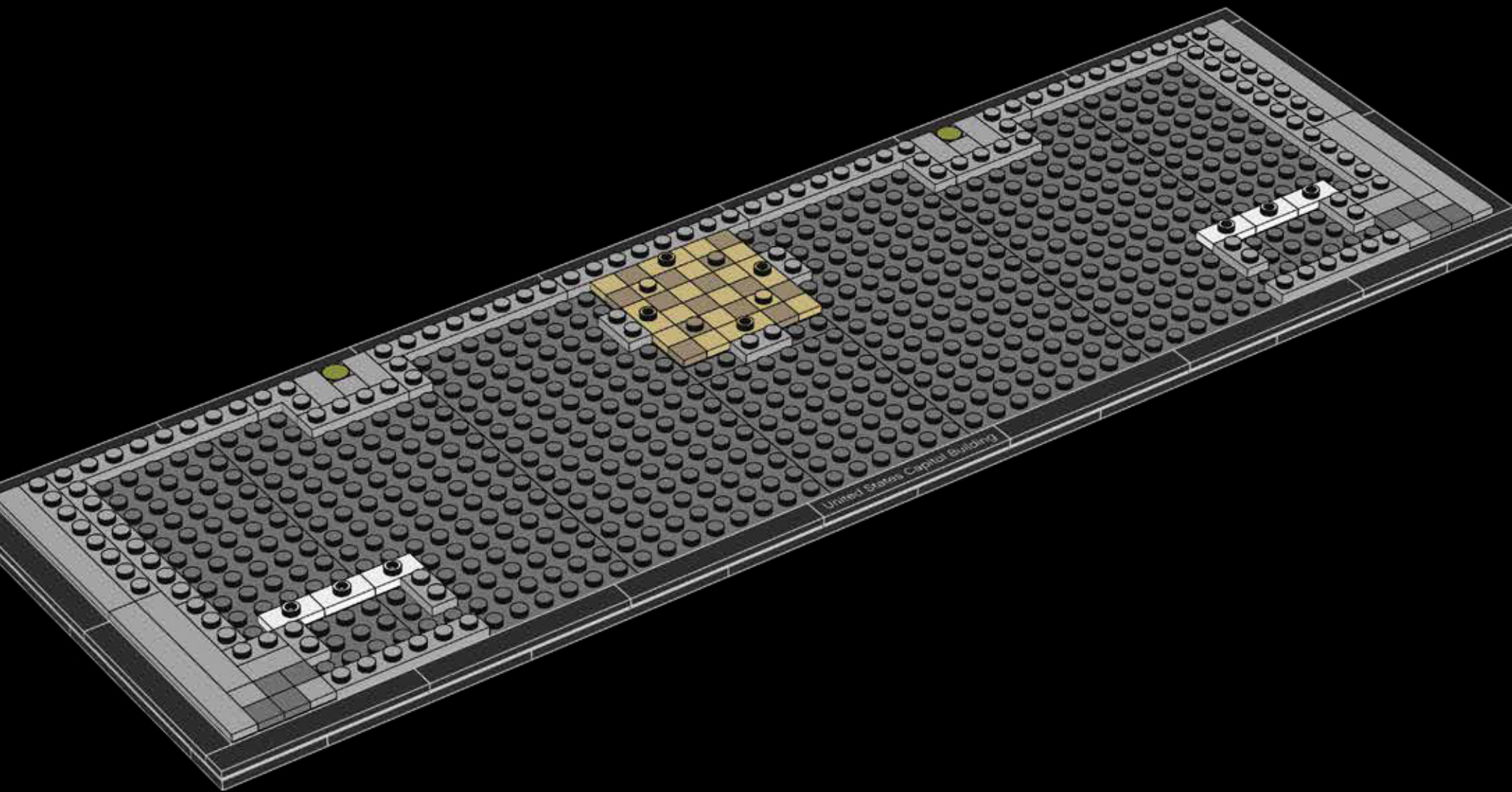


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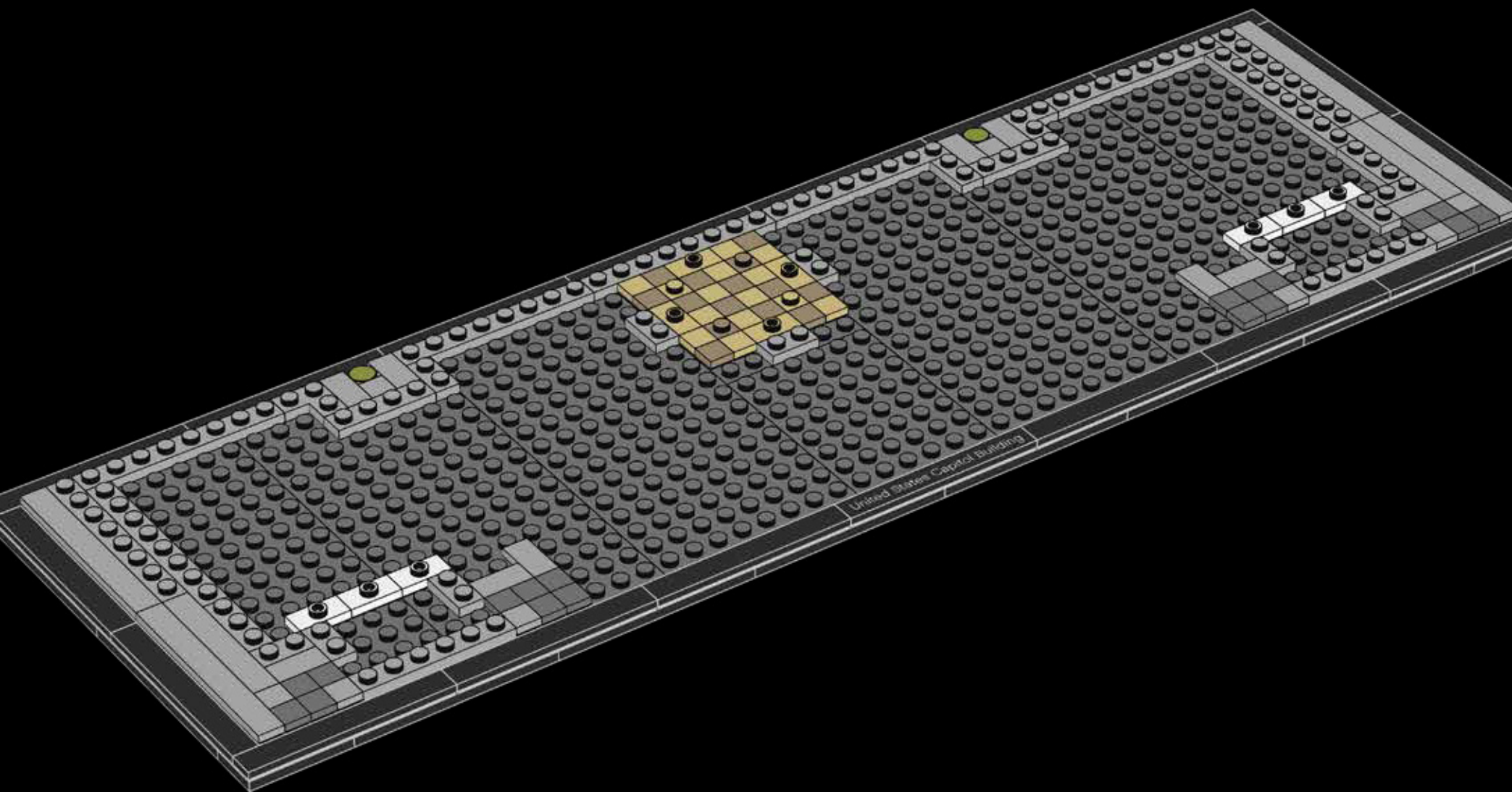


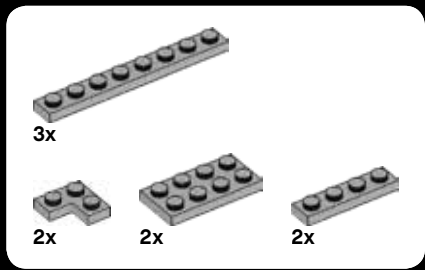
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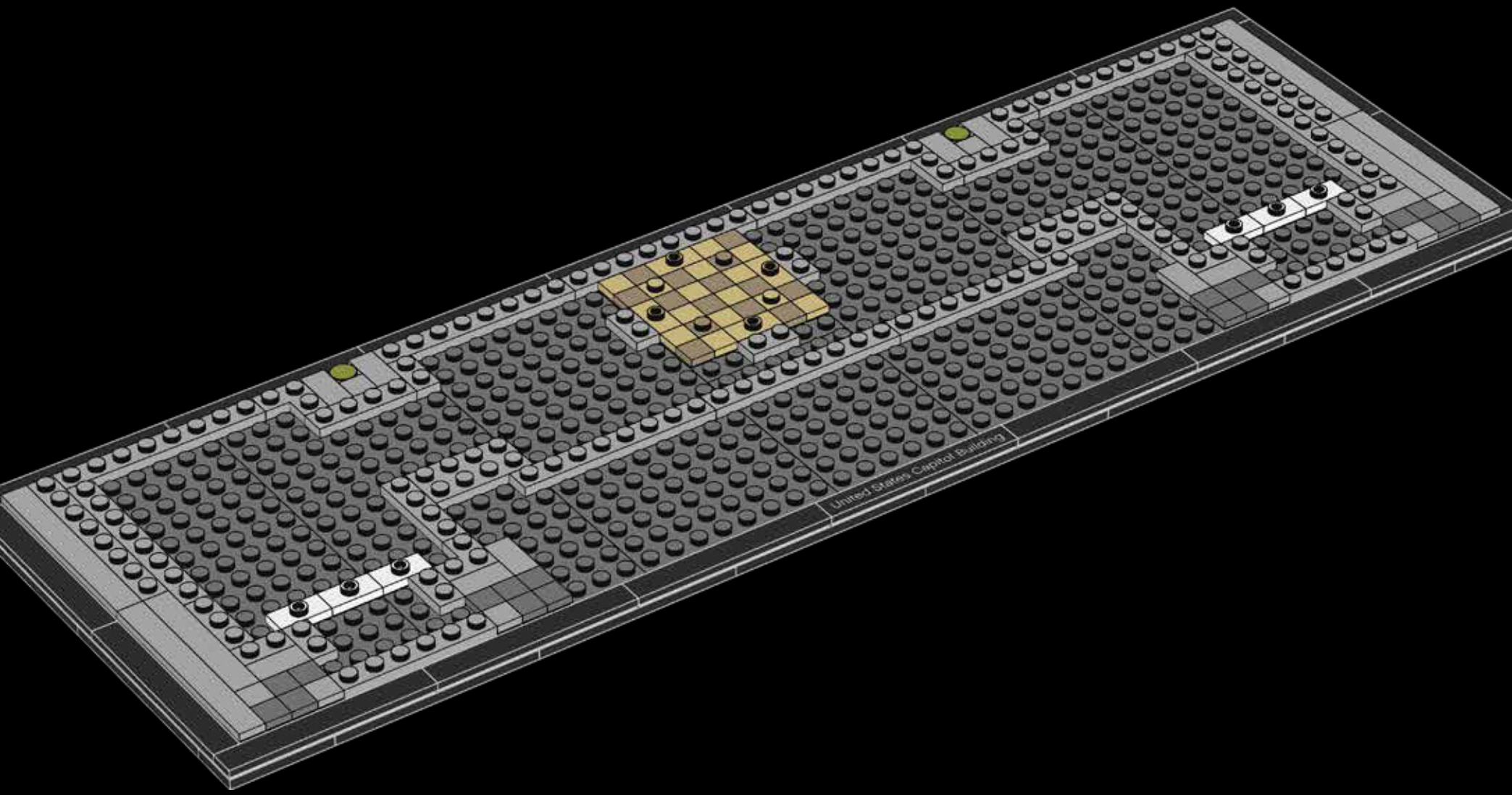
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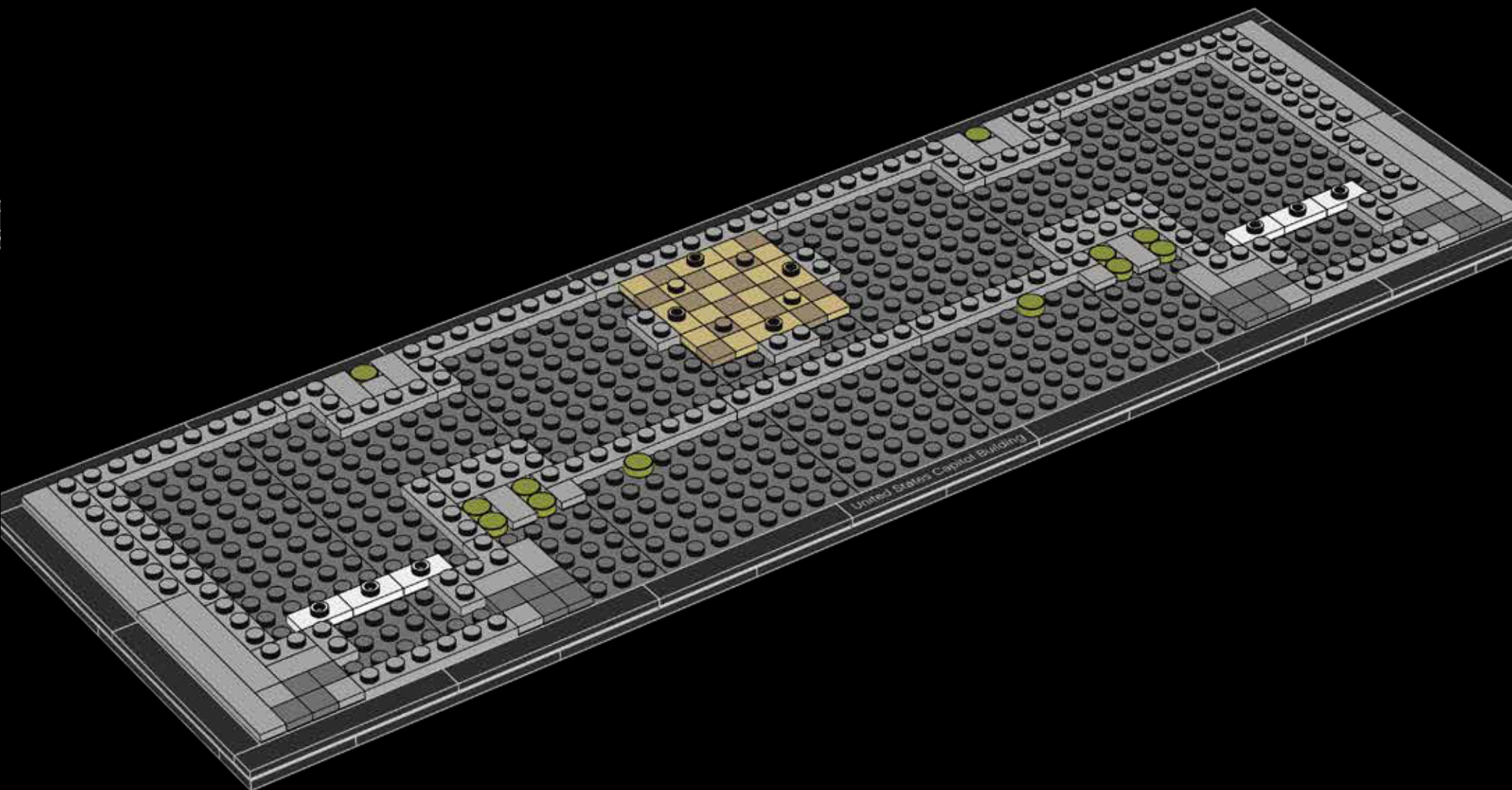


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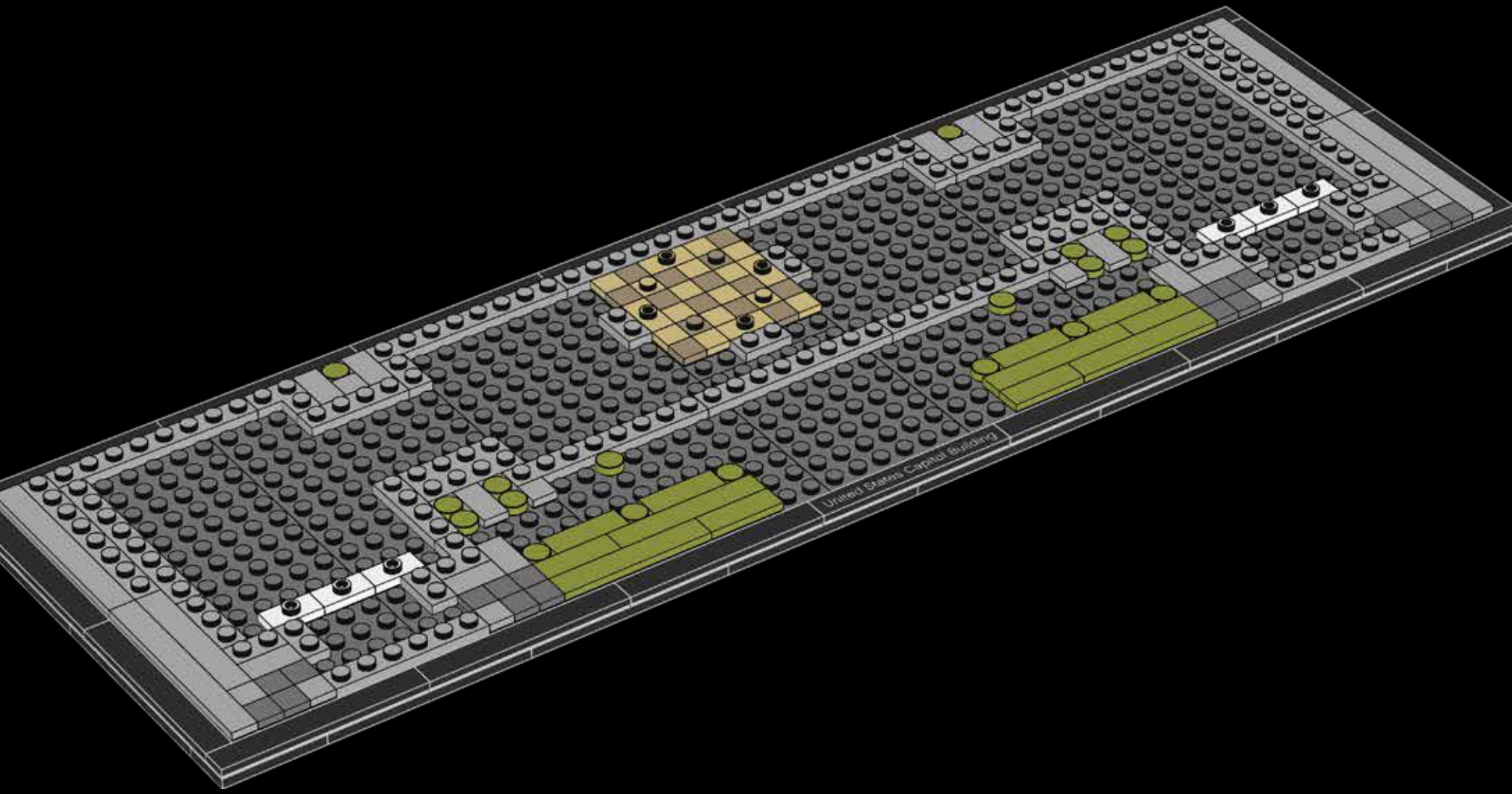
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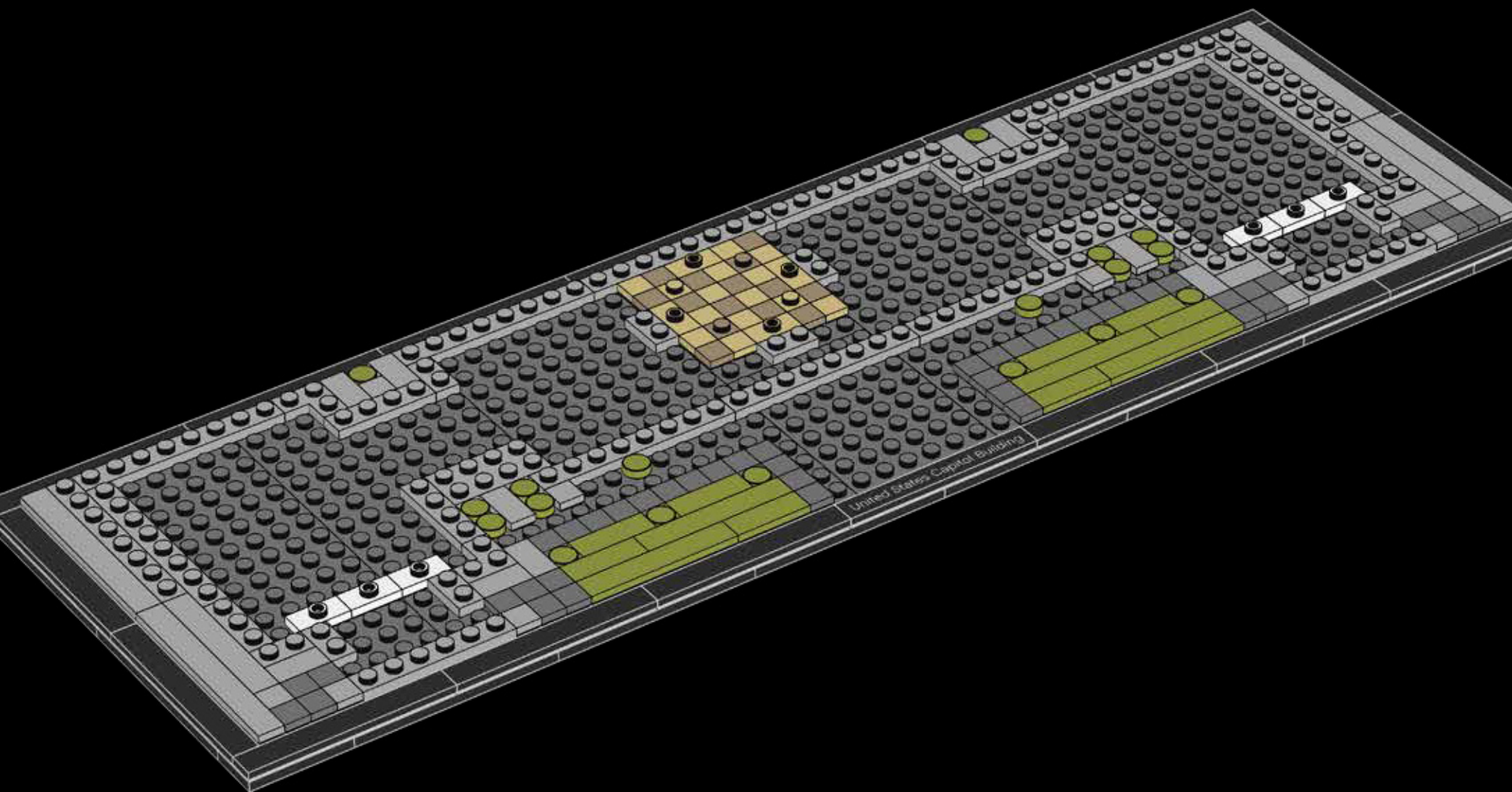
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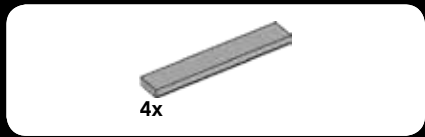
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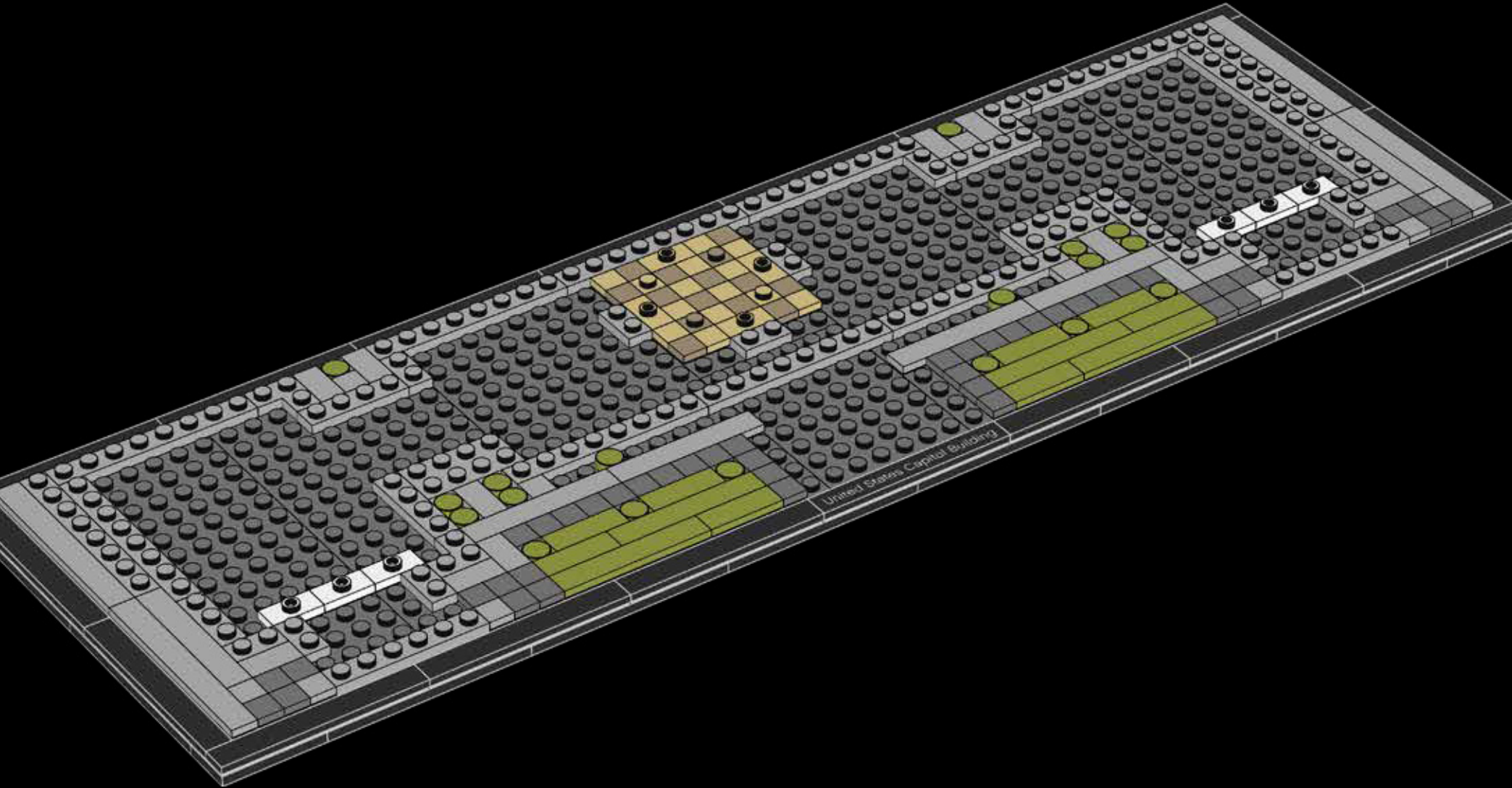
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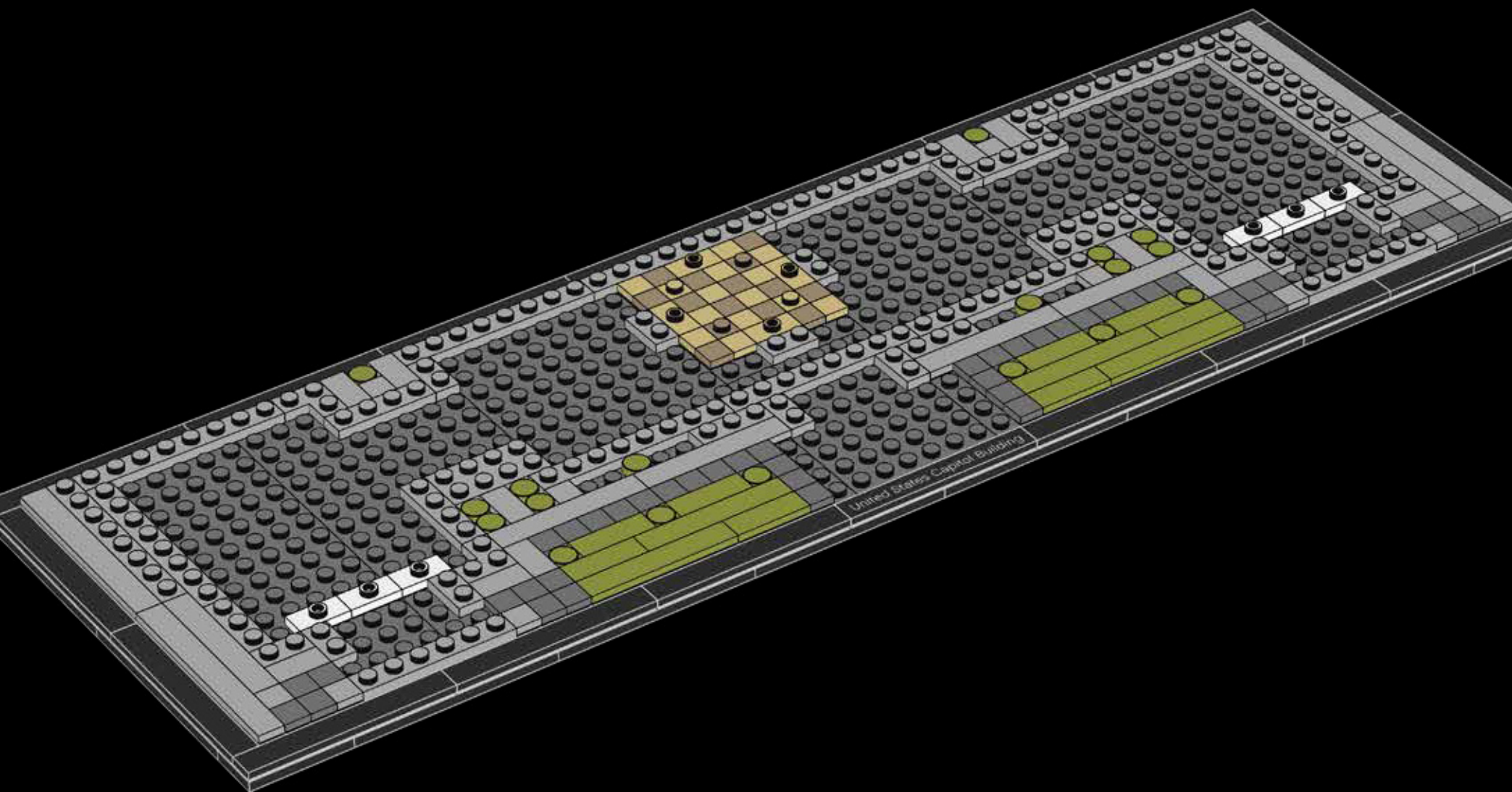


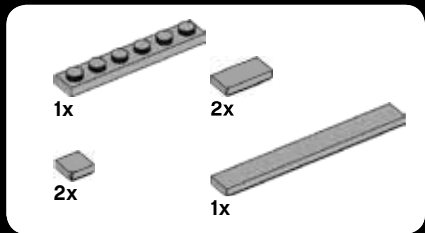
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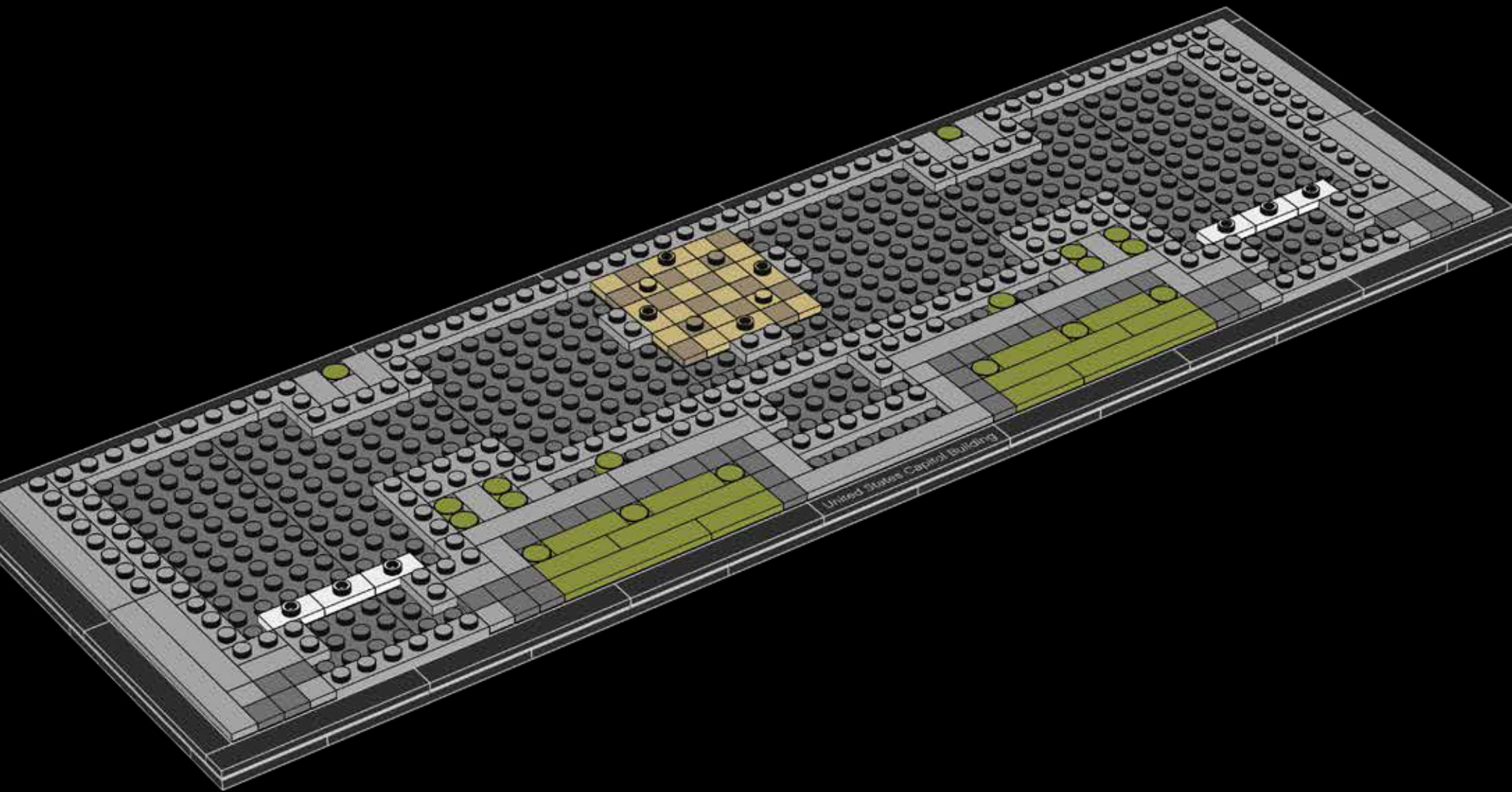
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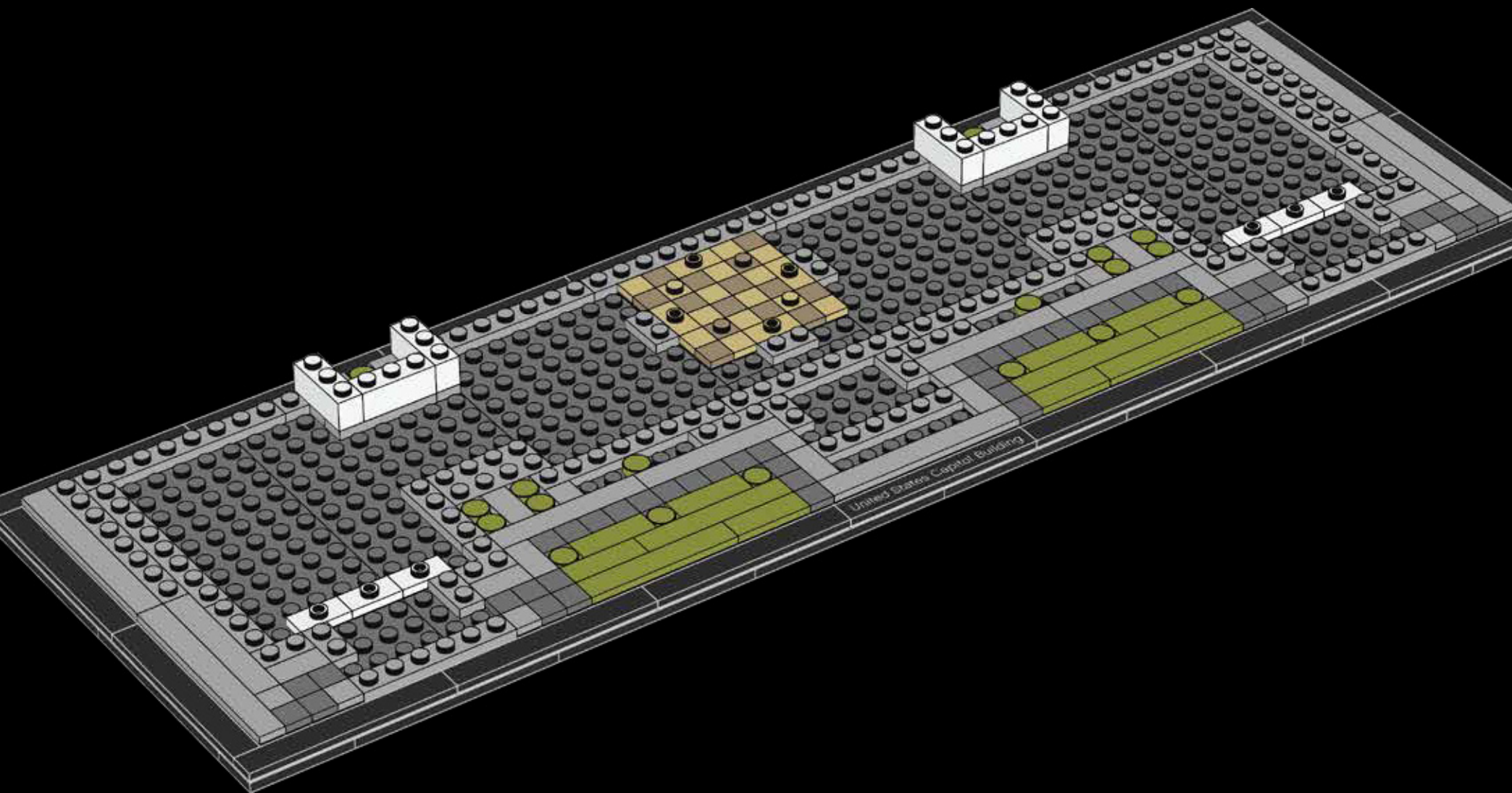
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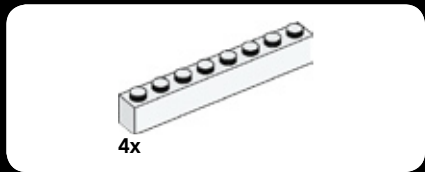




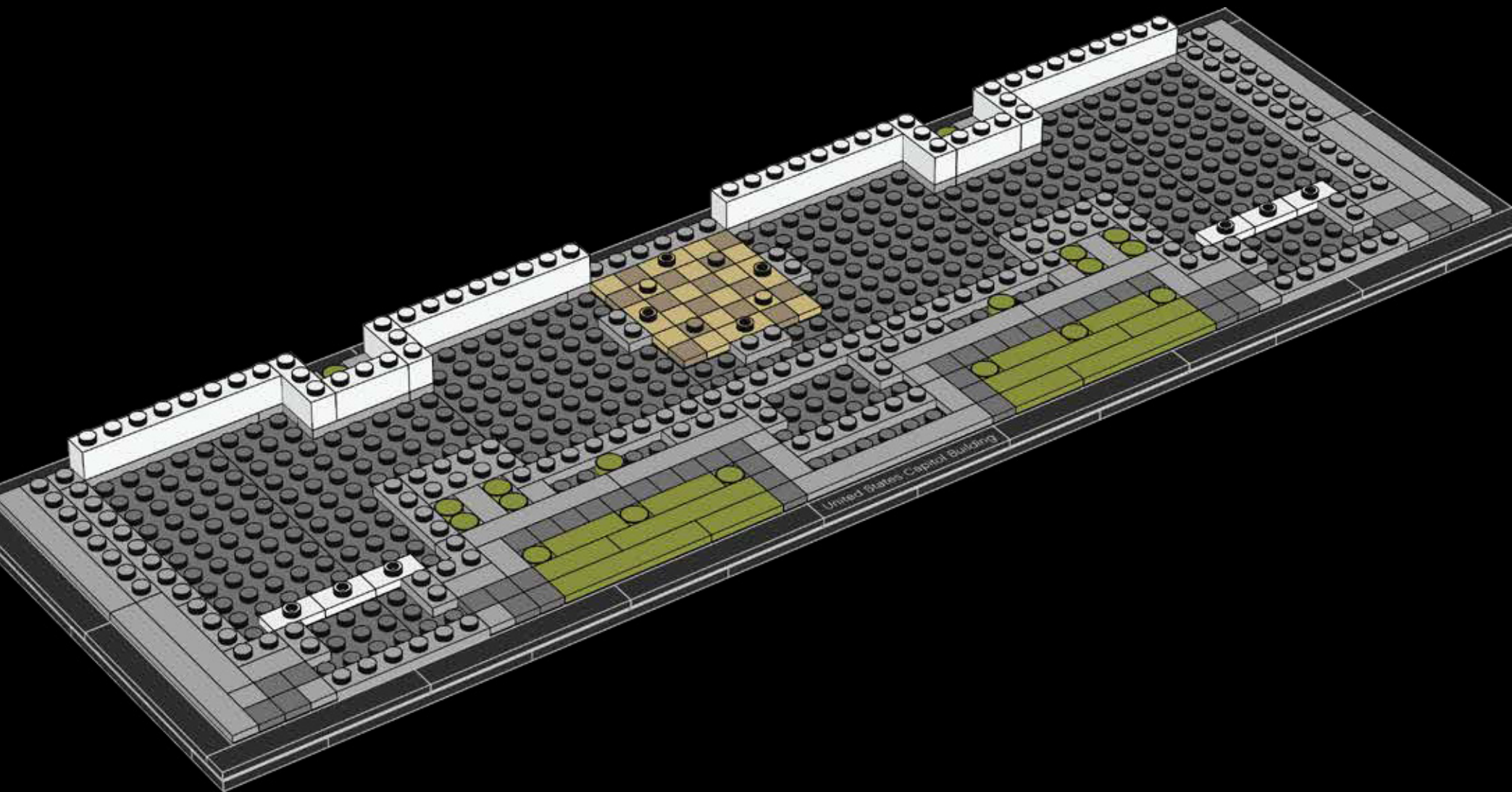
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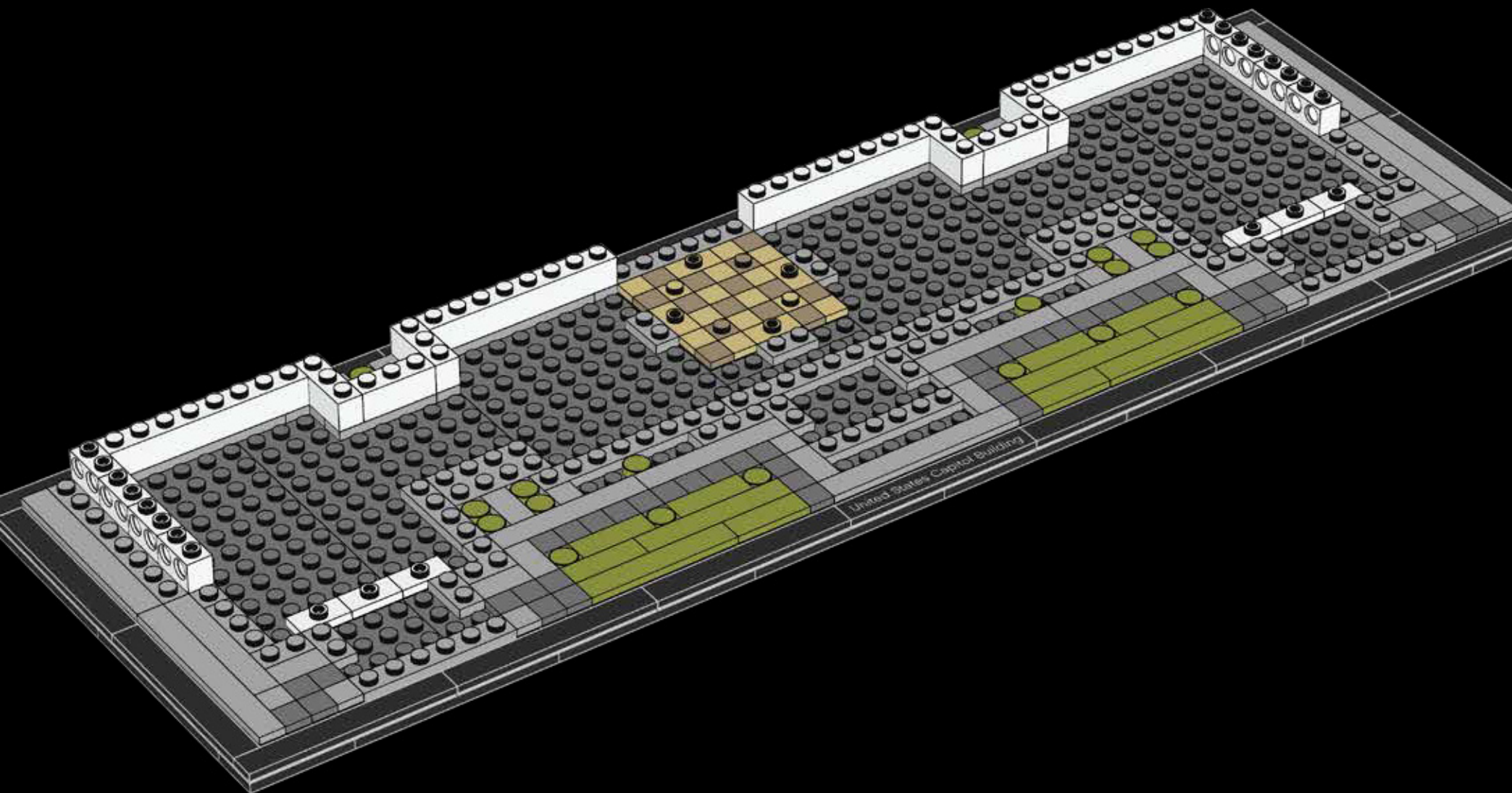




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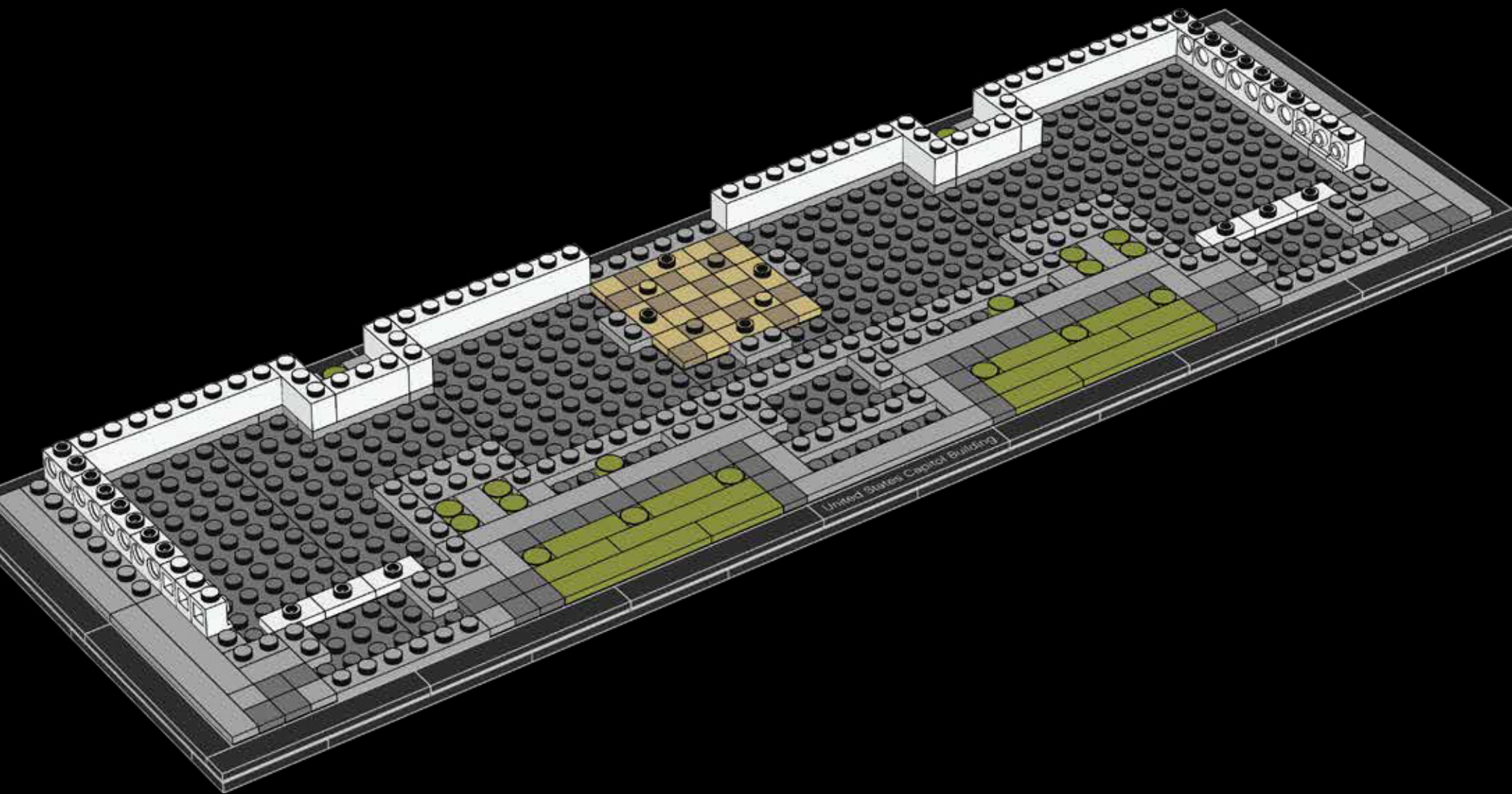
The building contains approximately 540 rooms, has 658 windows and approximately 850 doorways.





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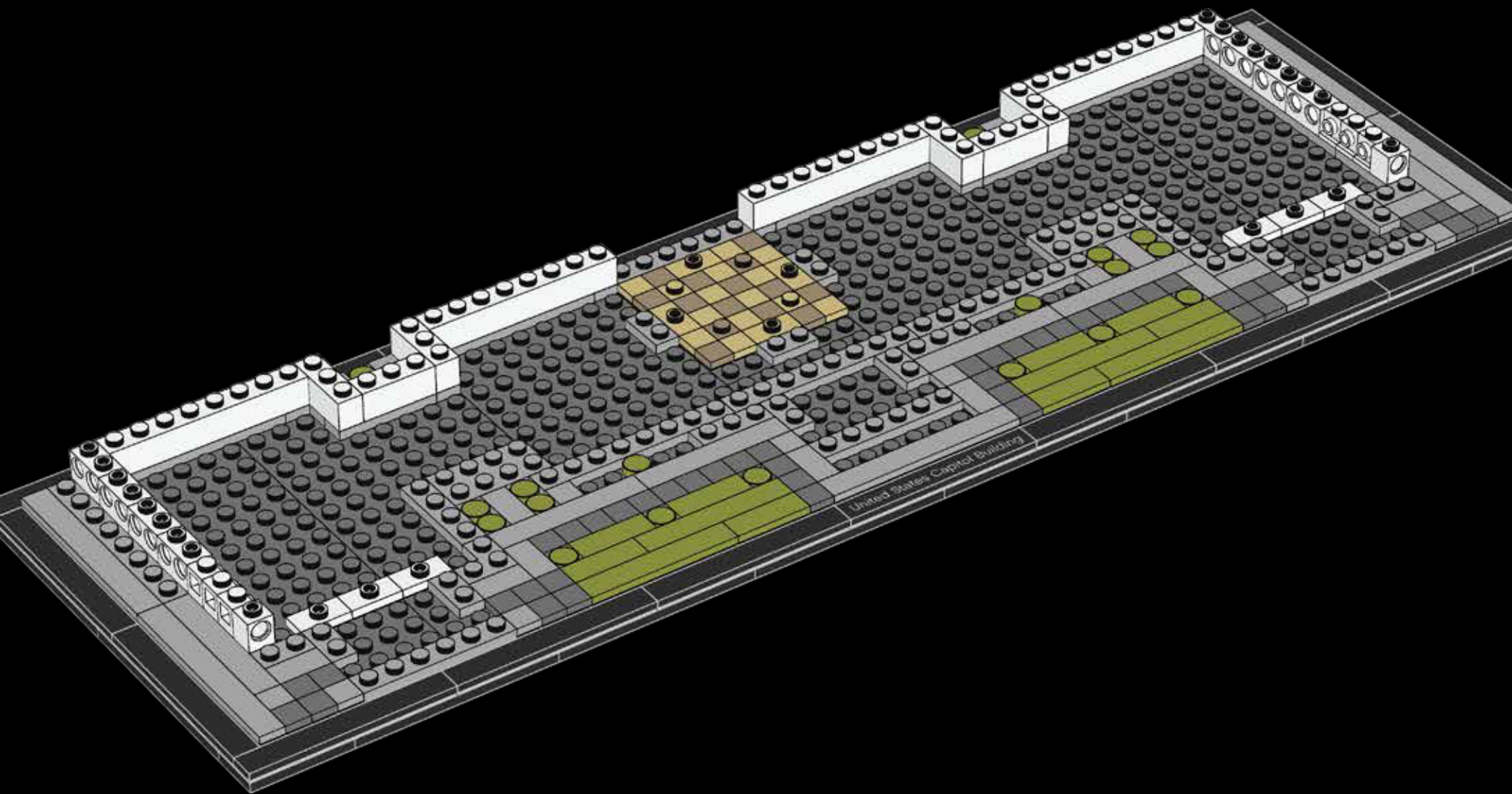




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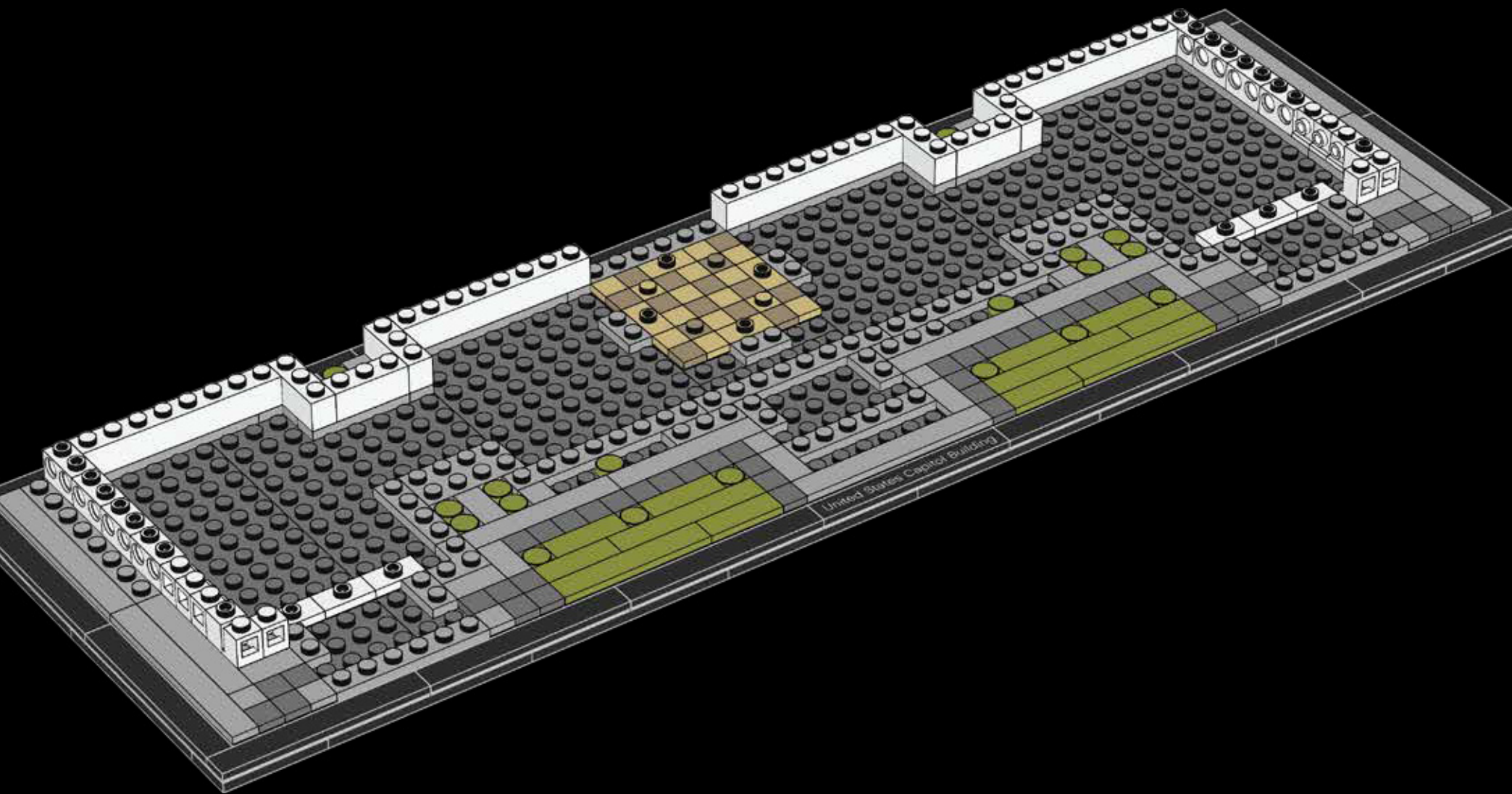




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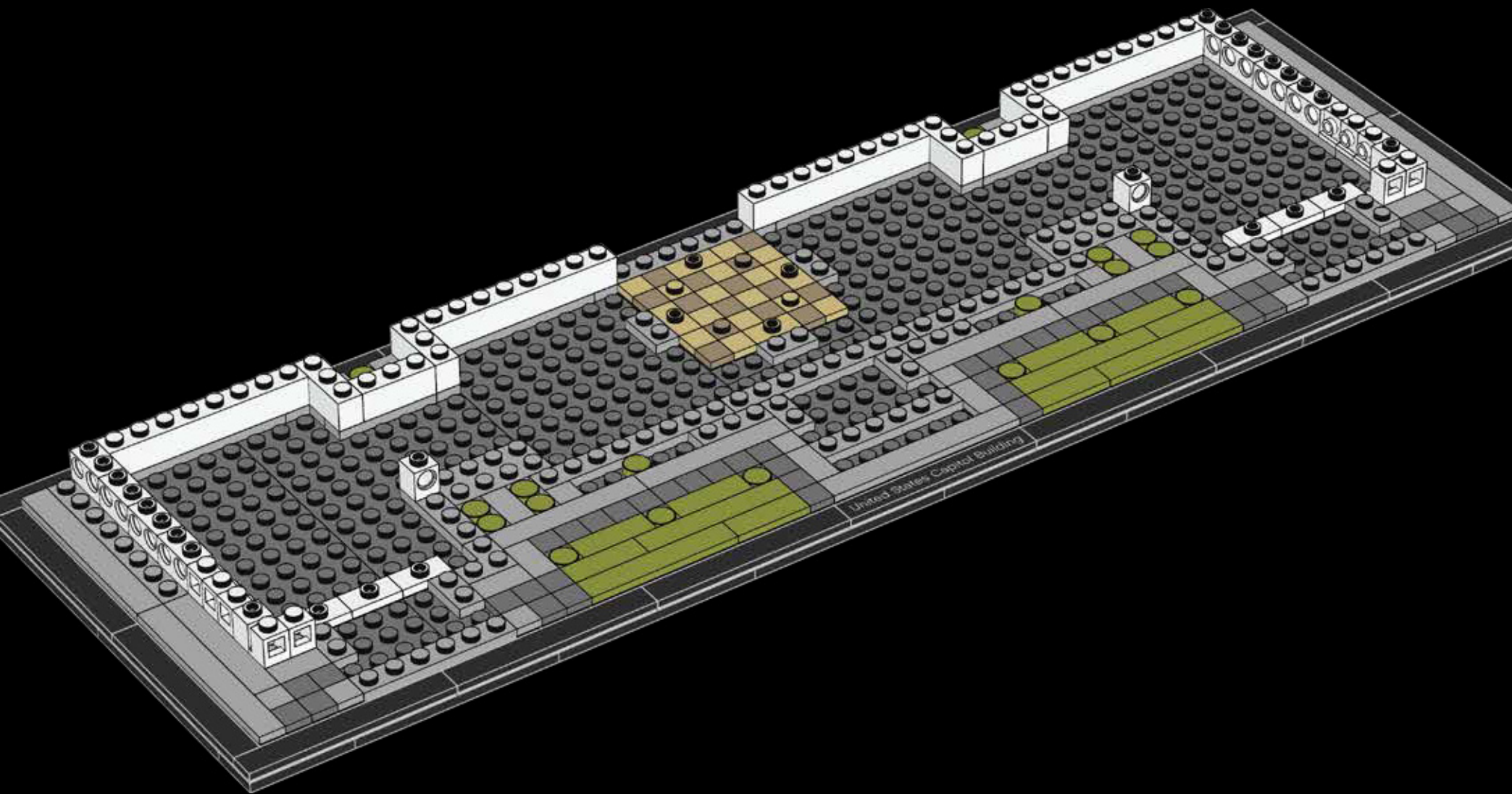




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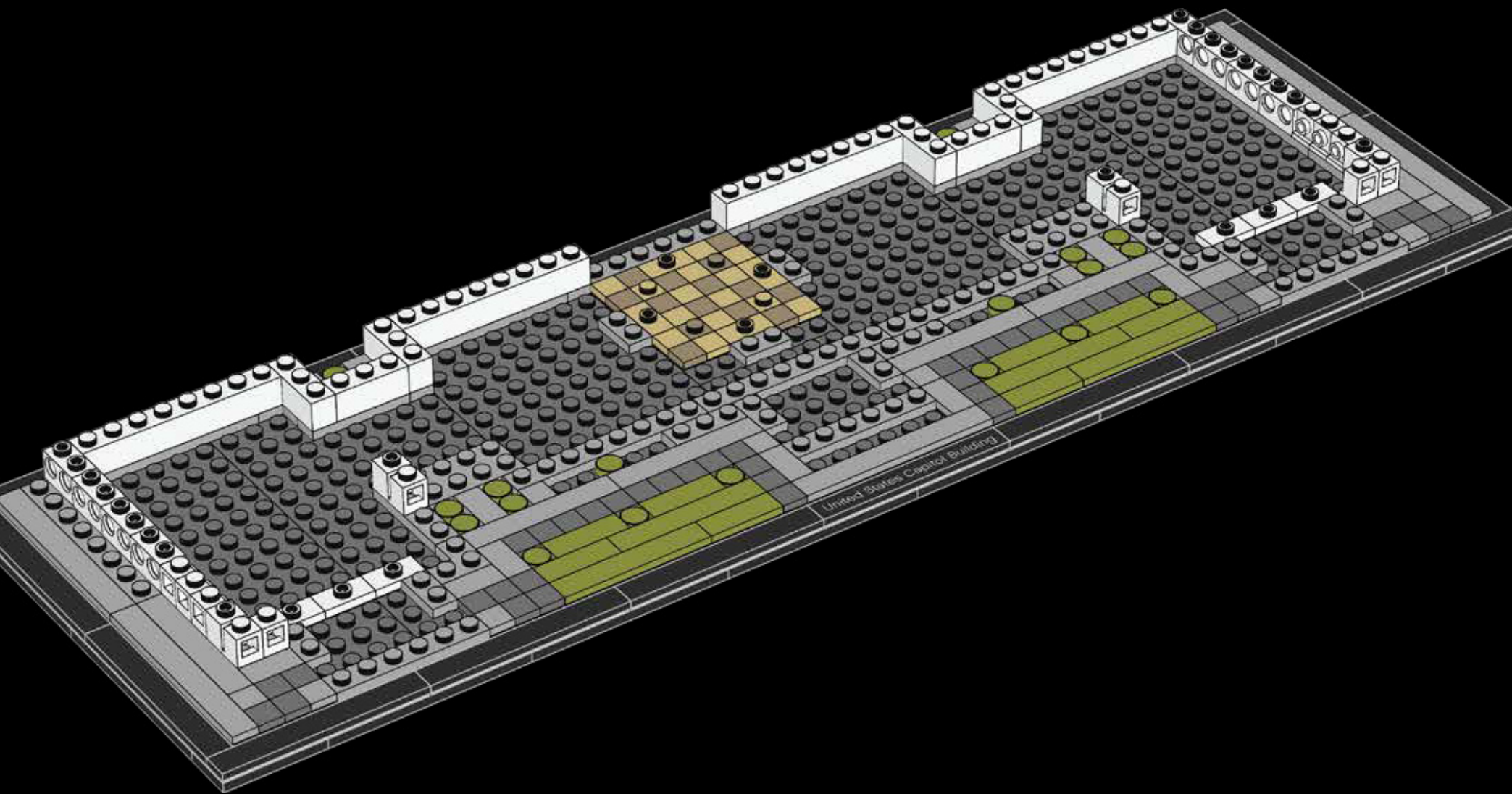




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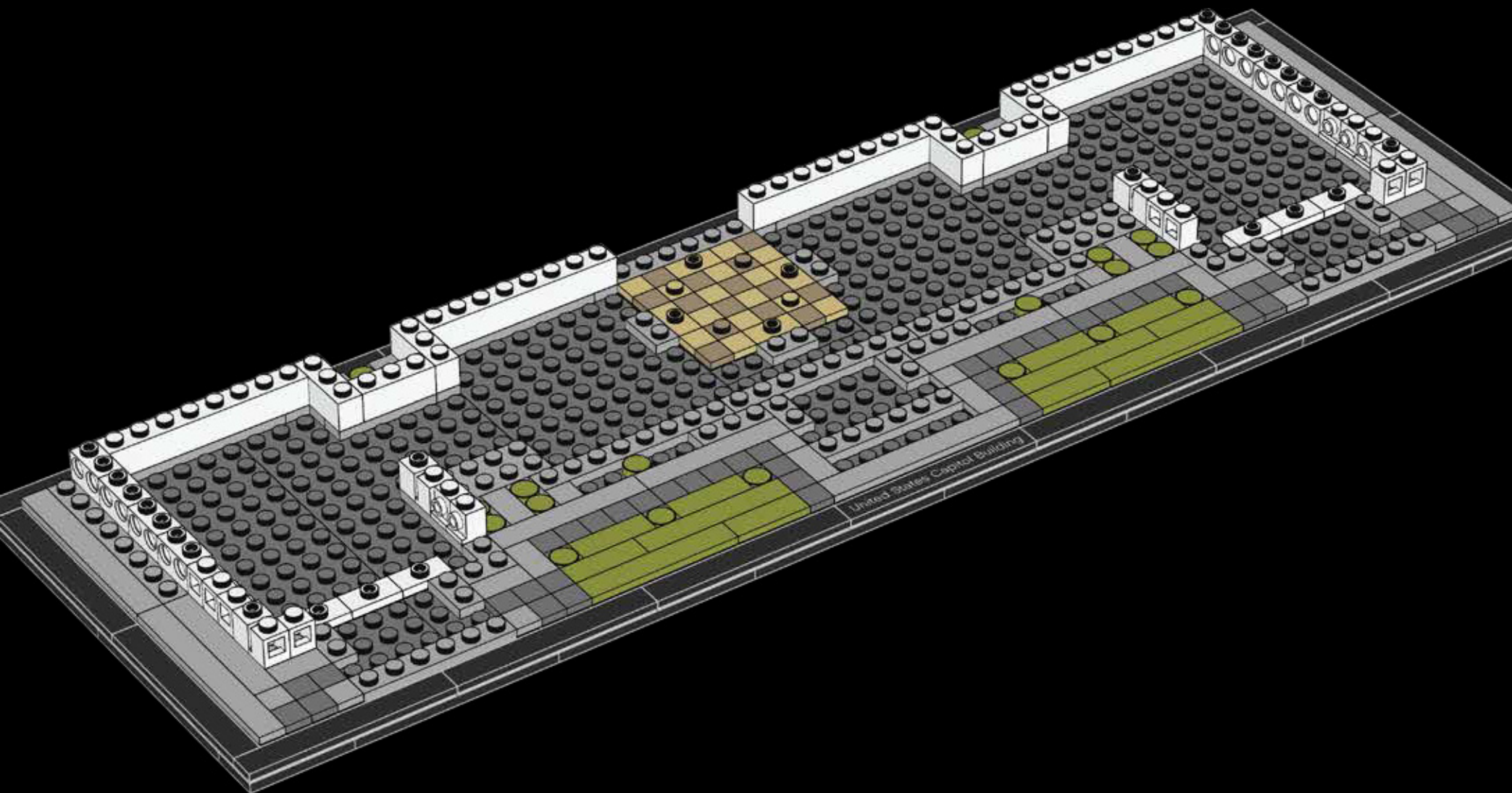
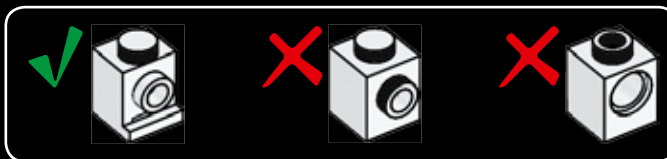
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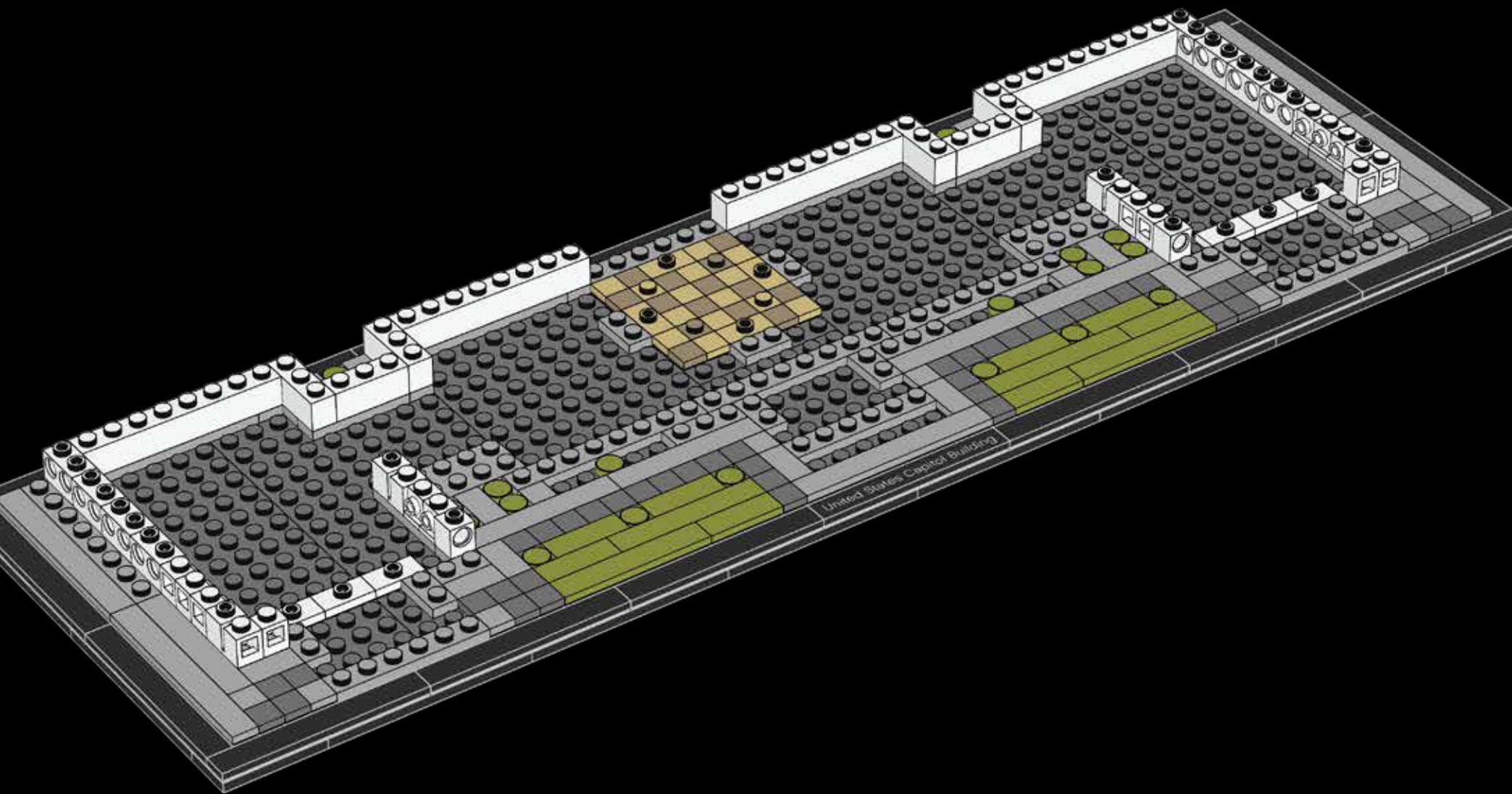




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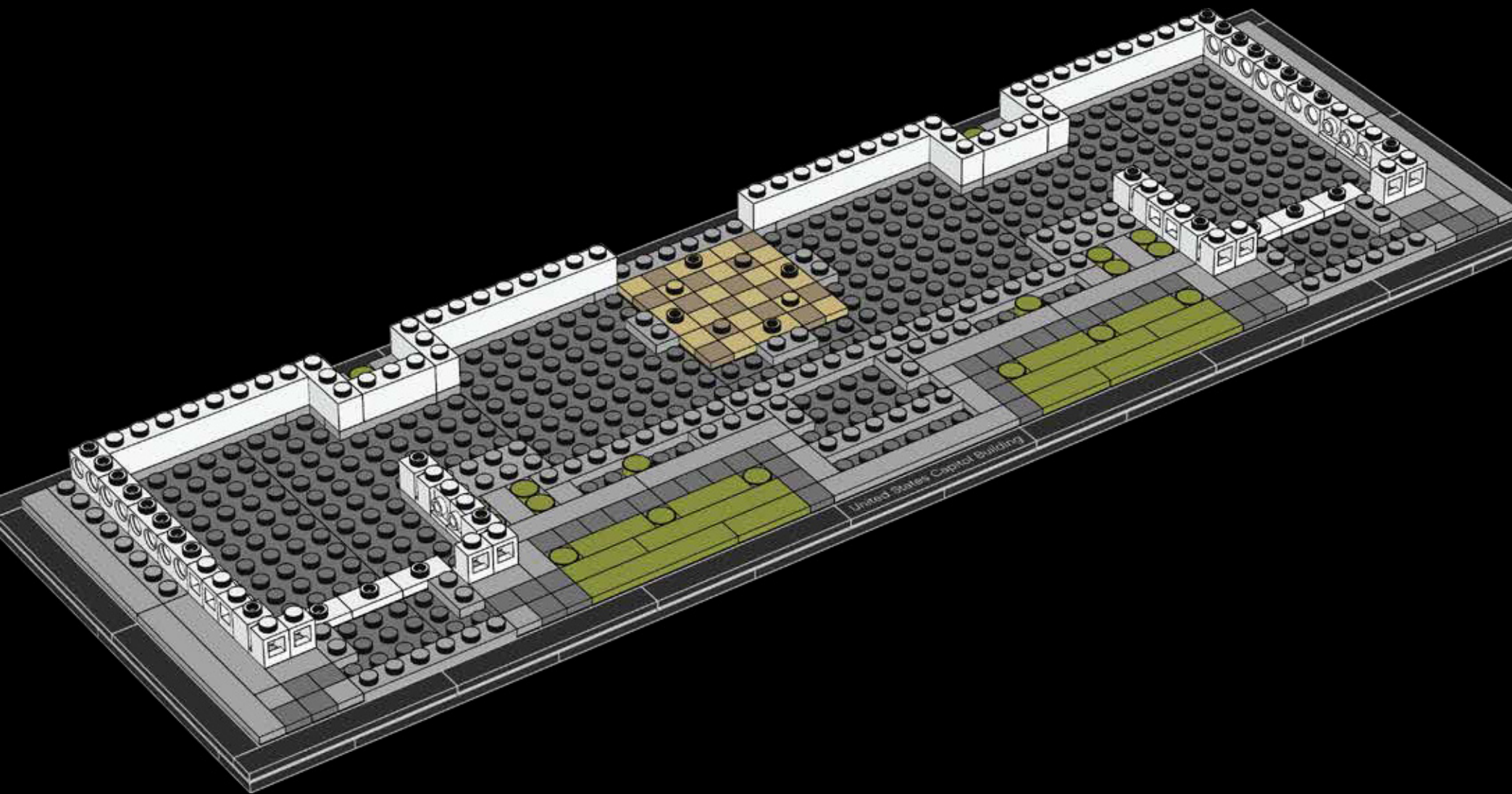




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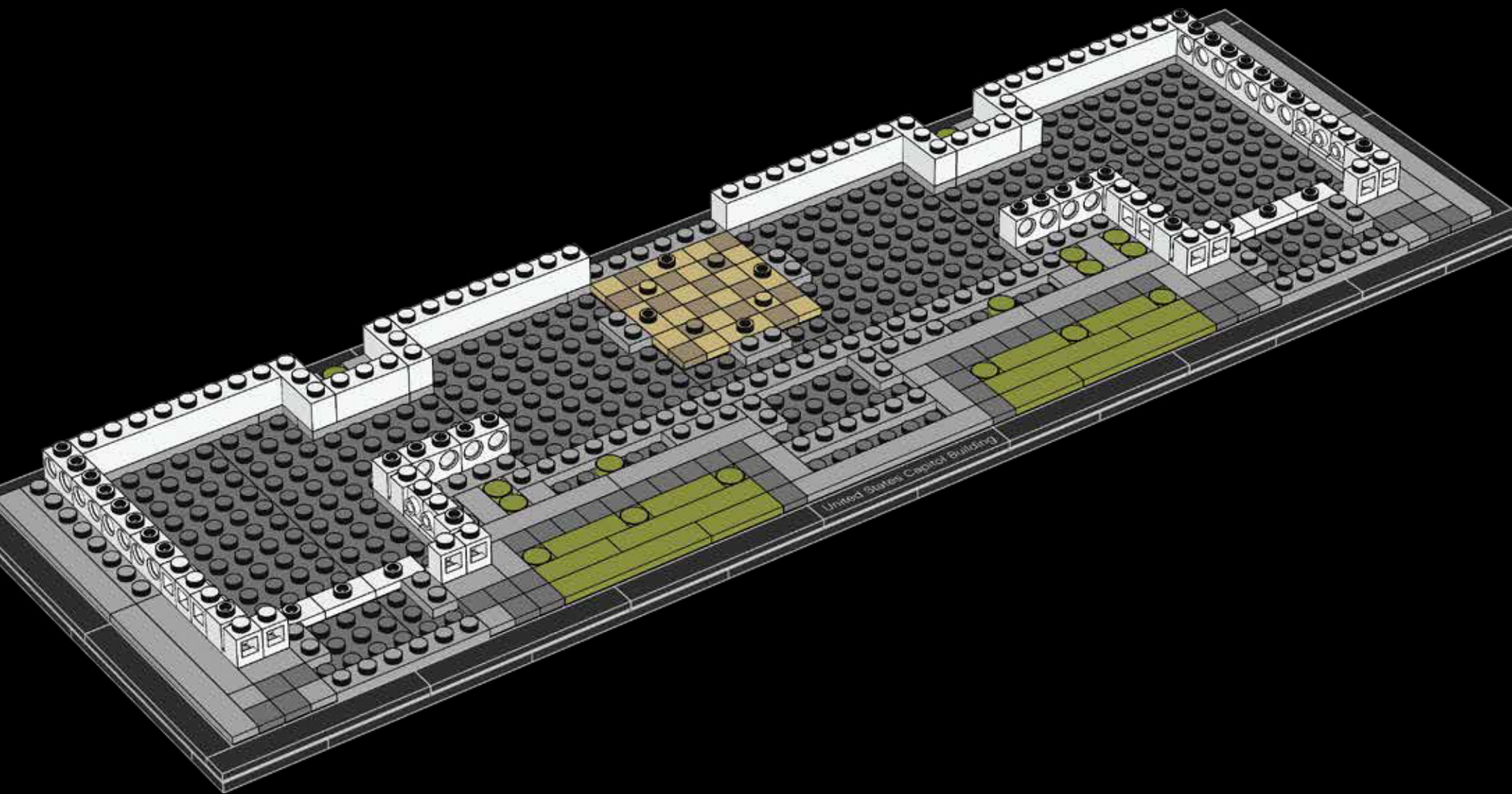
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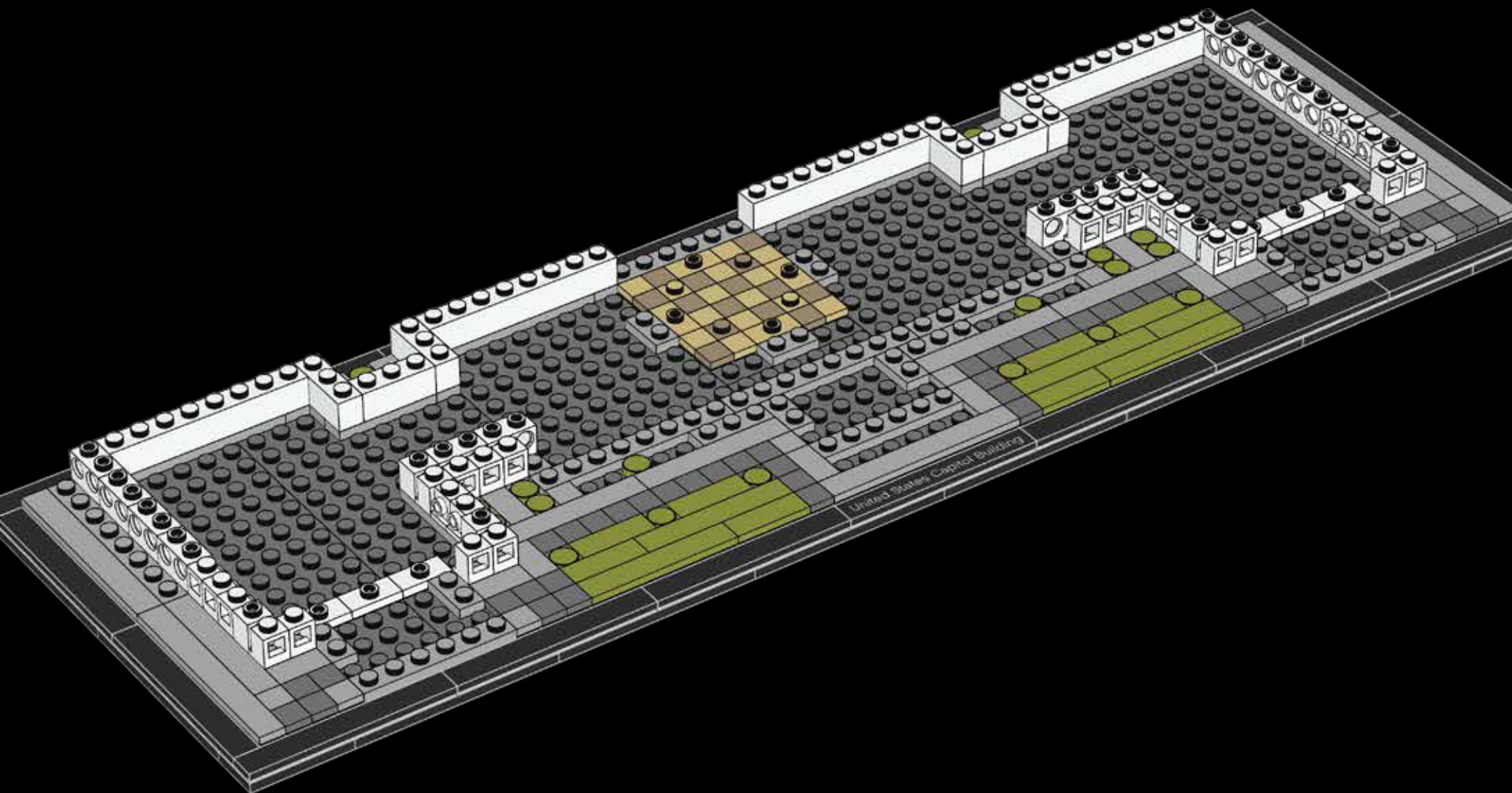
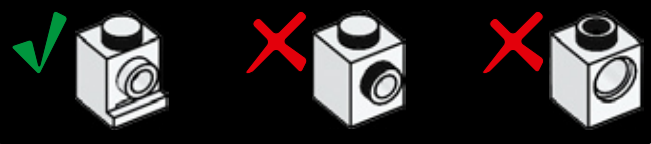
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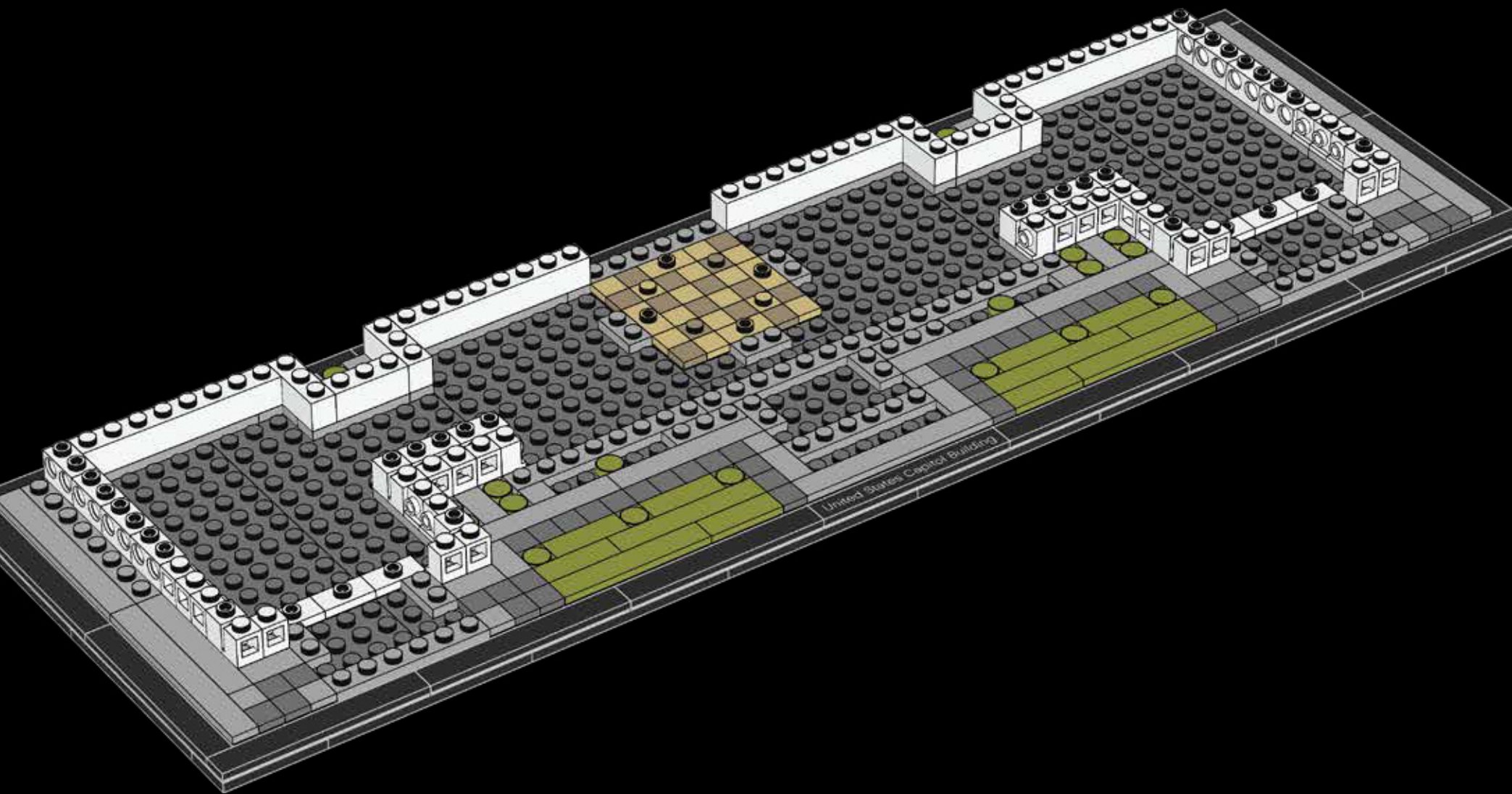




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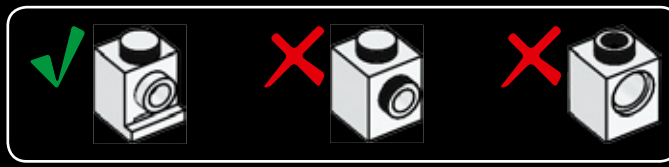


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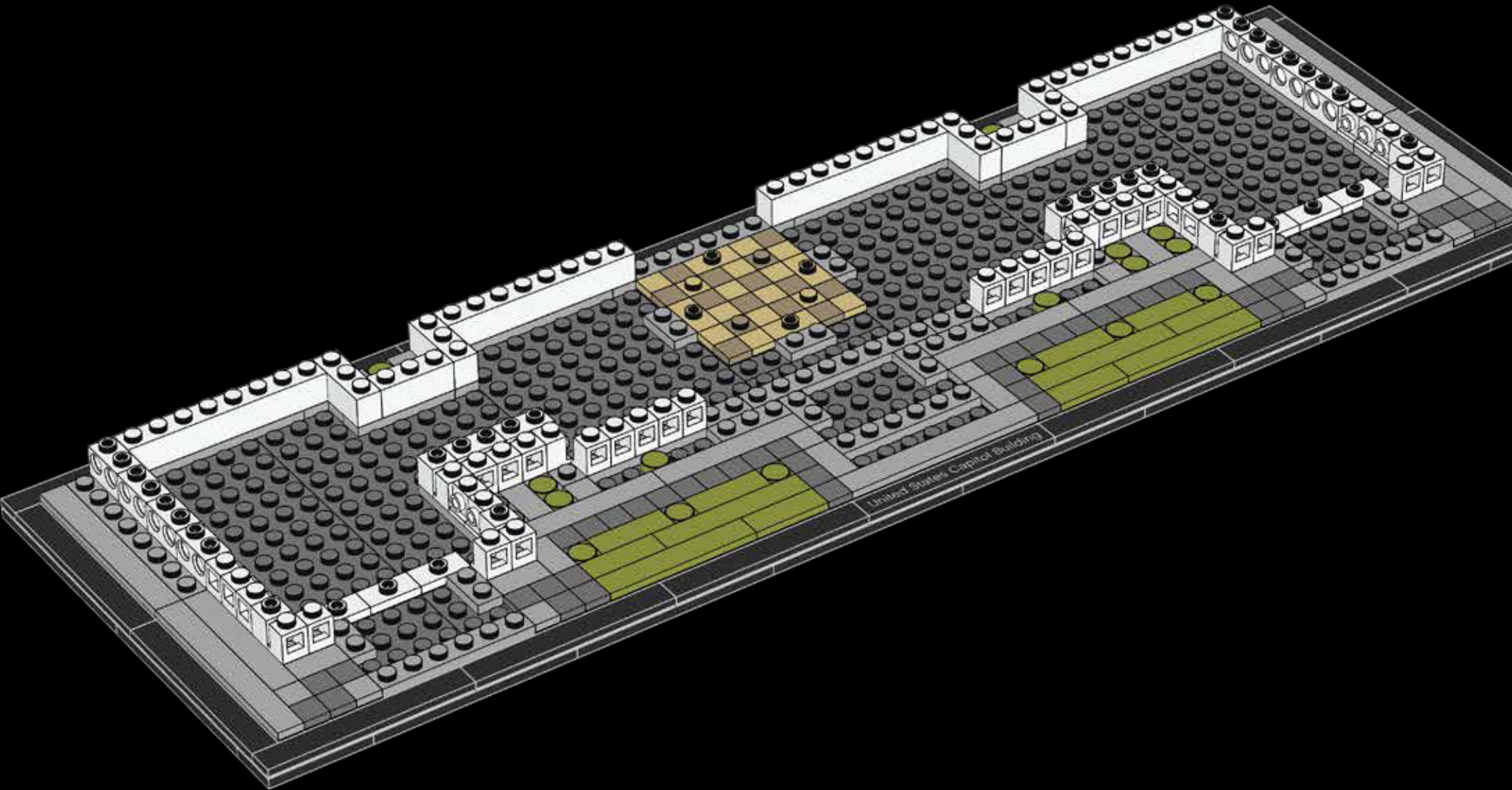




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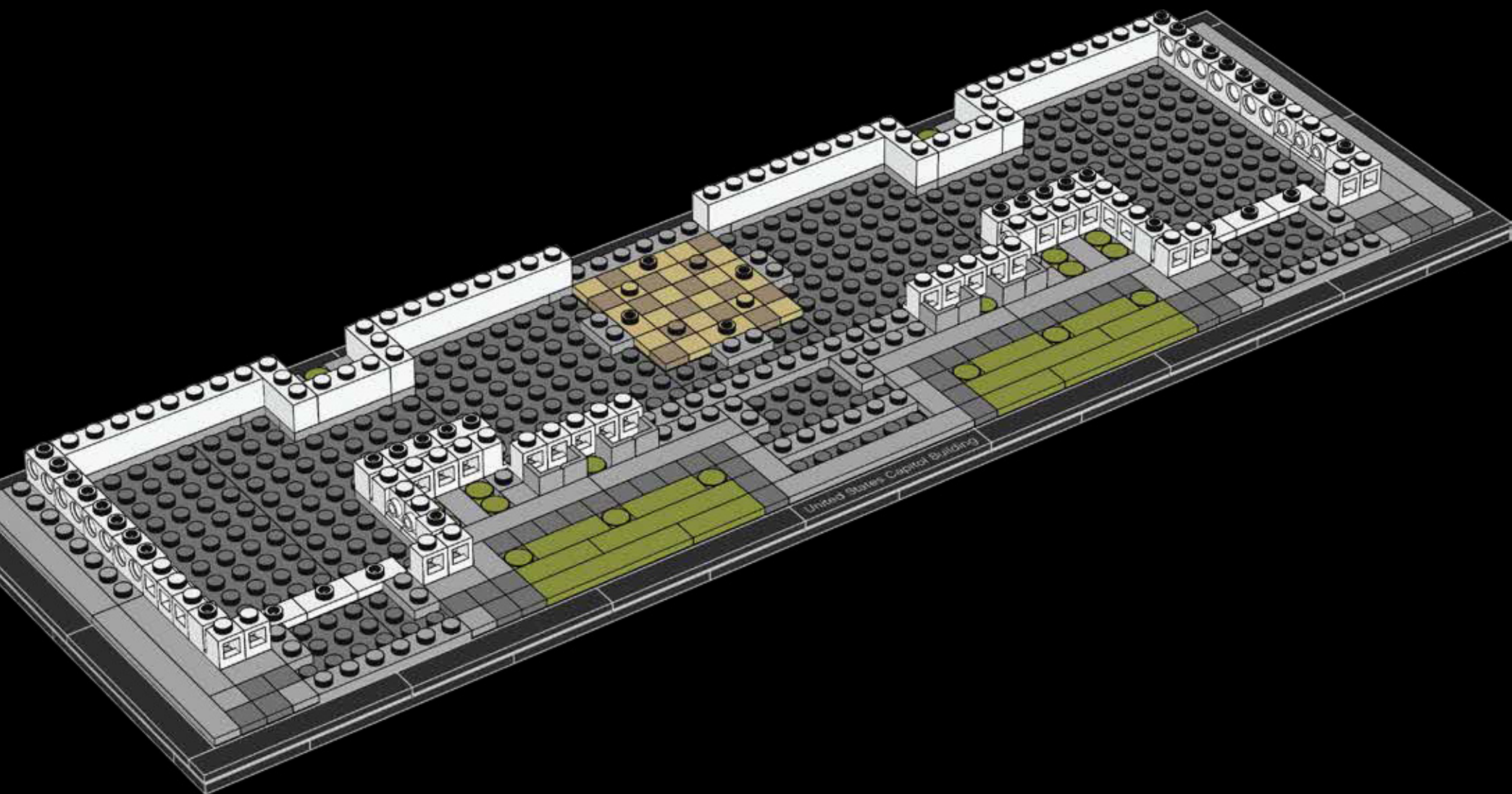
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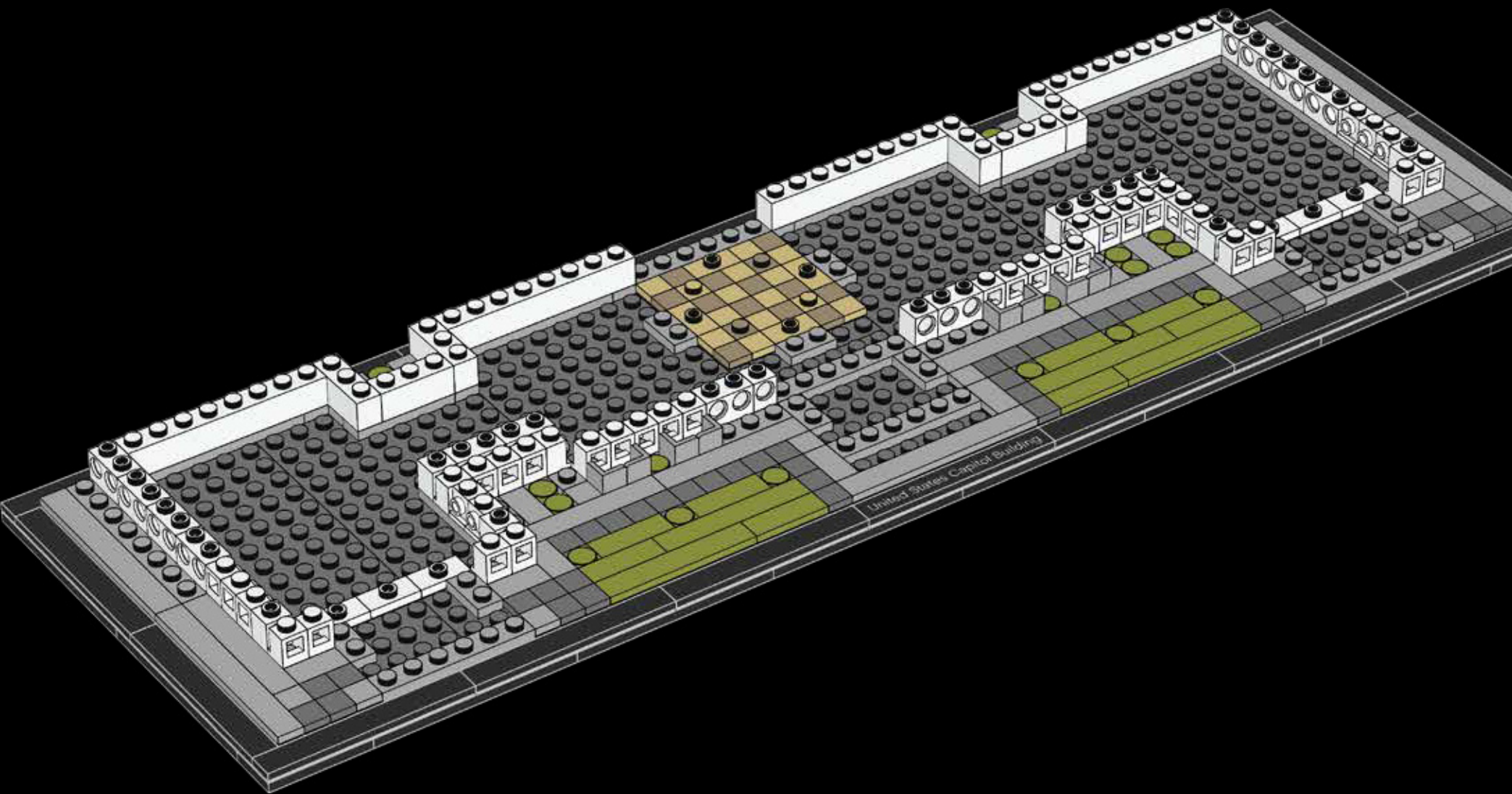
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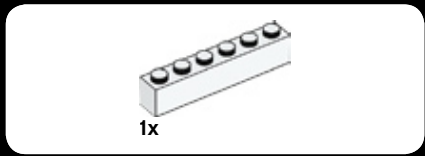


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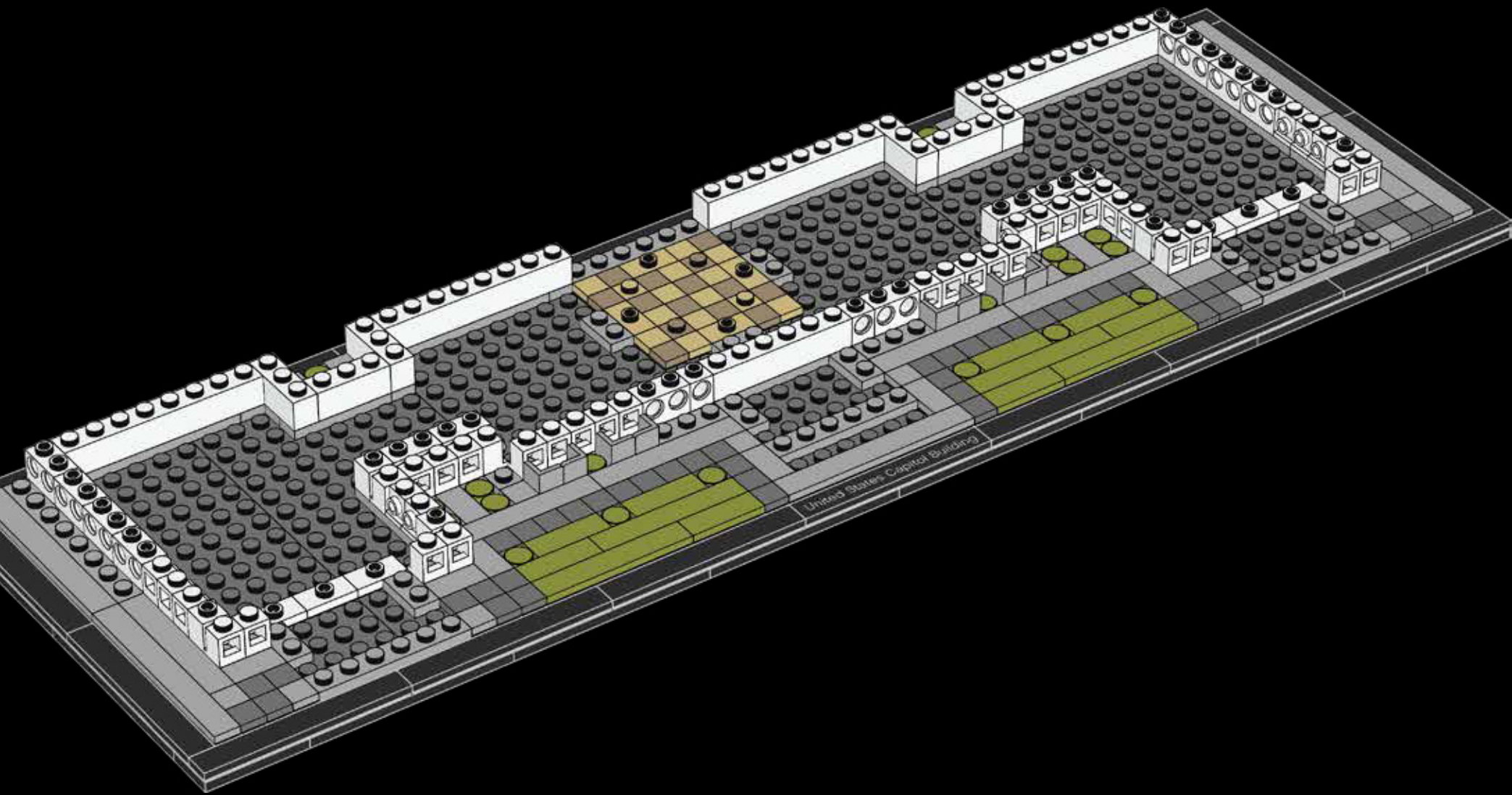


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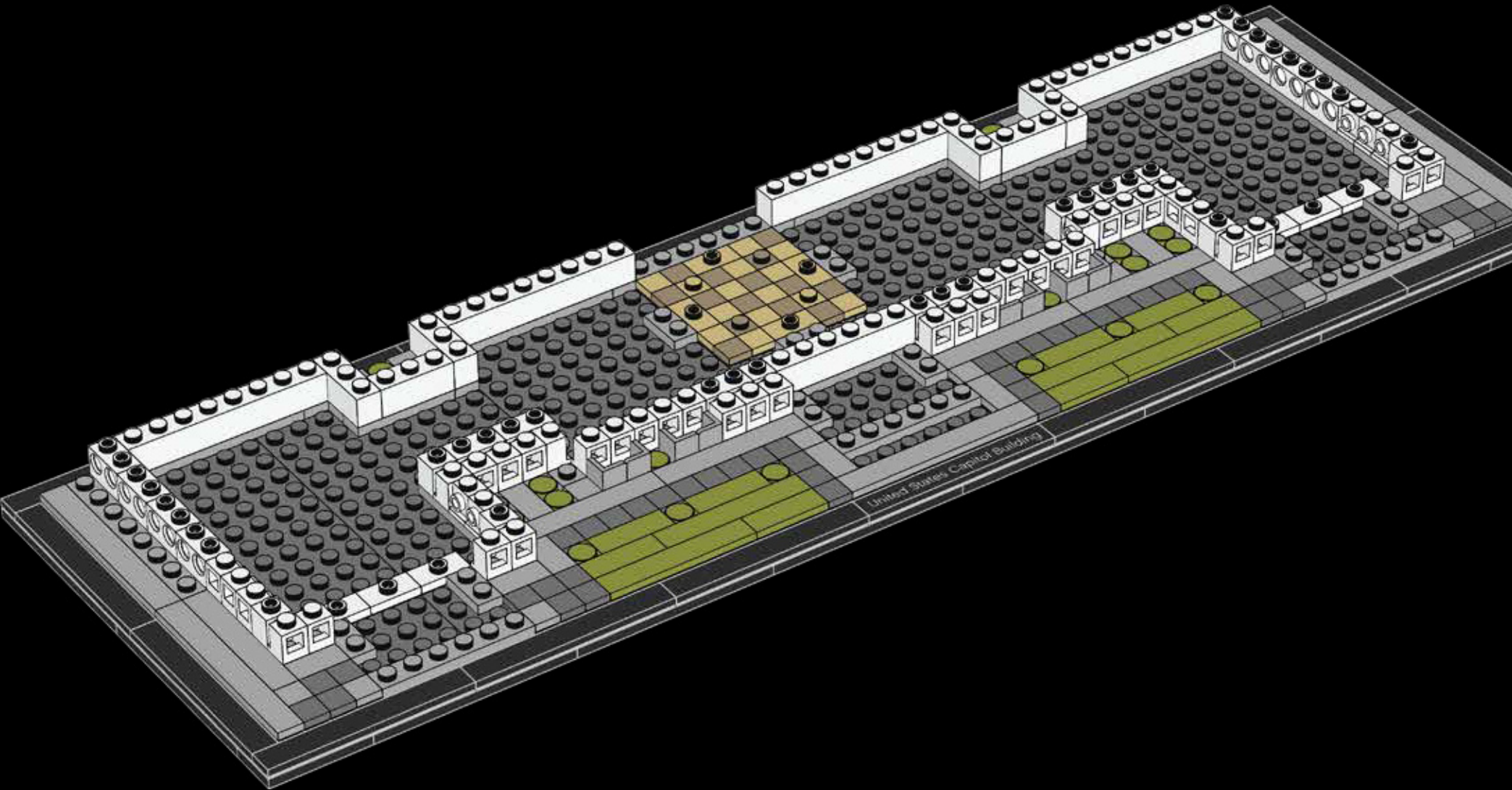
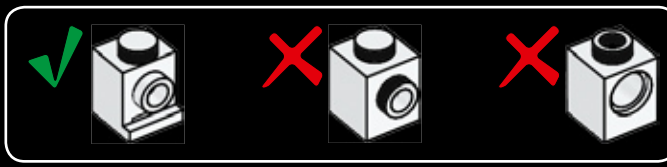
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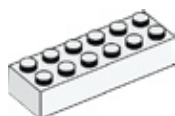




6x

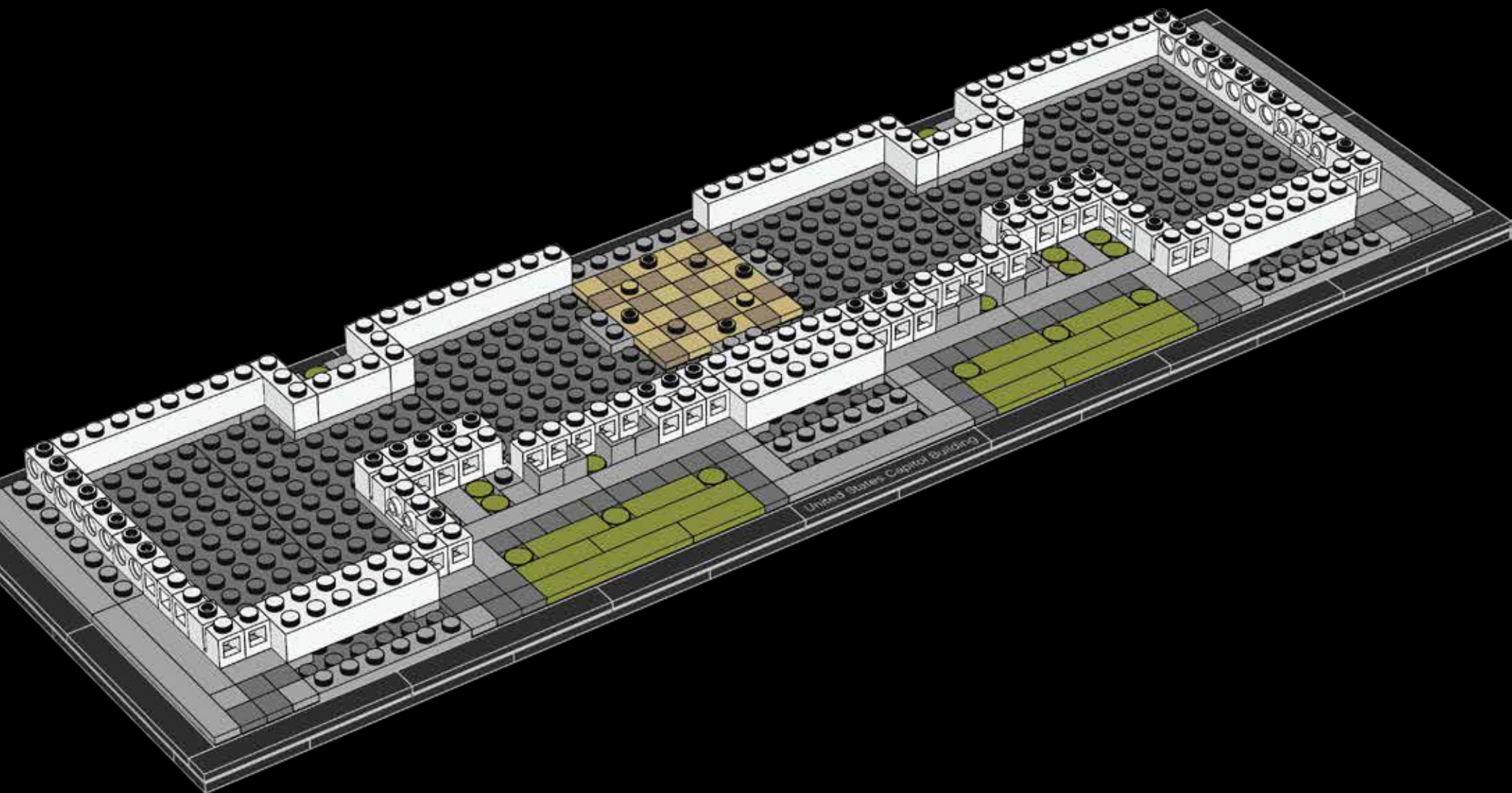
52

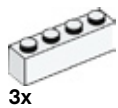




3x

53





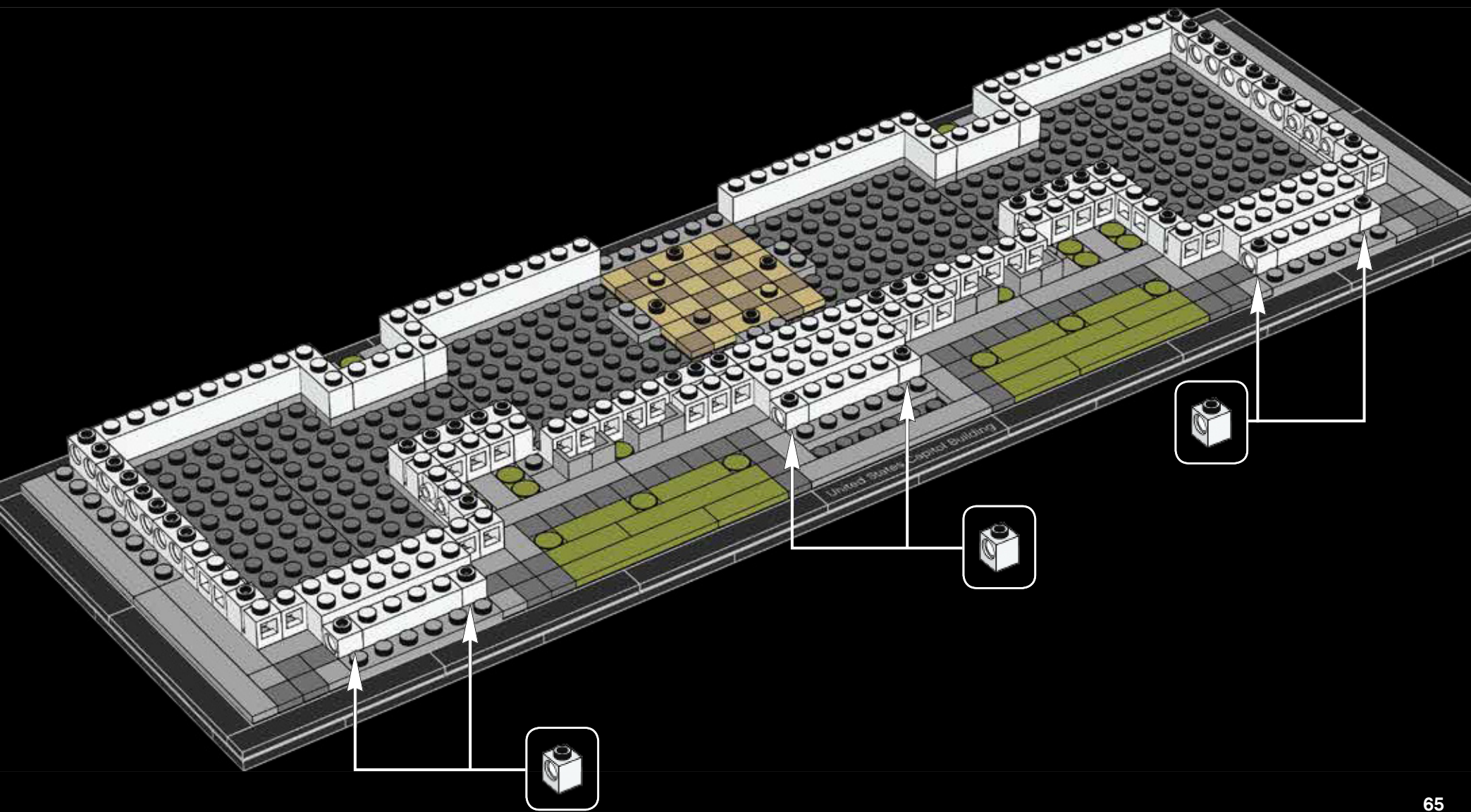
3x



6x



54



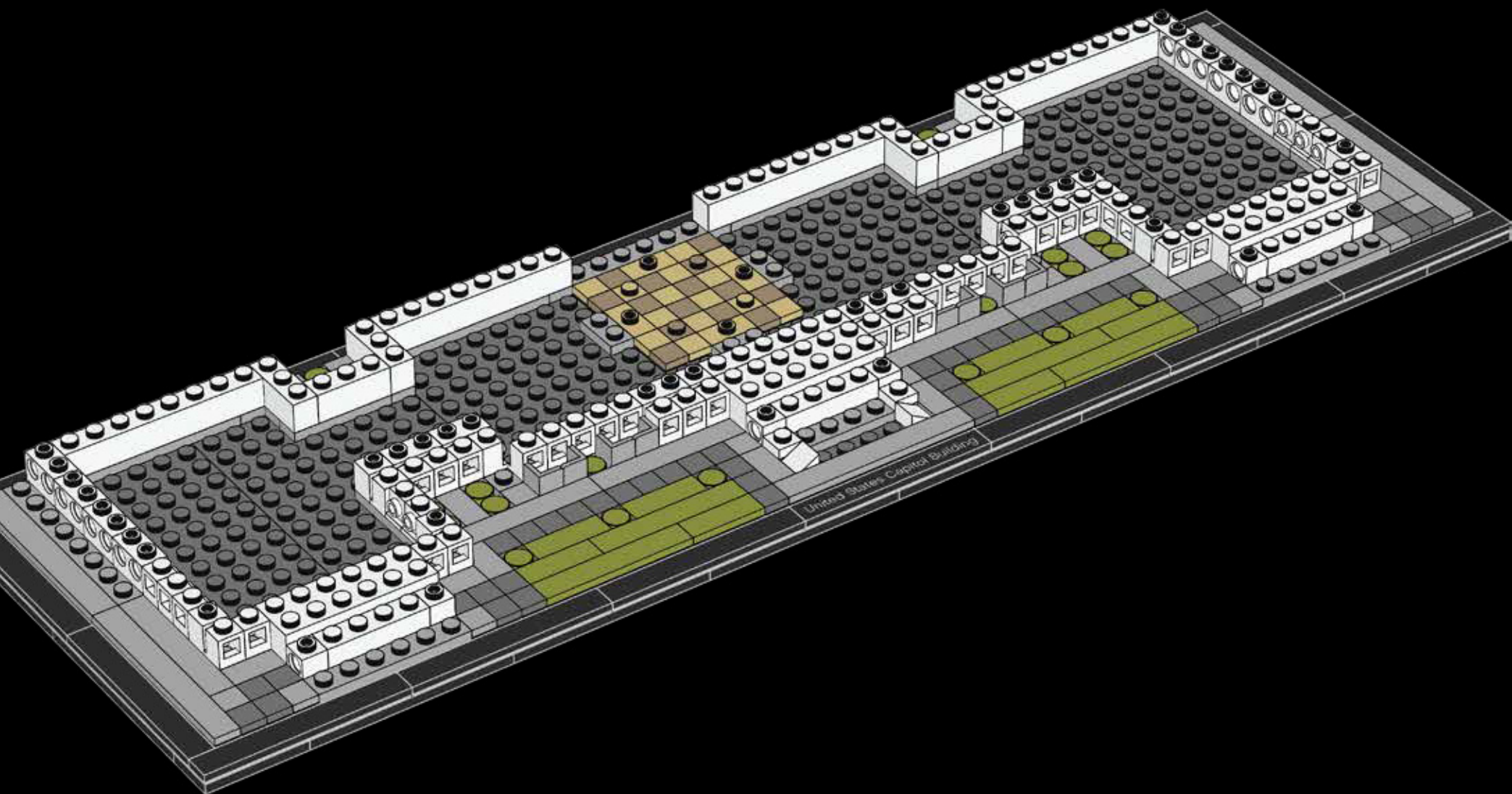


2x



2x

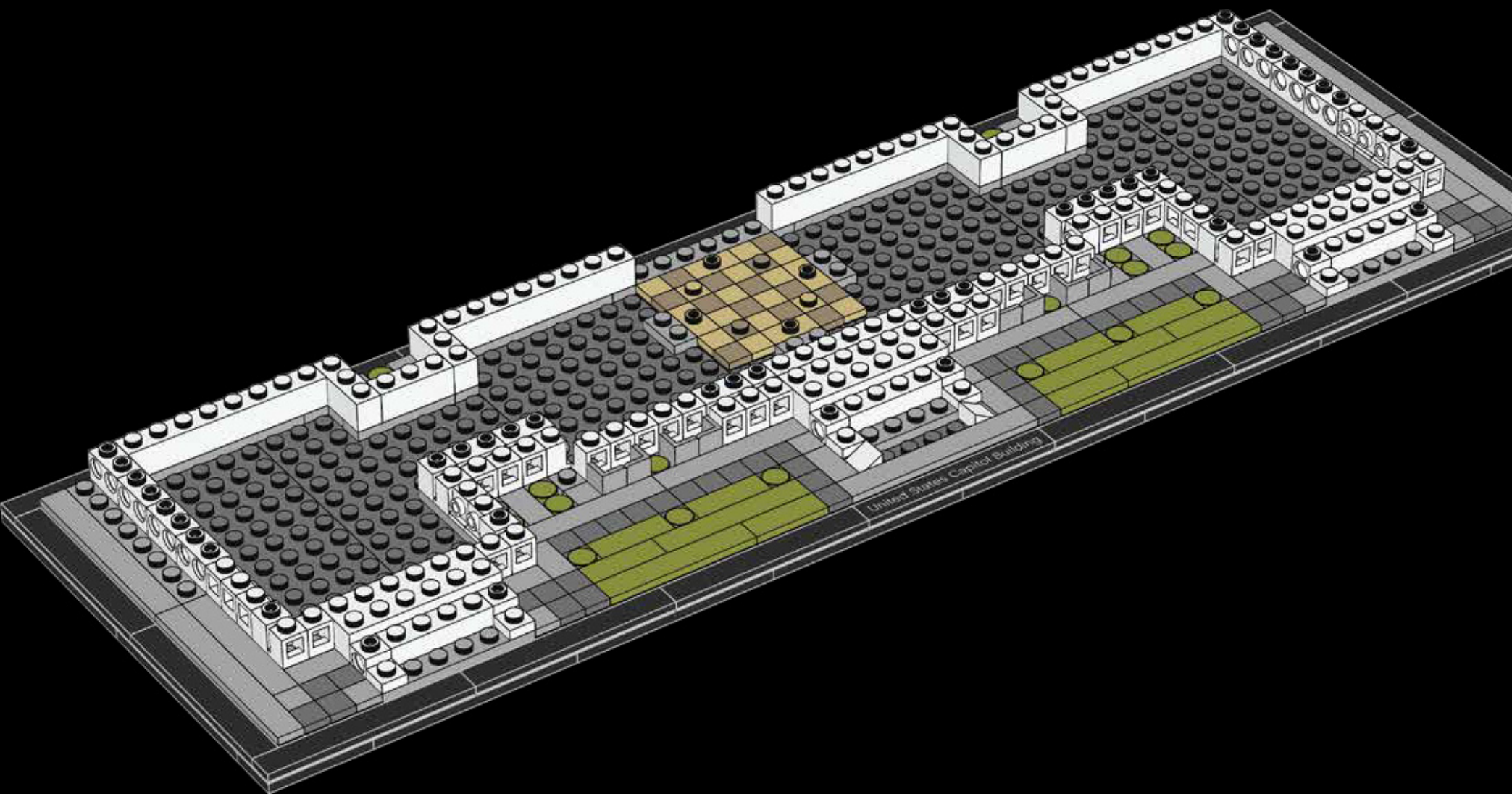
55





4x

56



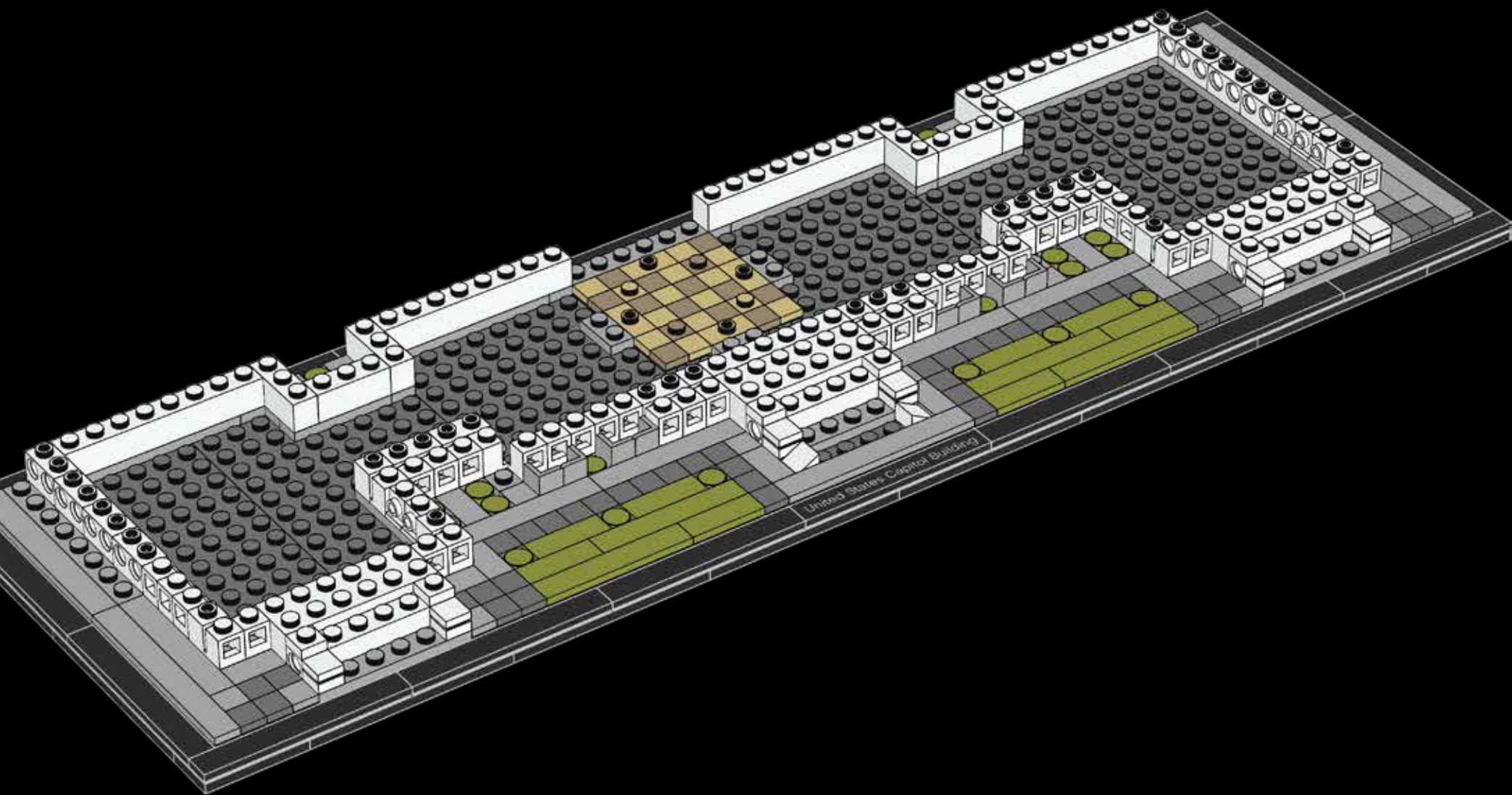


6x



6x

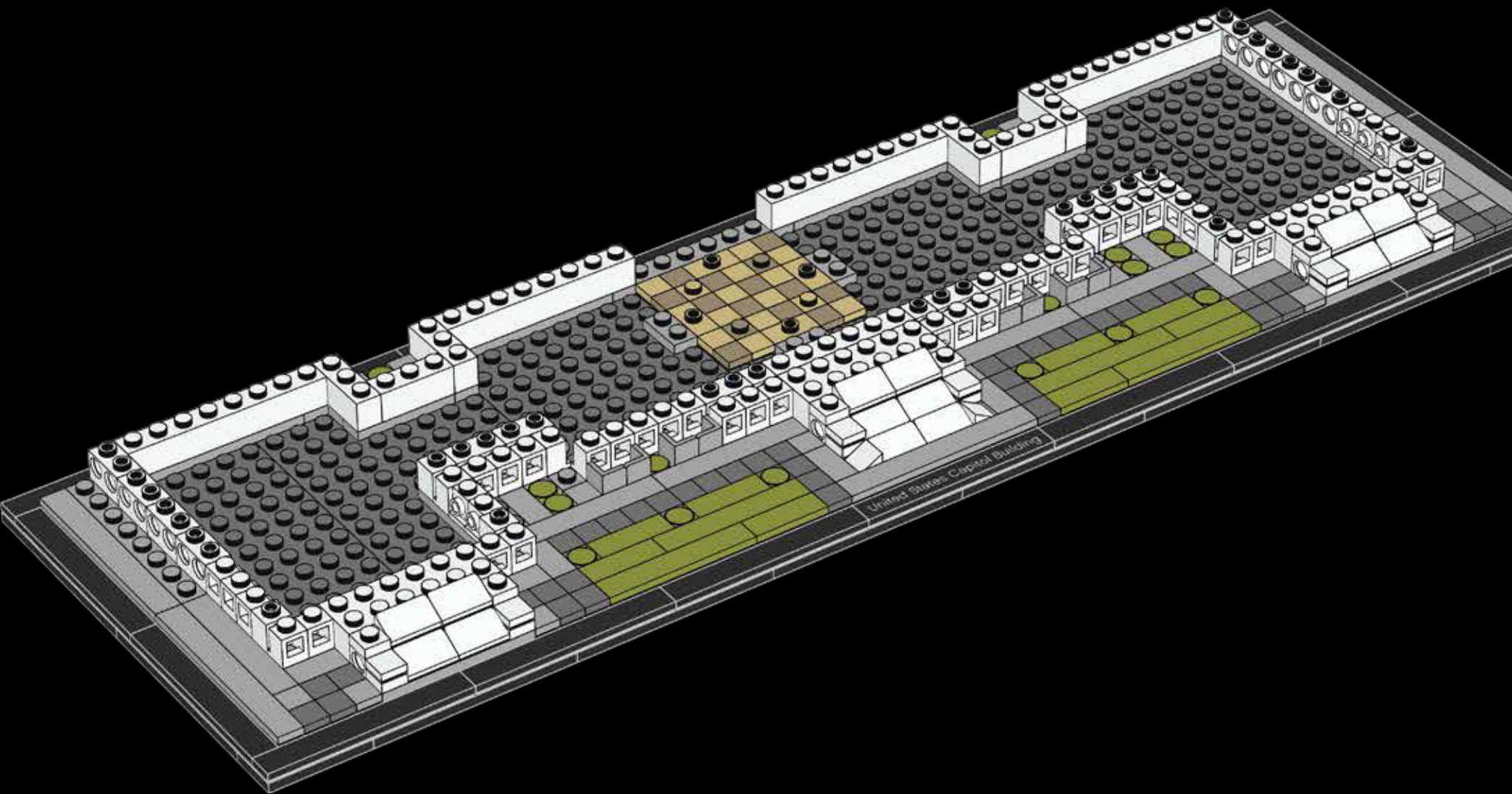
57





14x

58



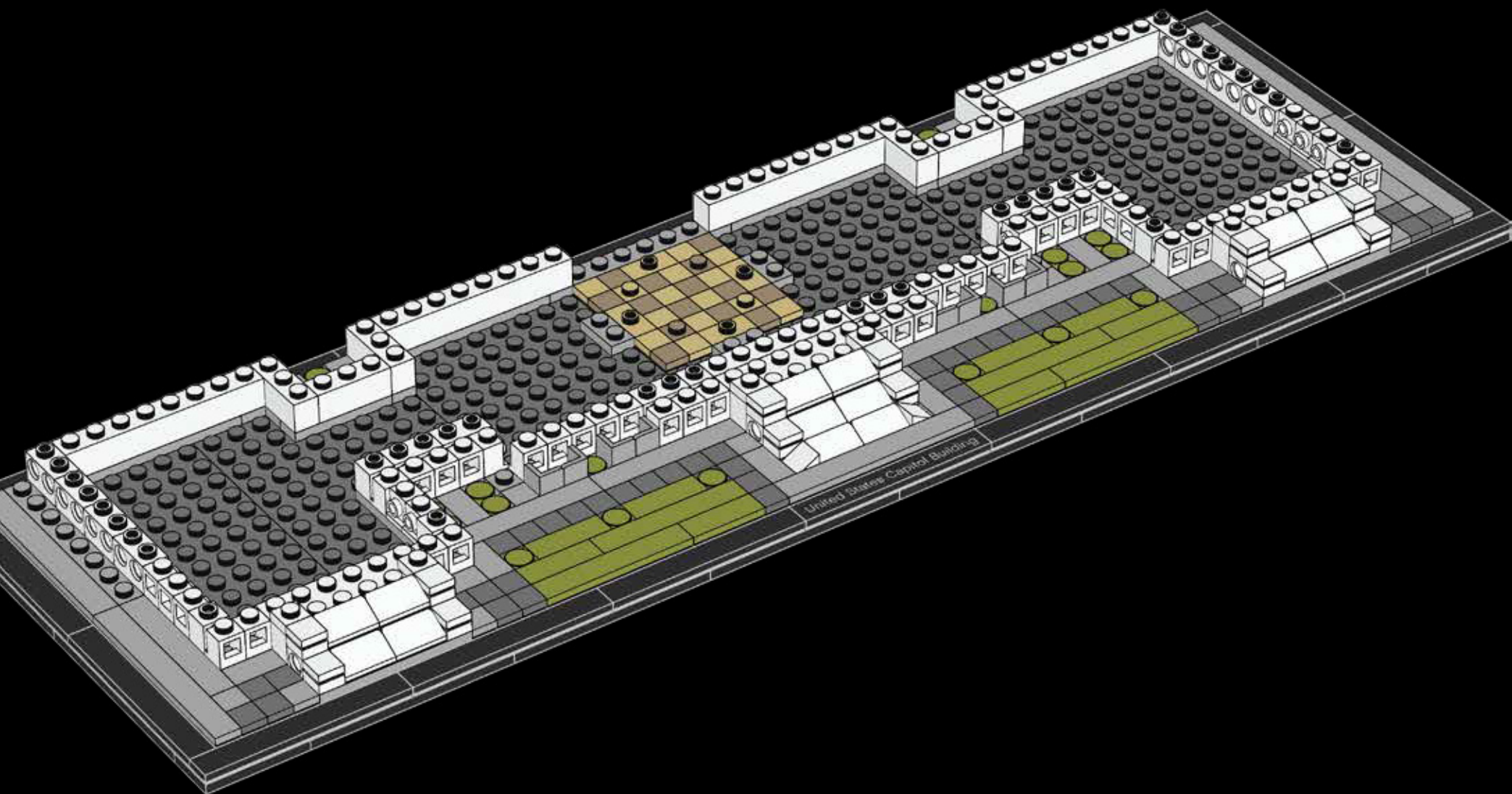


6x



6x

59





2x



4x

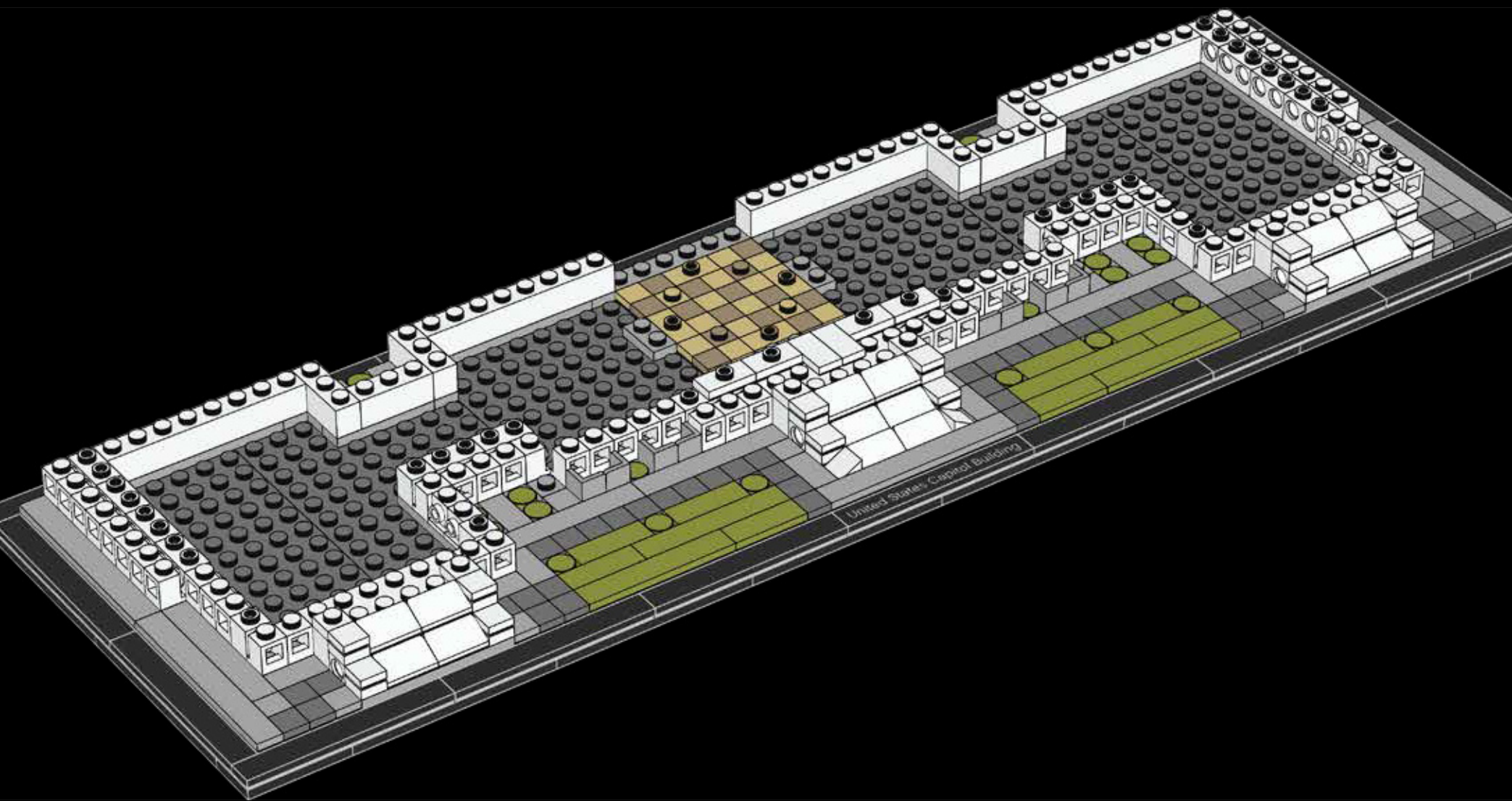
60





16x

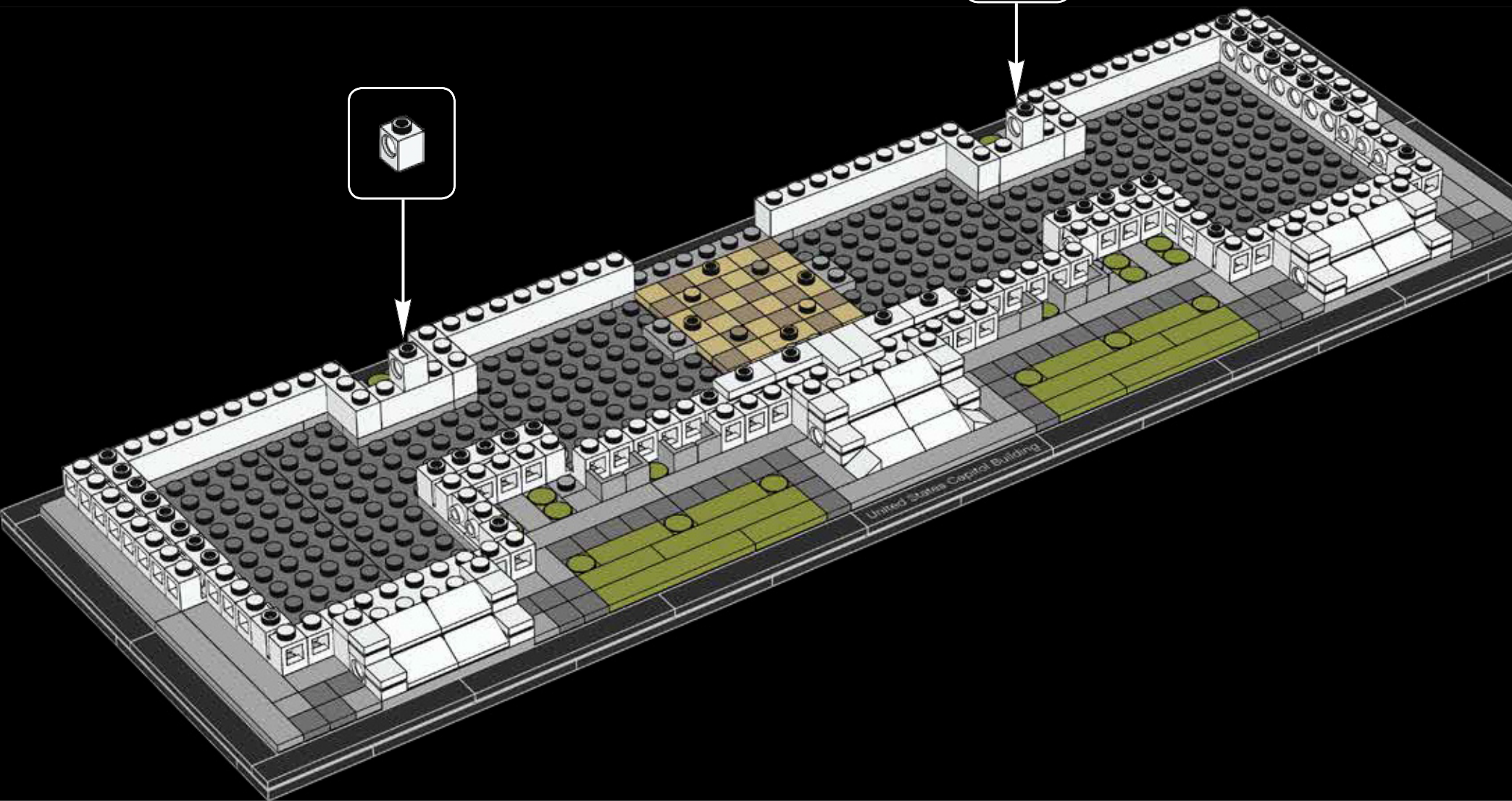
61





2x

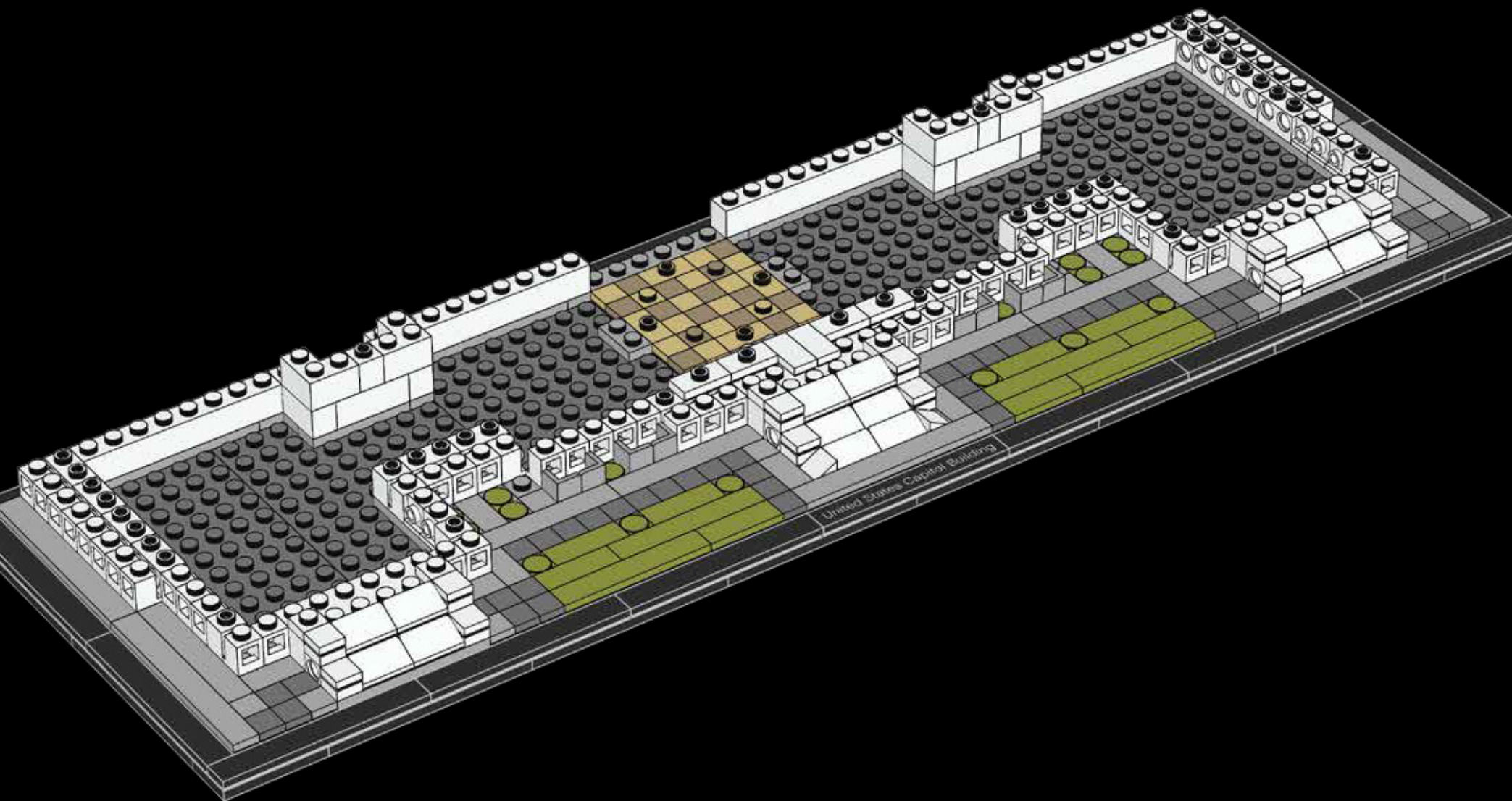
62

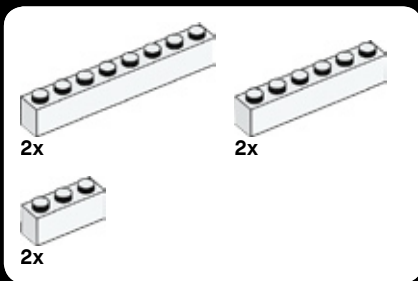




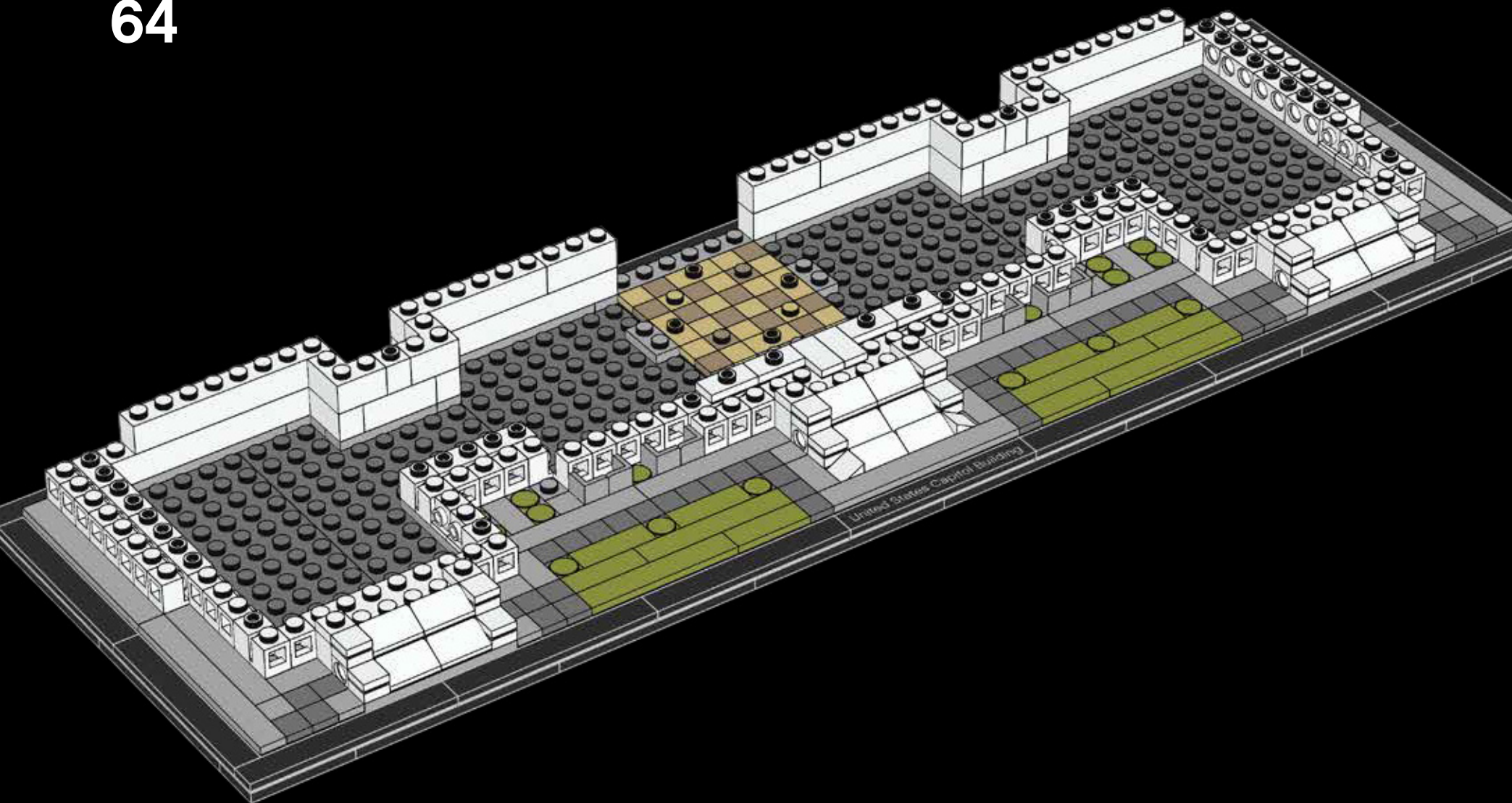
4x

63





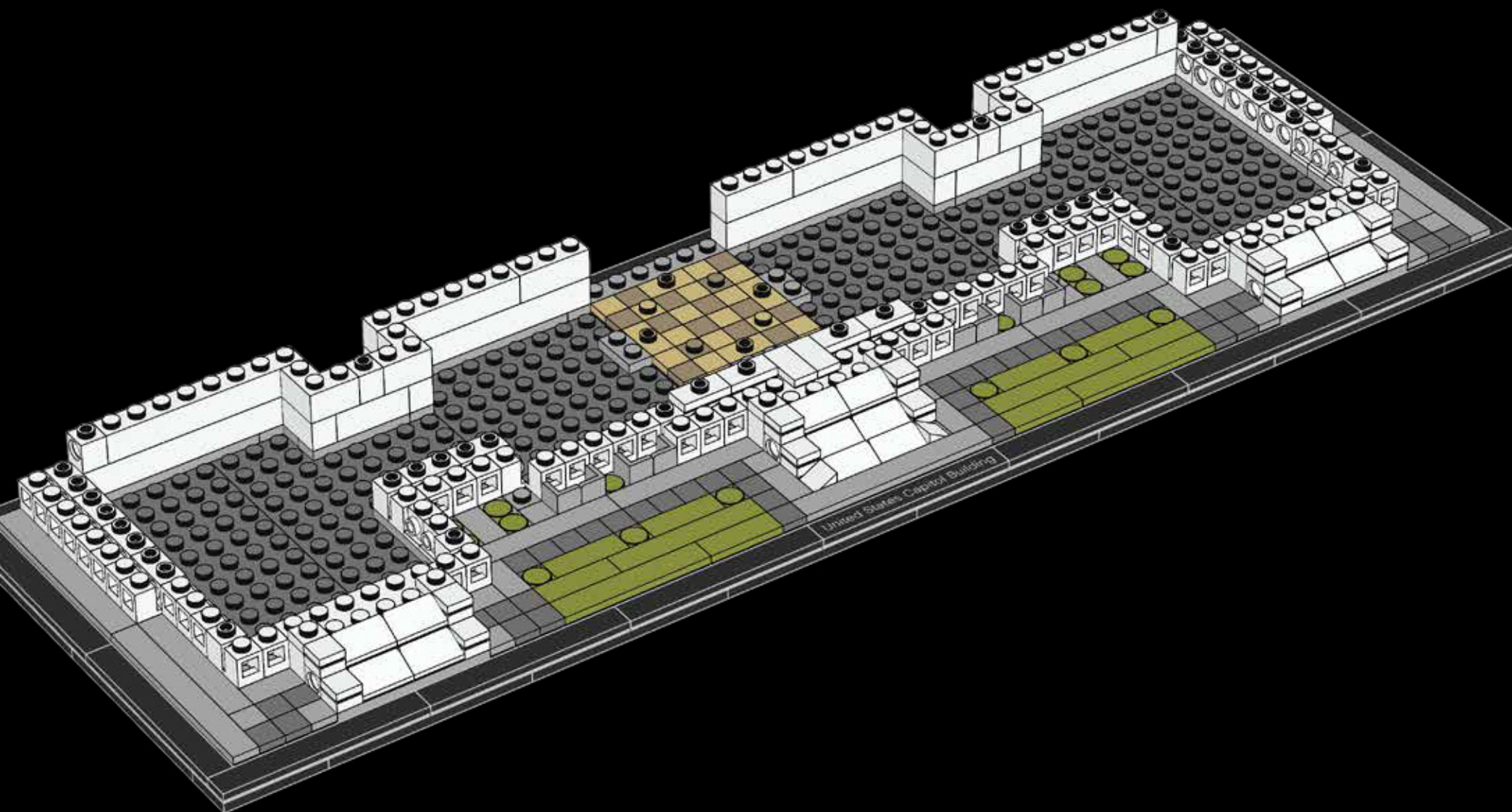
64

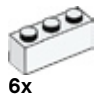




2x

65

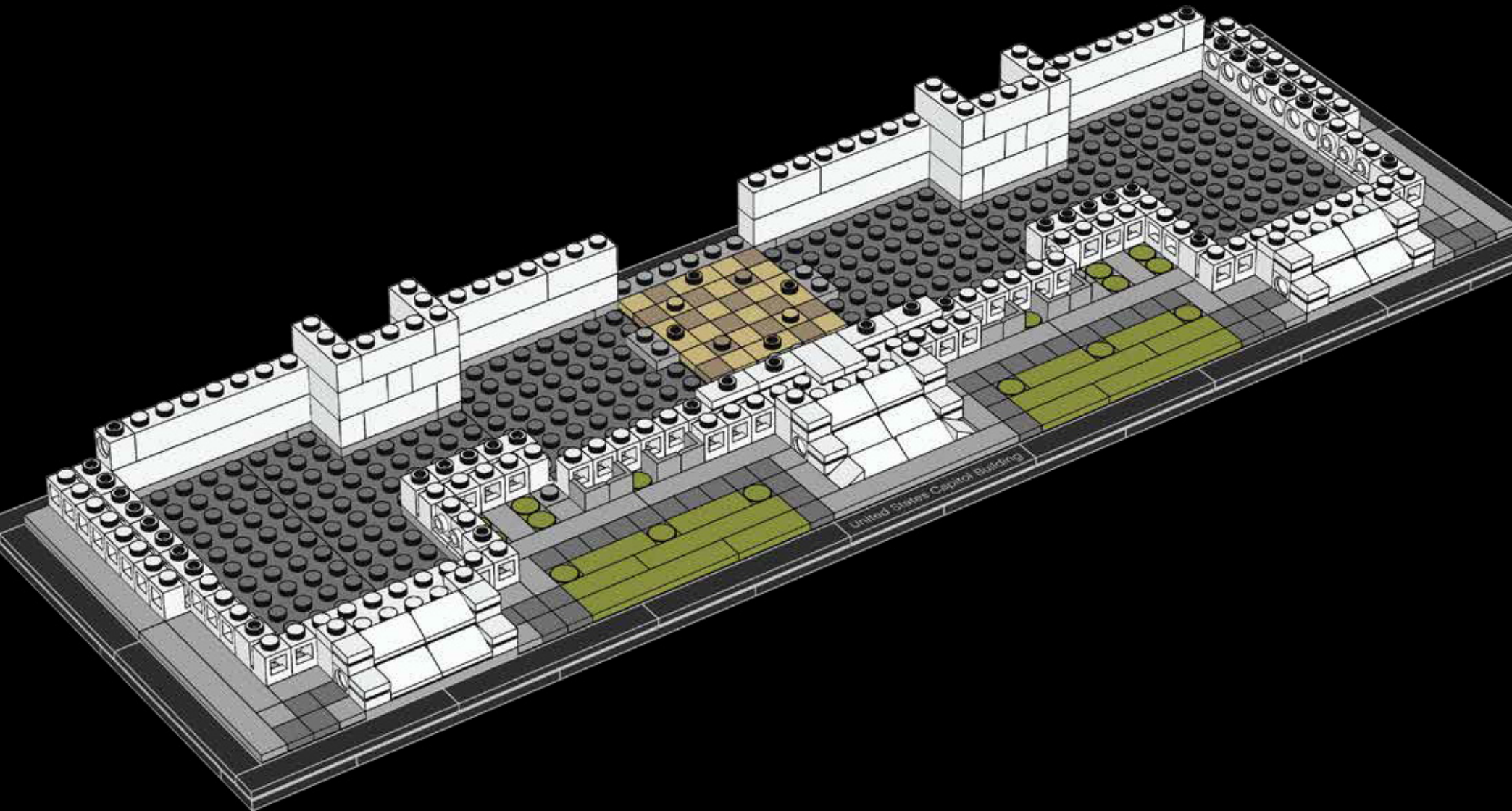


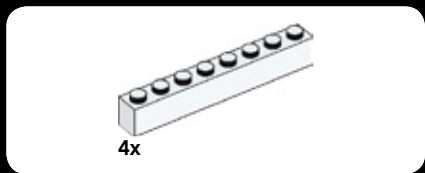


There are 108 windows in the dome above the rotunda.

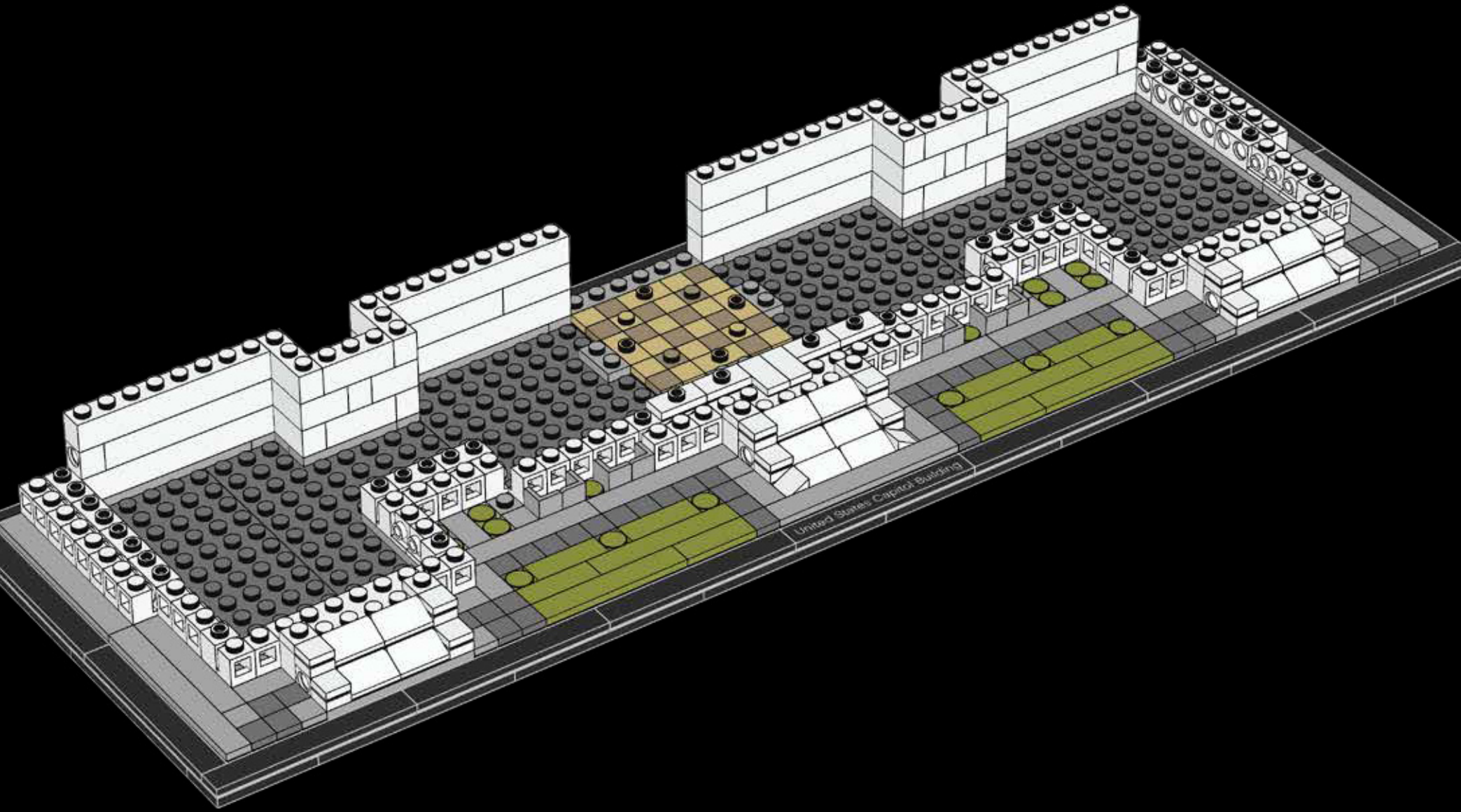


66





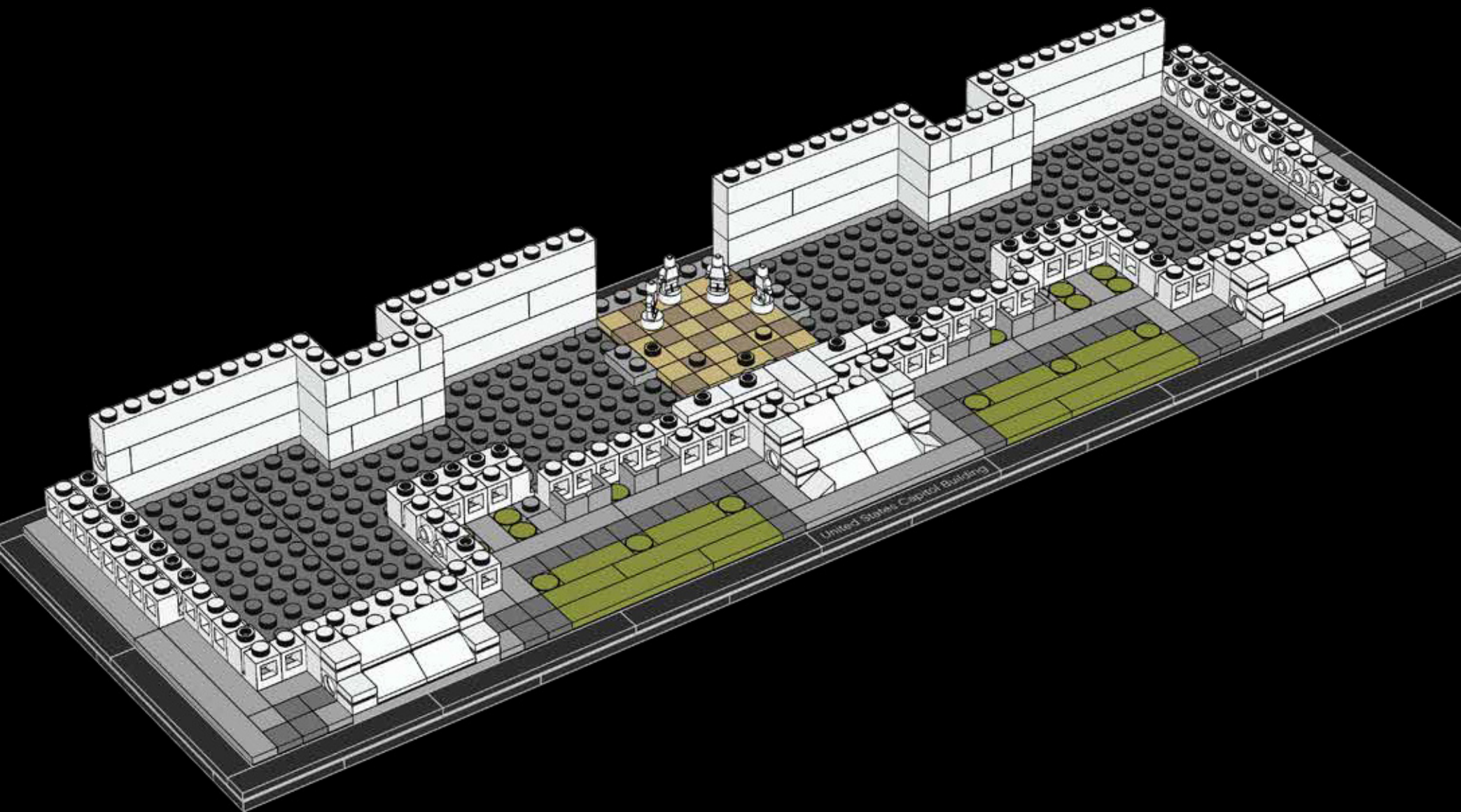
67





4x

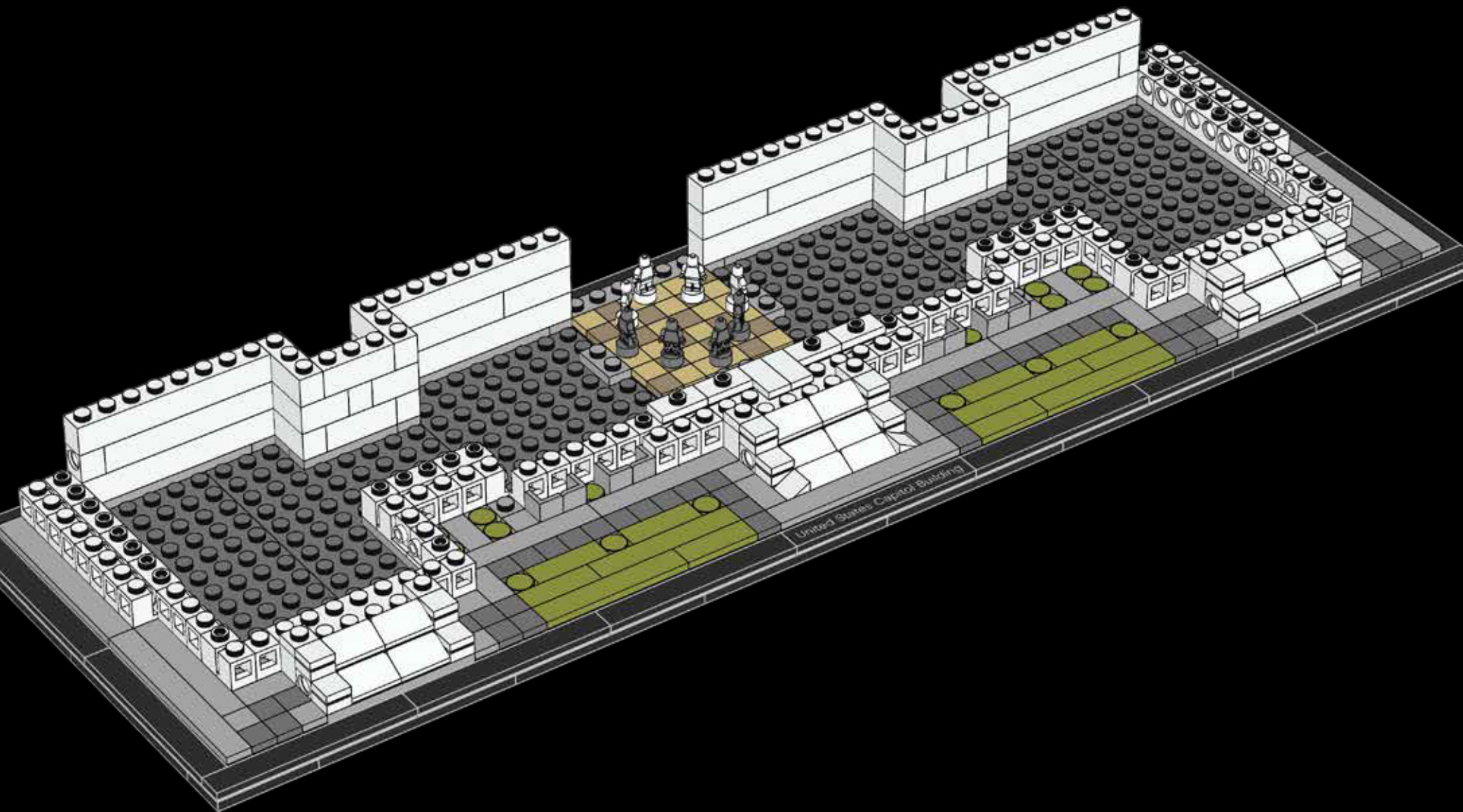
68





4x

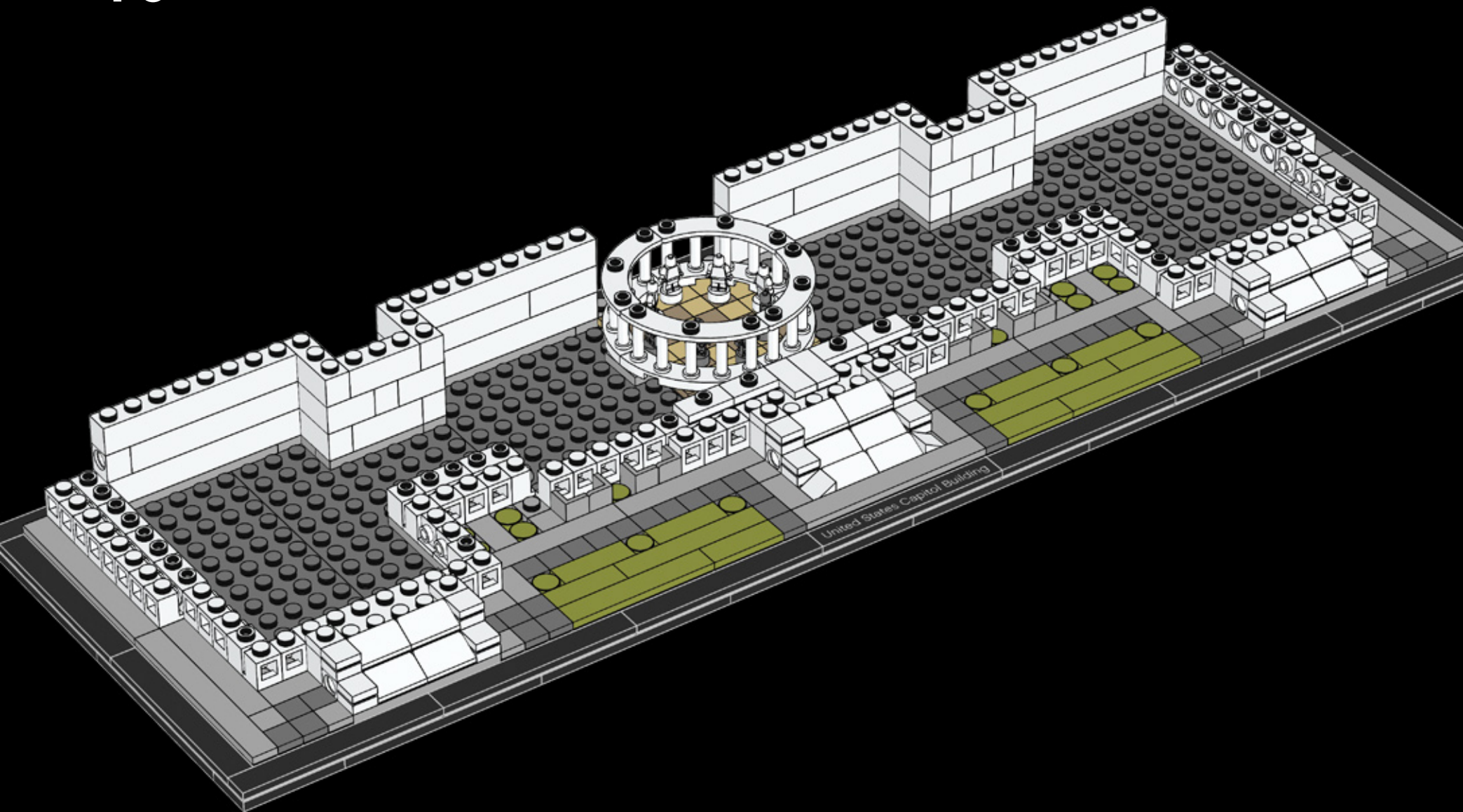
69





4x

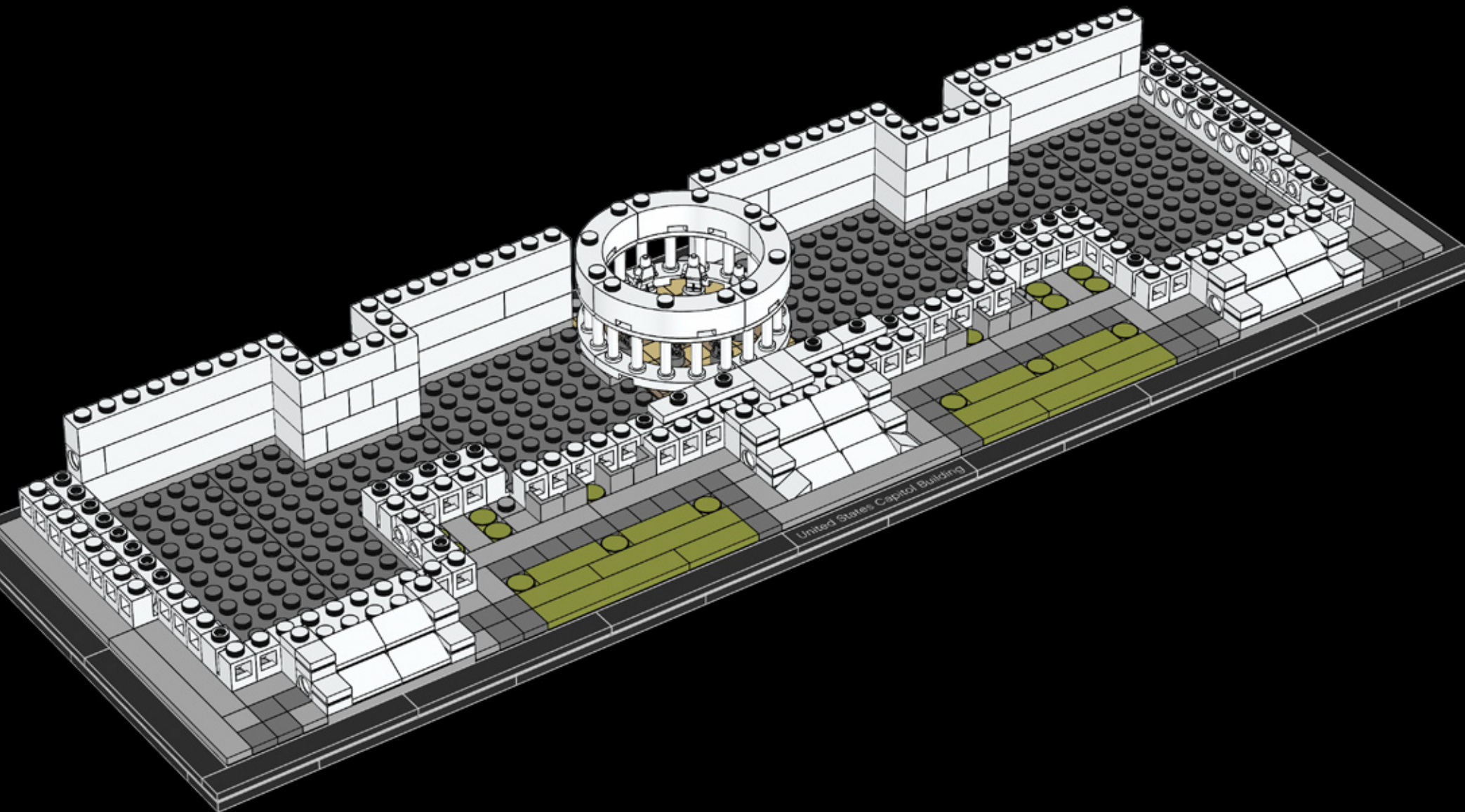
70





4x

71

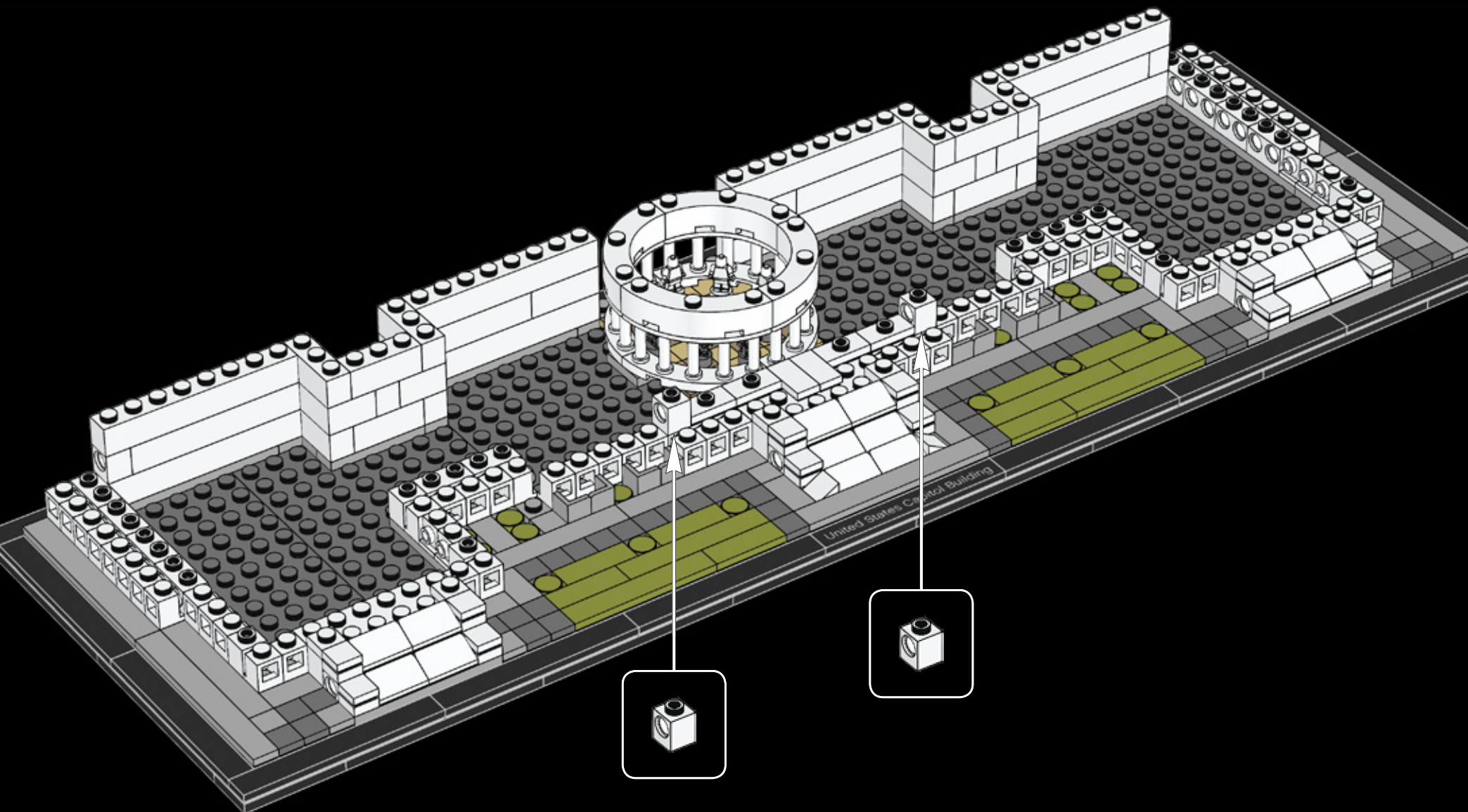




2x



72

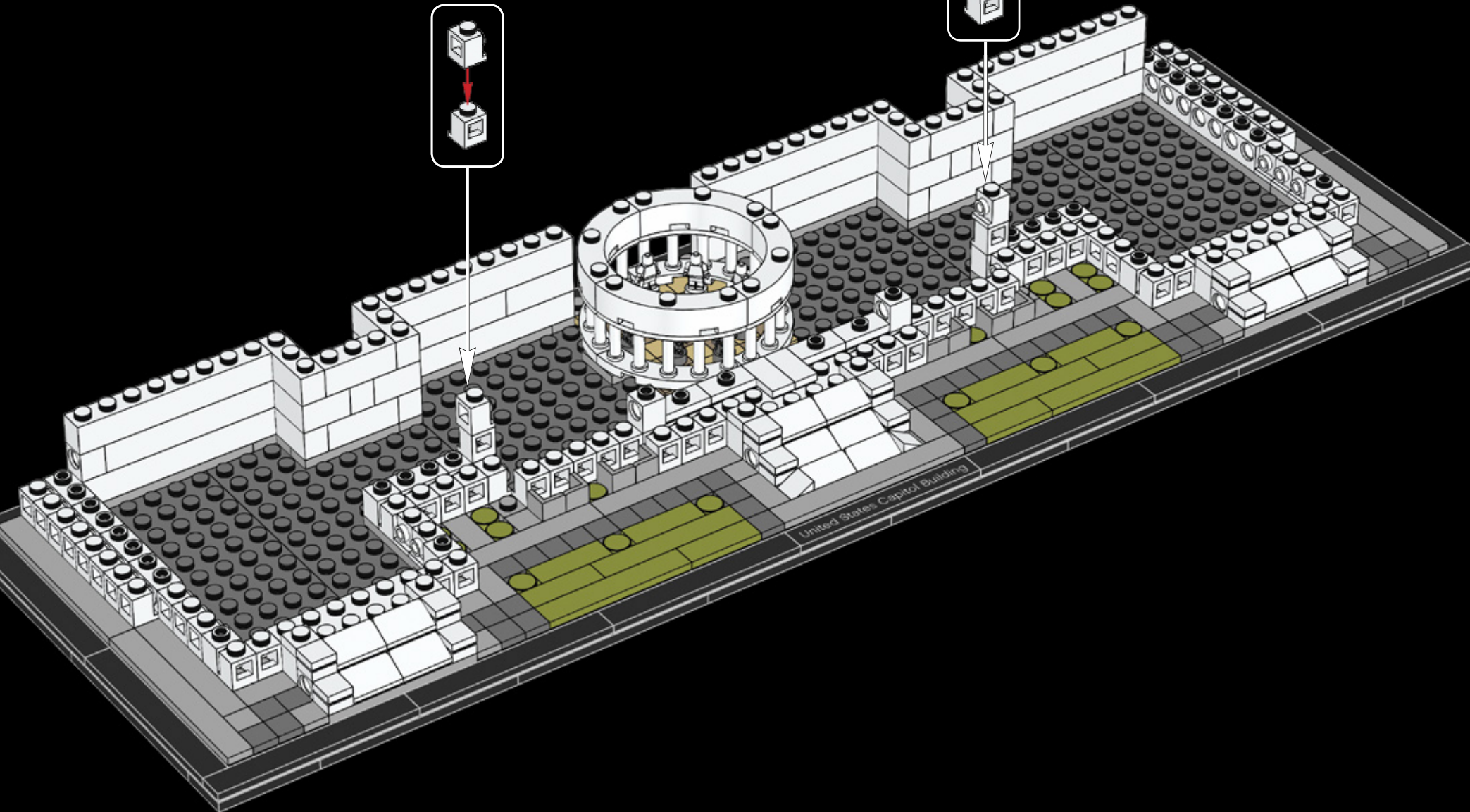
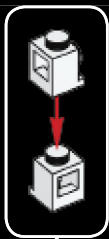




4x



73

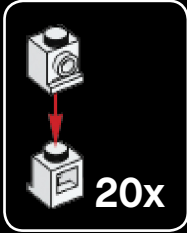




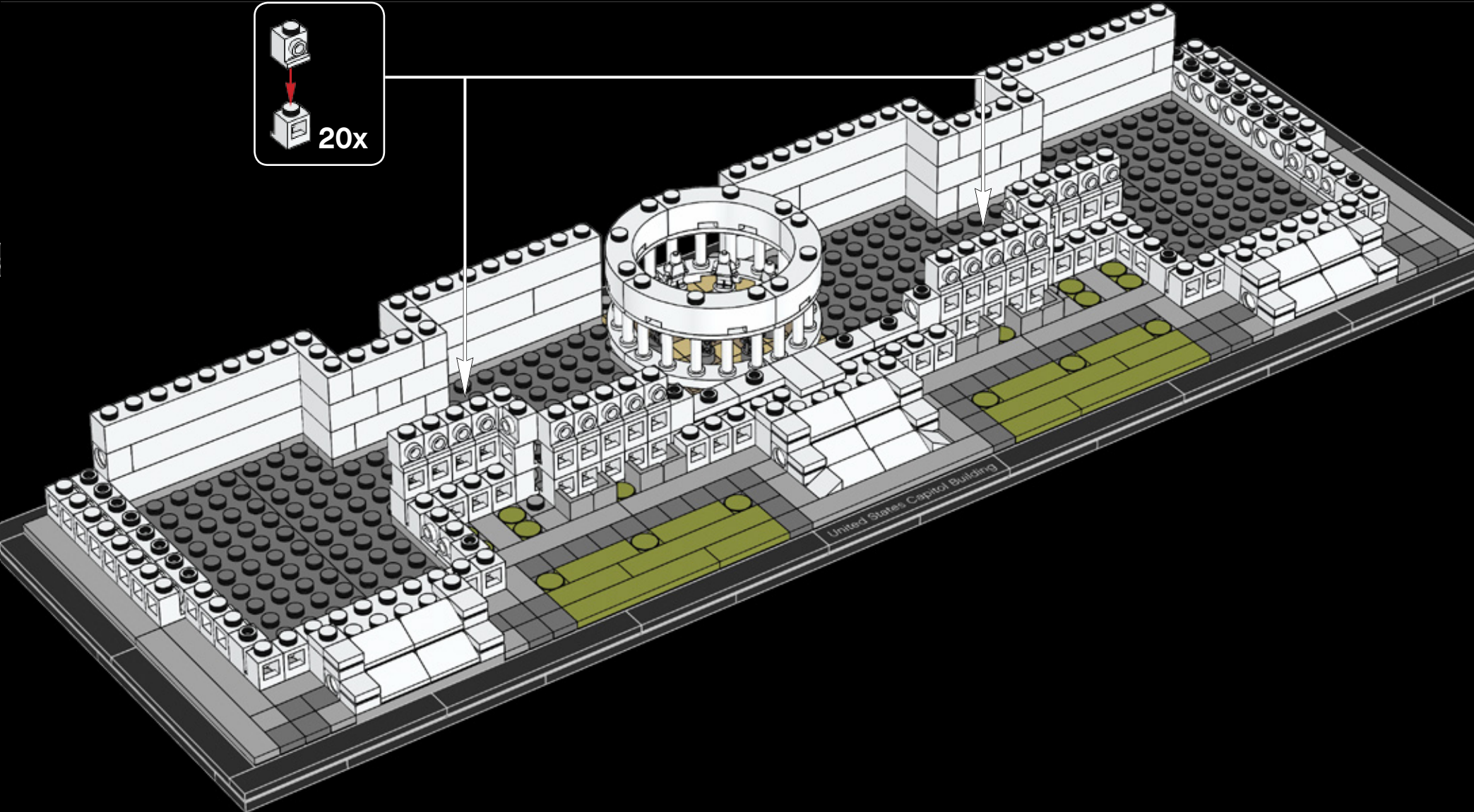
40x



74



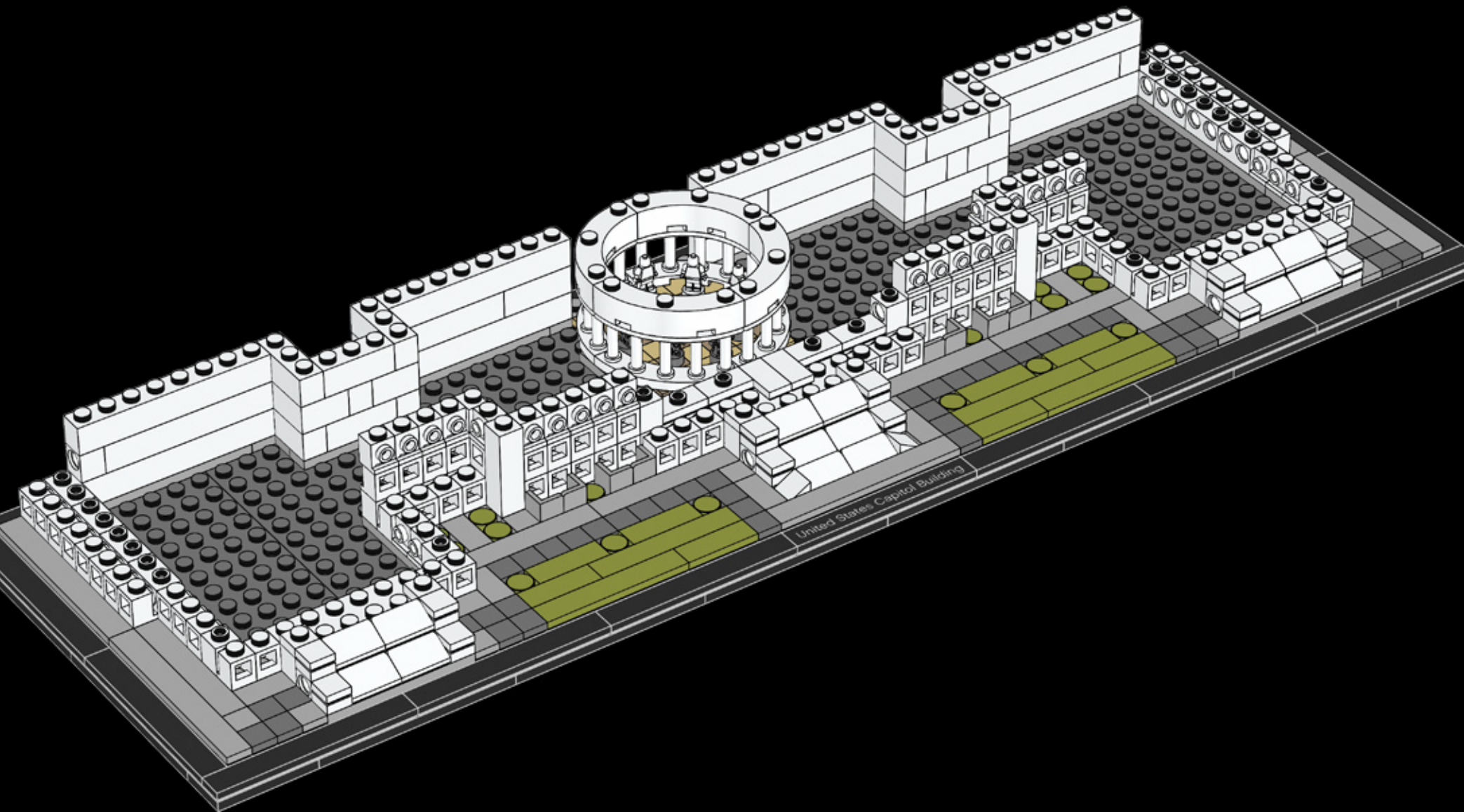
20x

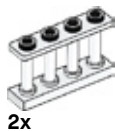




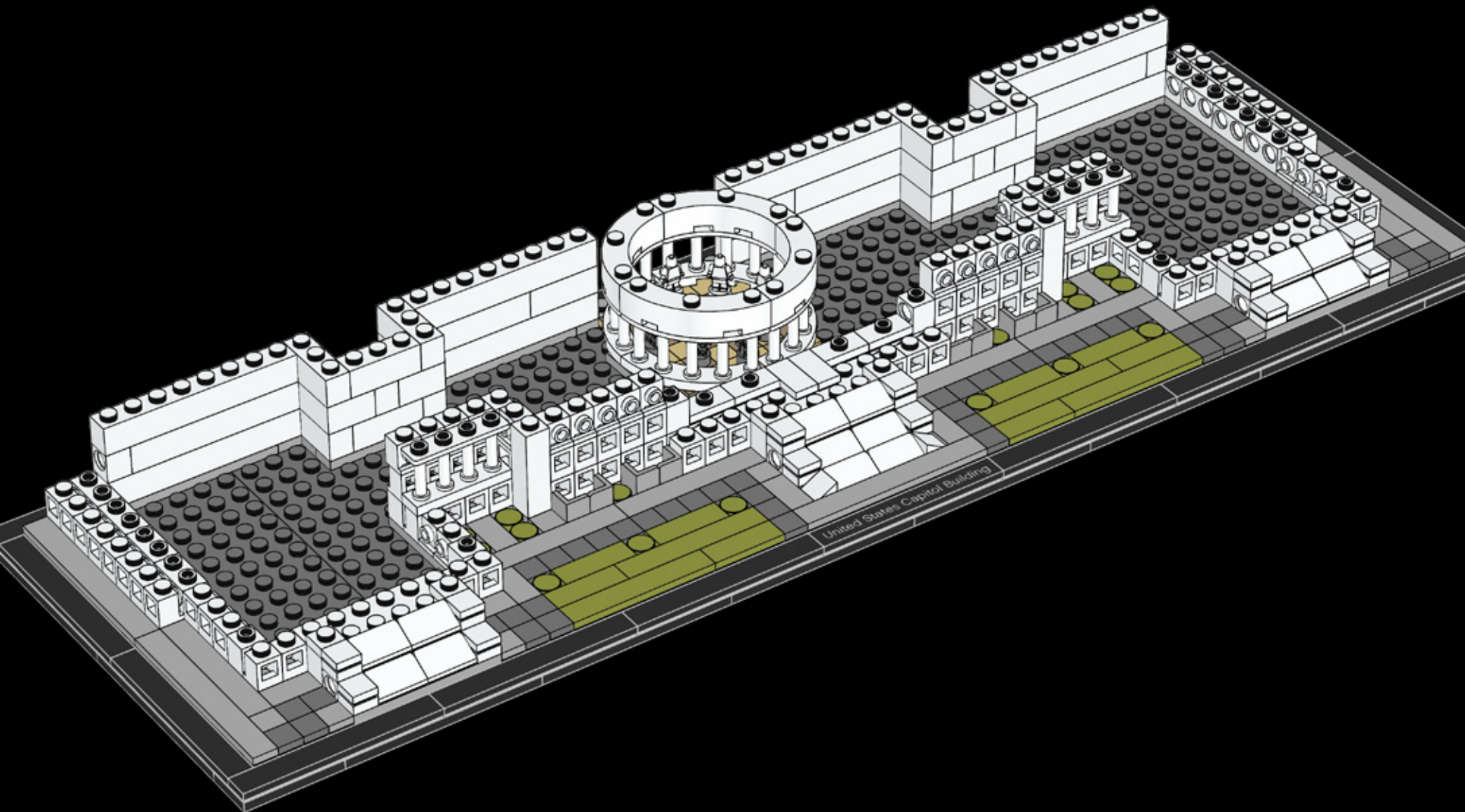
2x

75





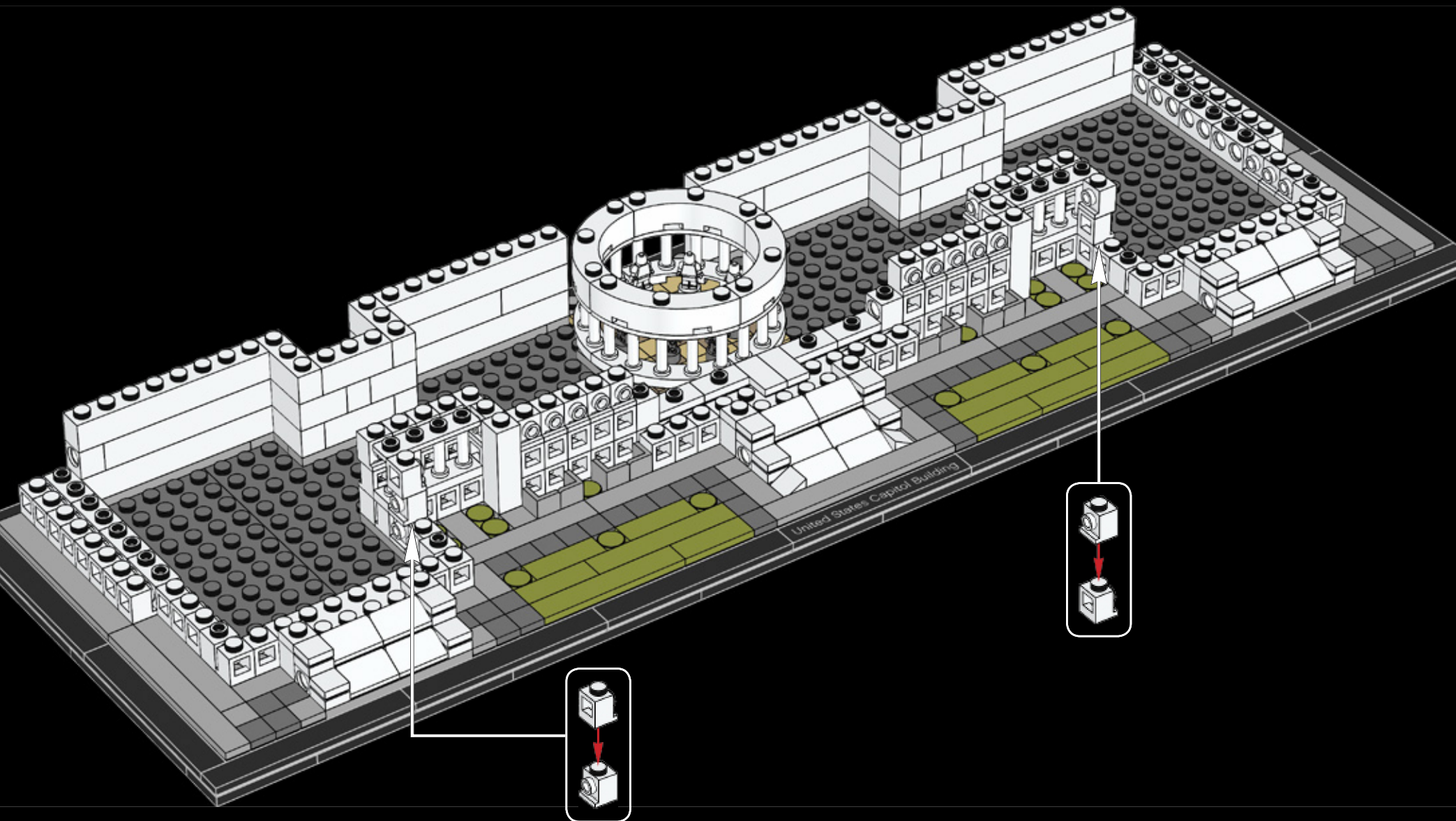
76





4x

77



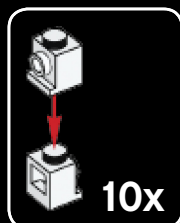


40x

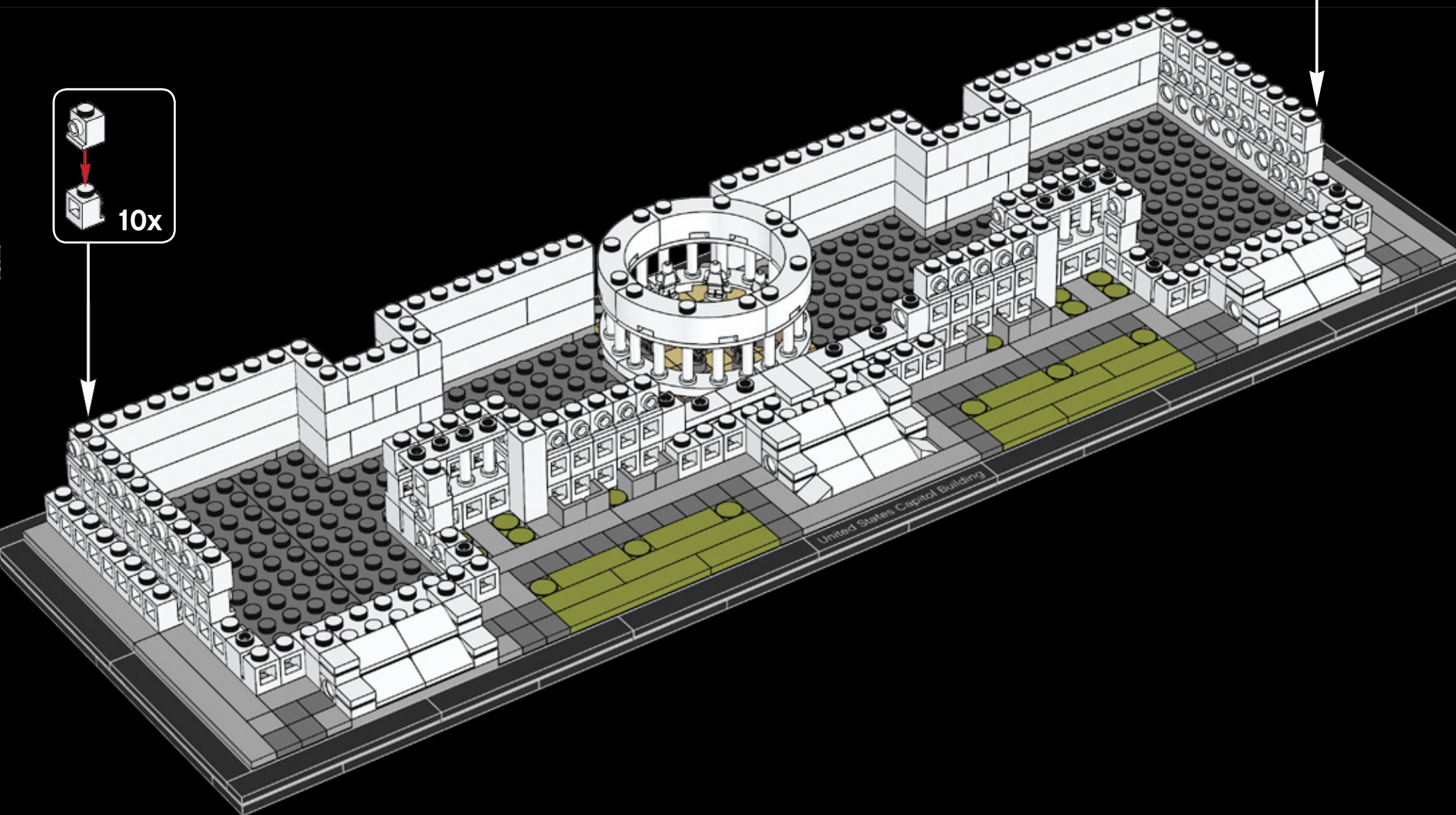
78

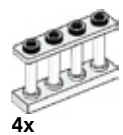


10x



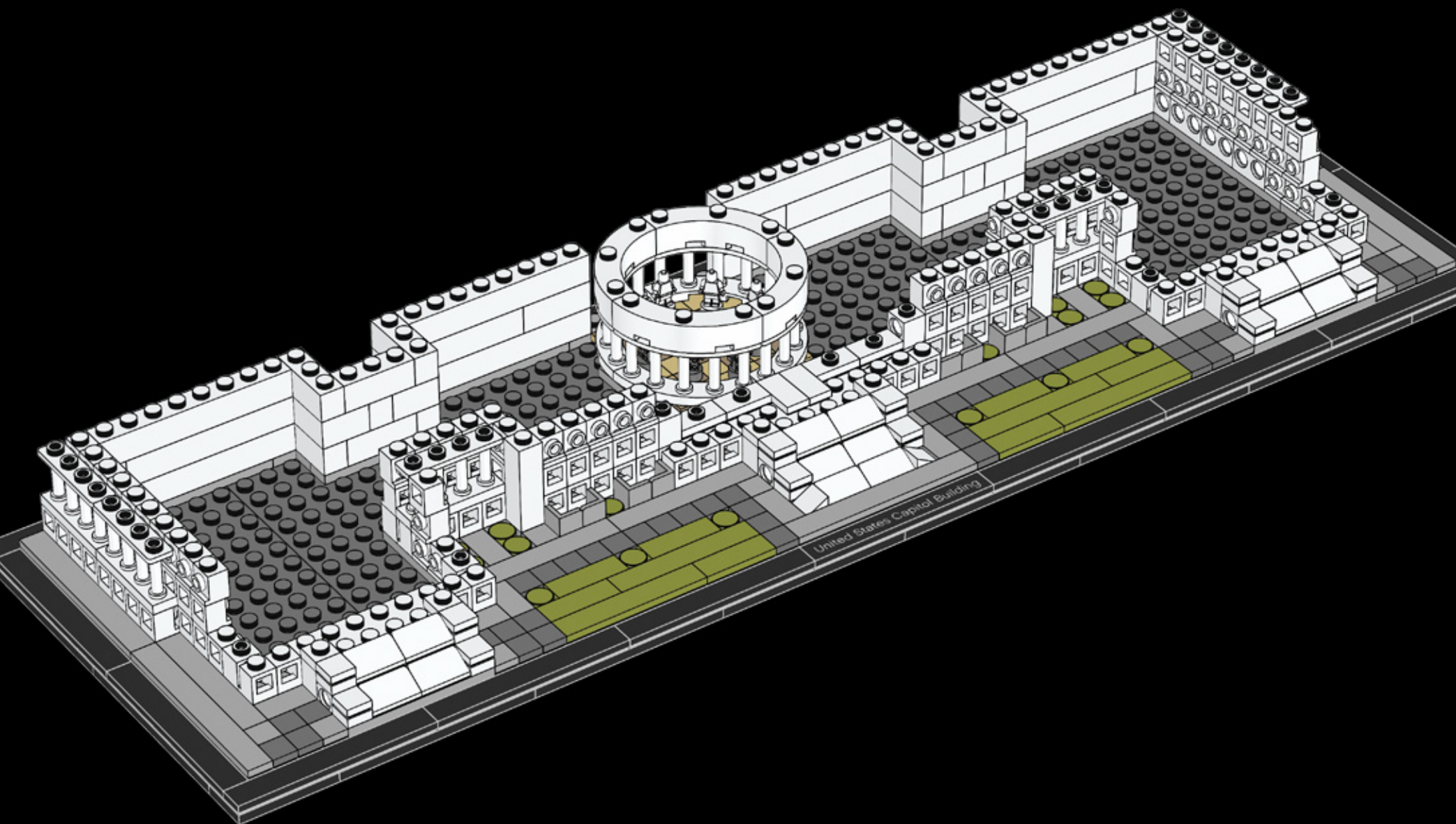
10x





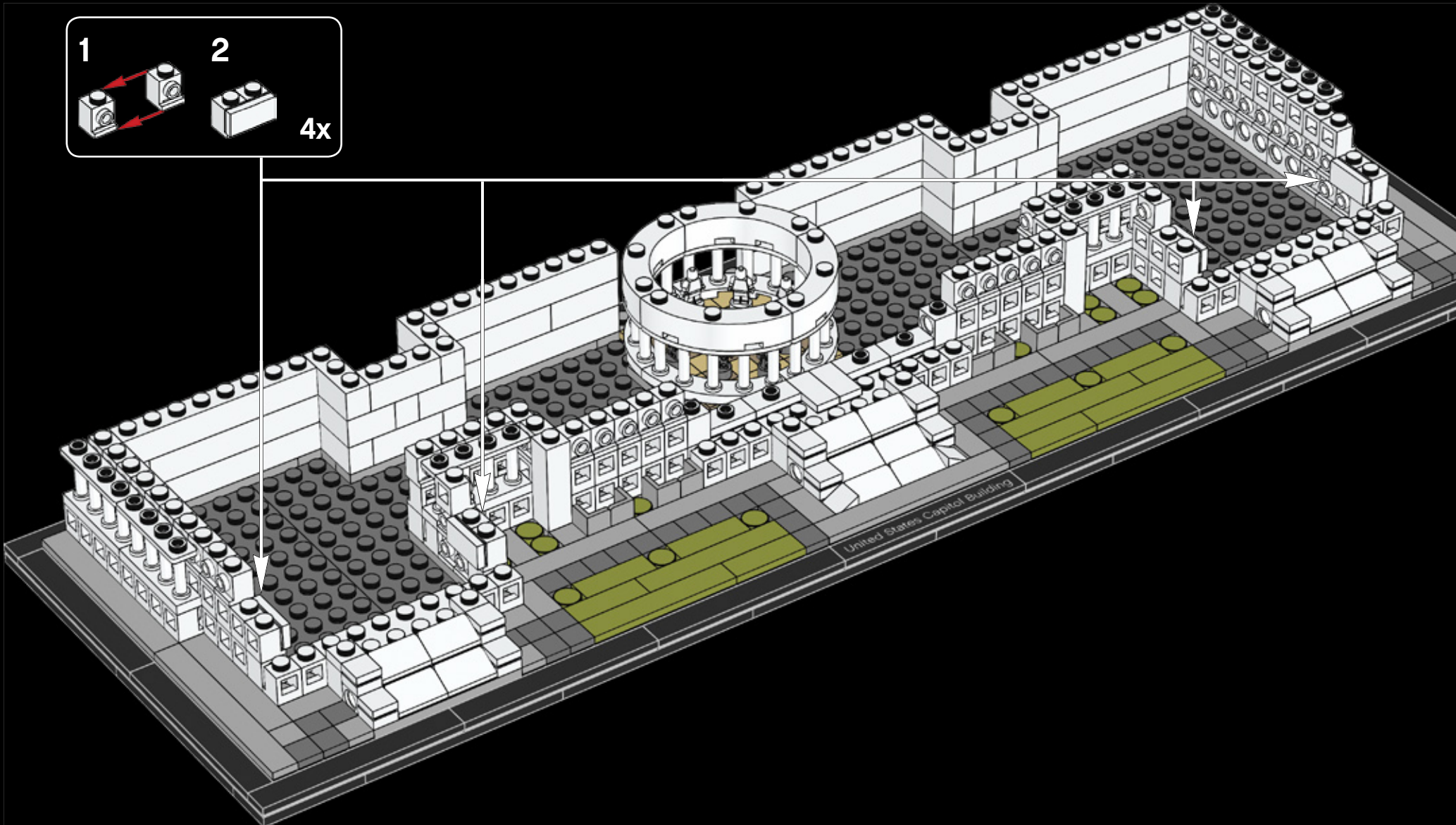
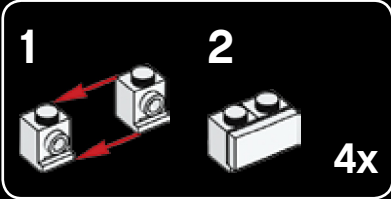
4x

79





80





8x



4x

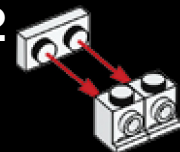


81

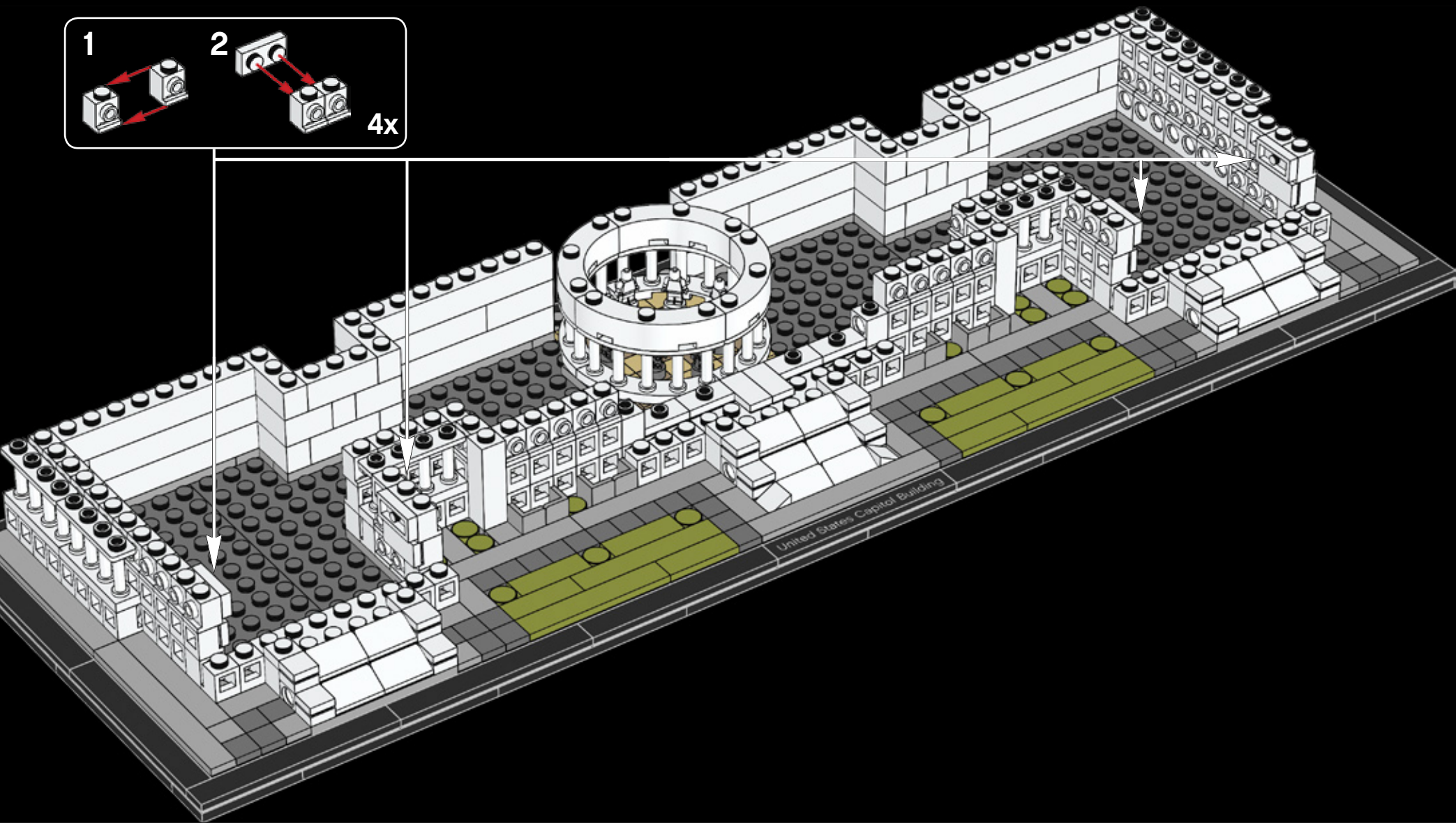
1



2



4x





2x



1x

82



1x

83



1x

84



1x

85

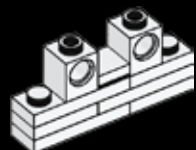




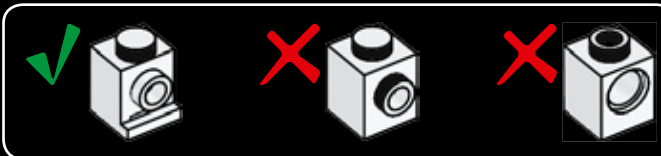
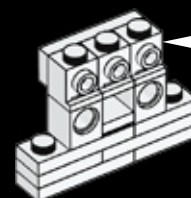
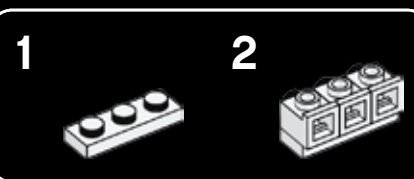
86



87

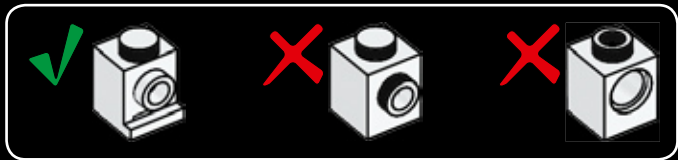
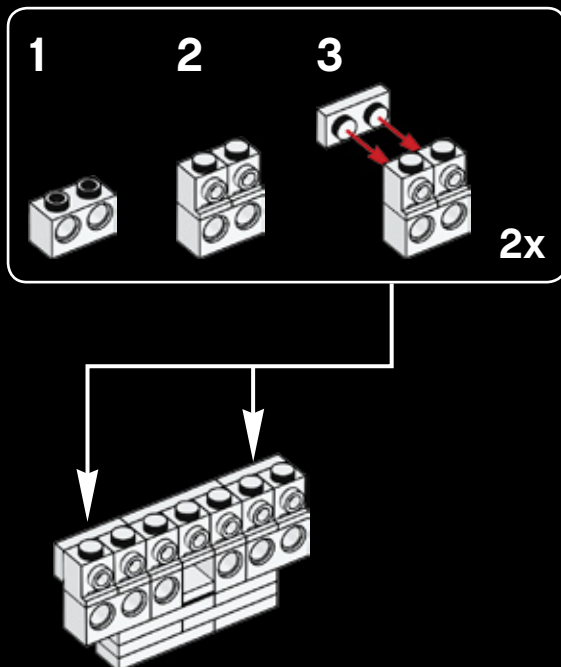


88

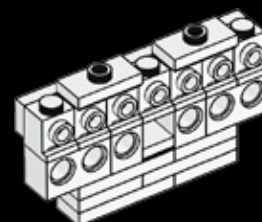




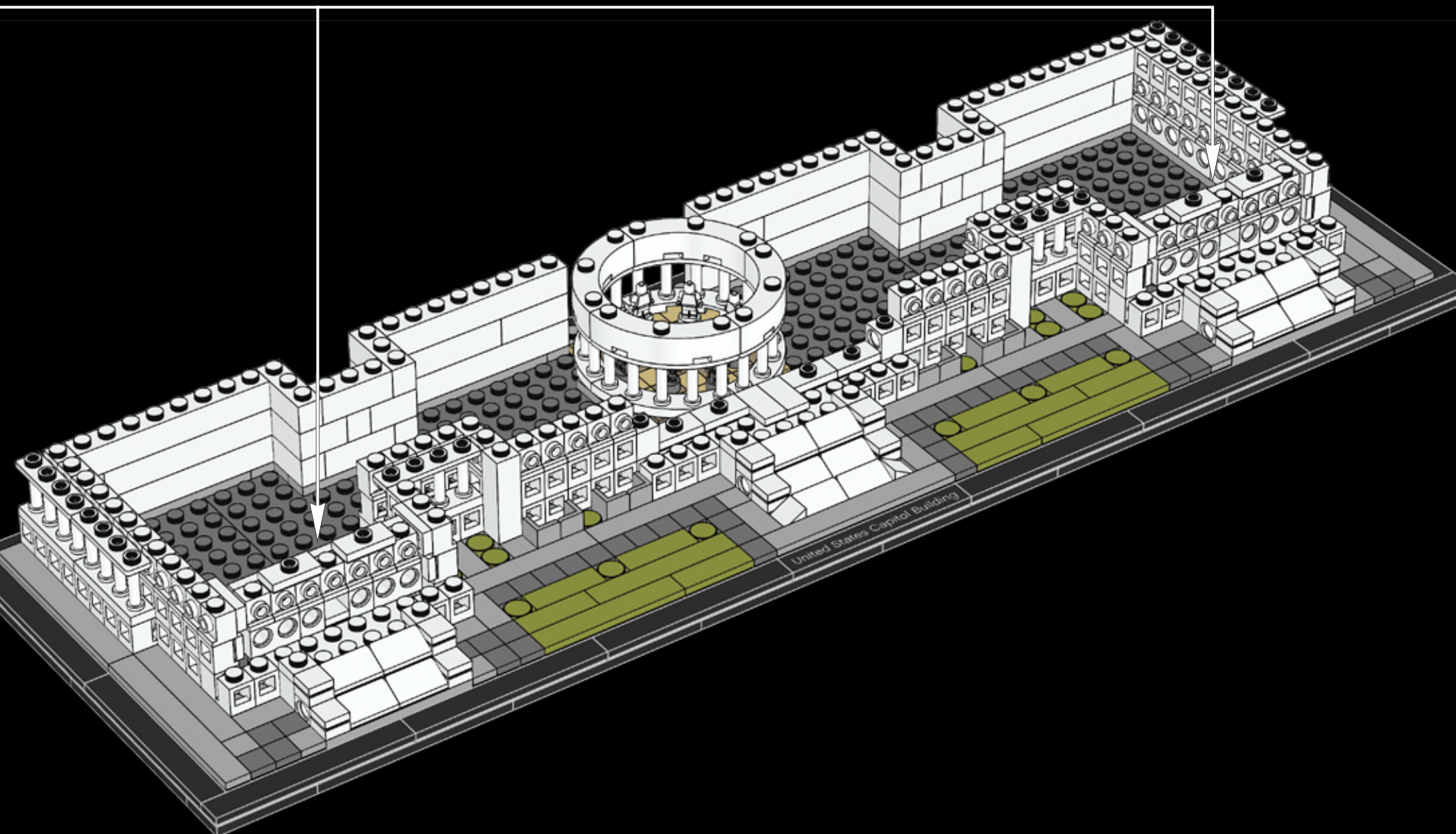
89



90



2x





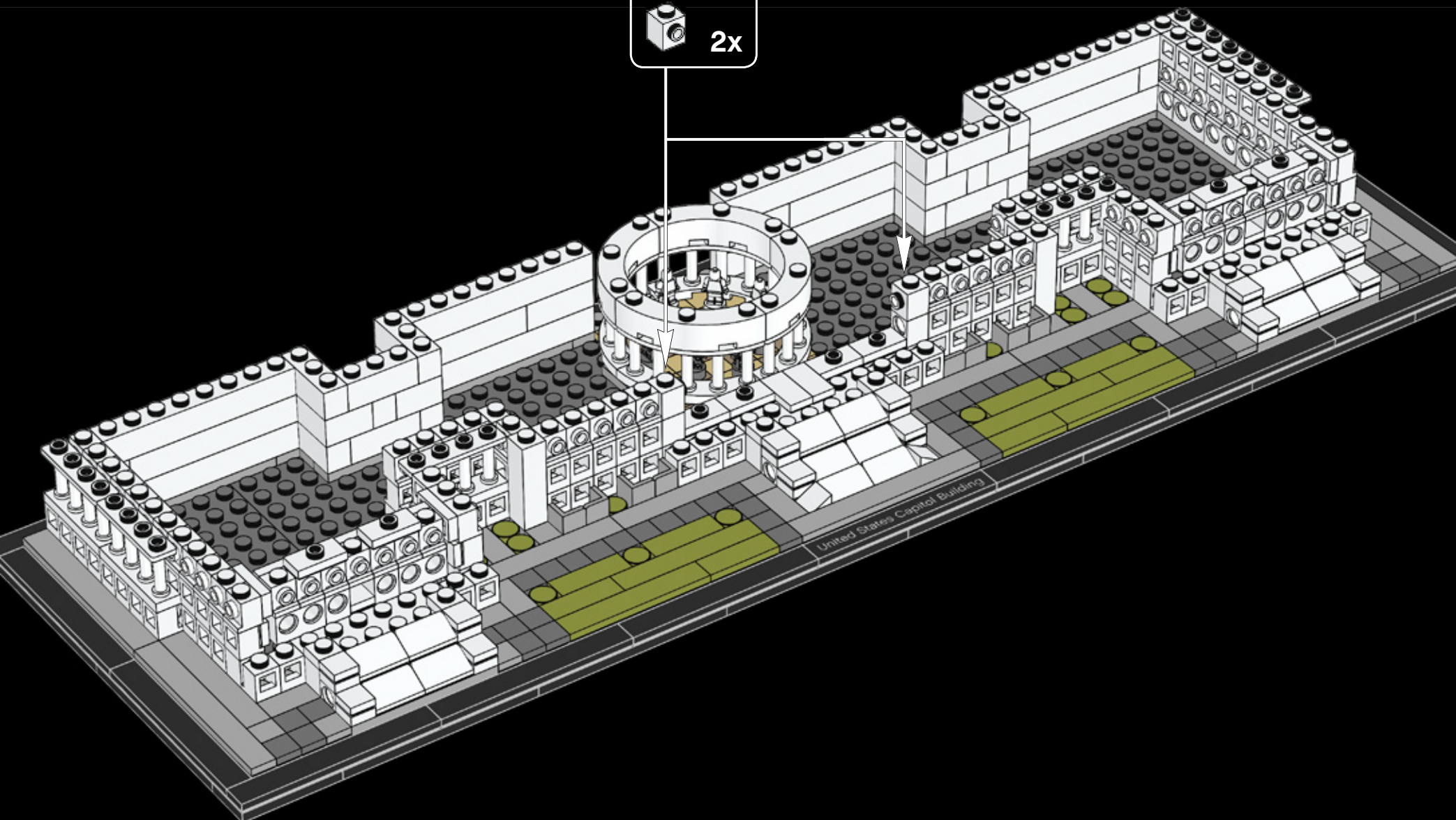
2x



92



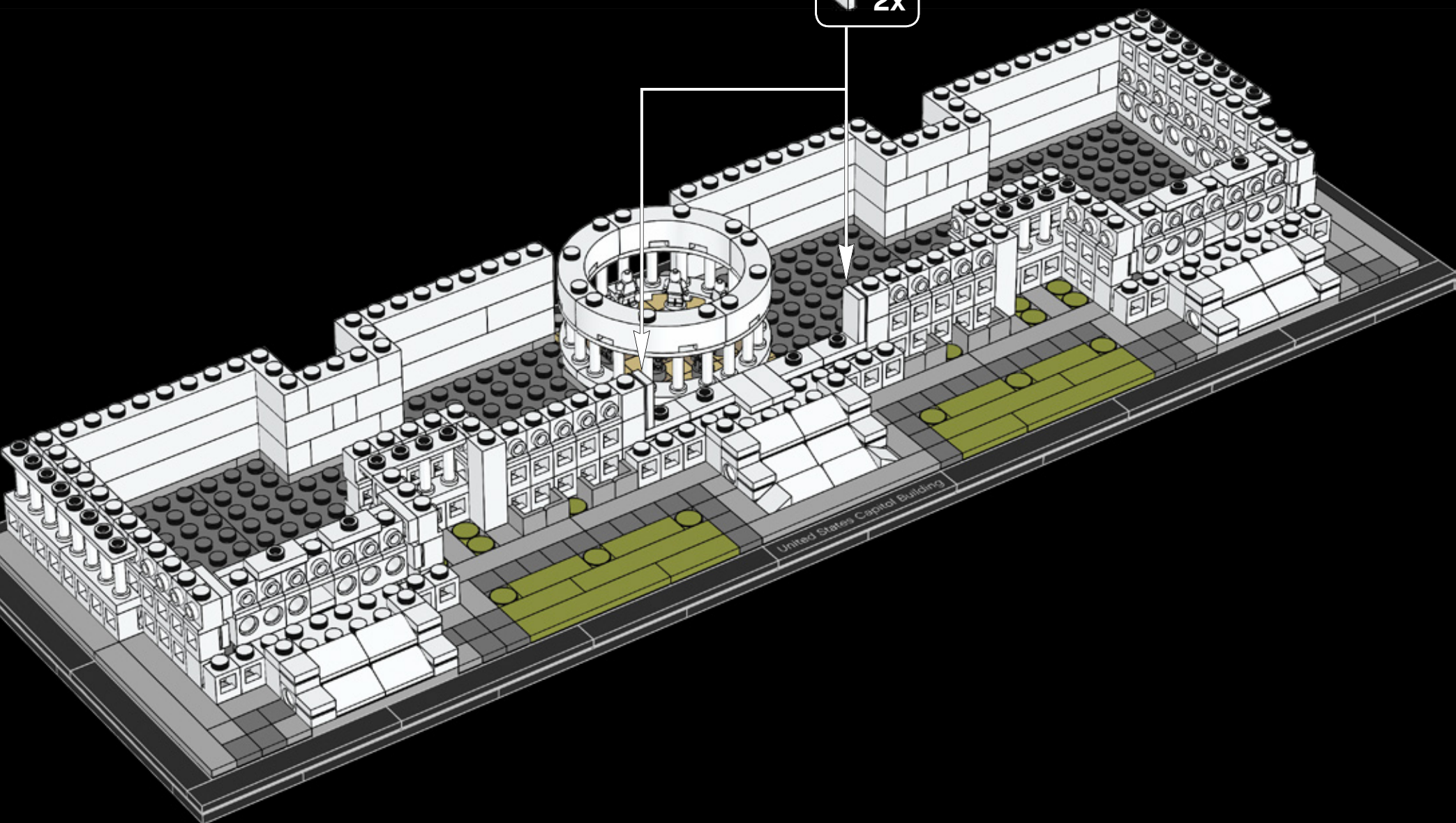
2x



2x

93

2x





1x

94



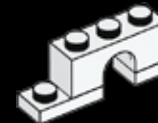
1x

95



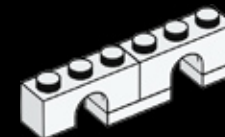
1x

96



1x

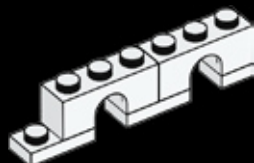
97





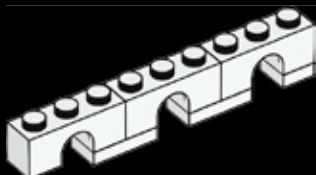
1x

98



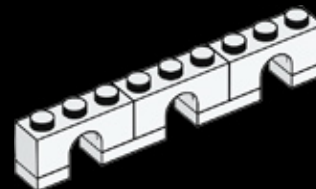
1x

99



1x

100

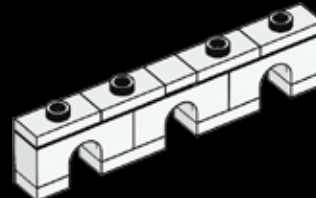


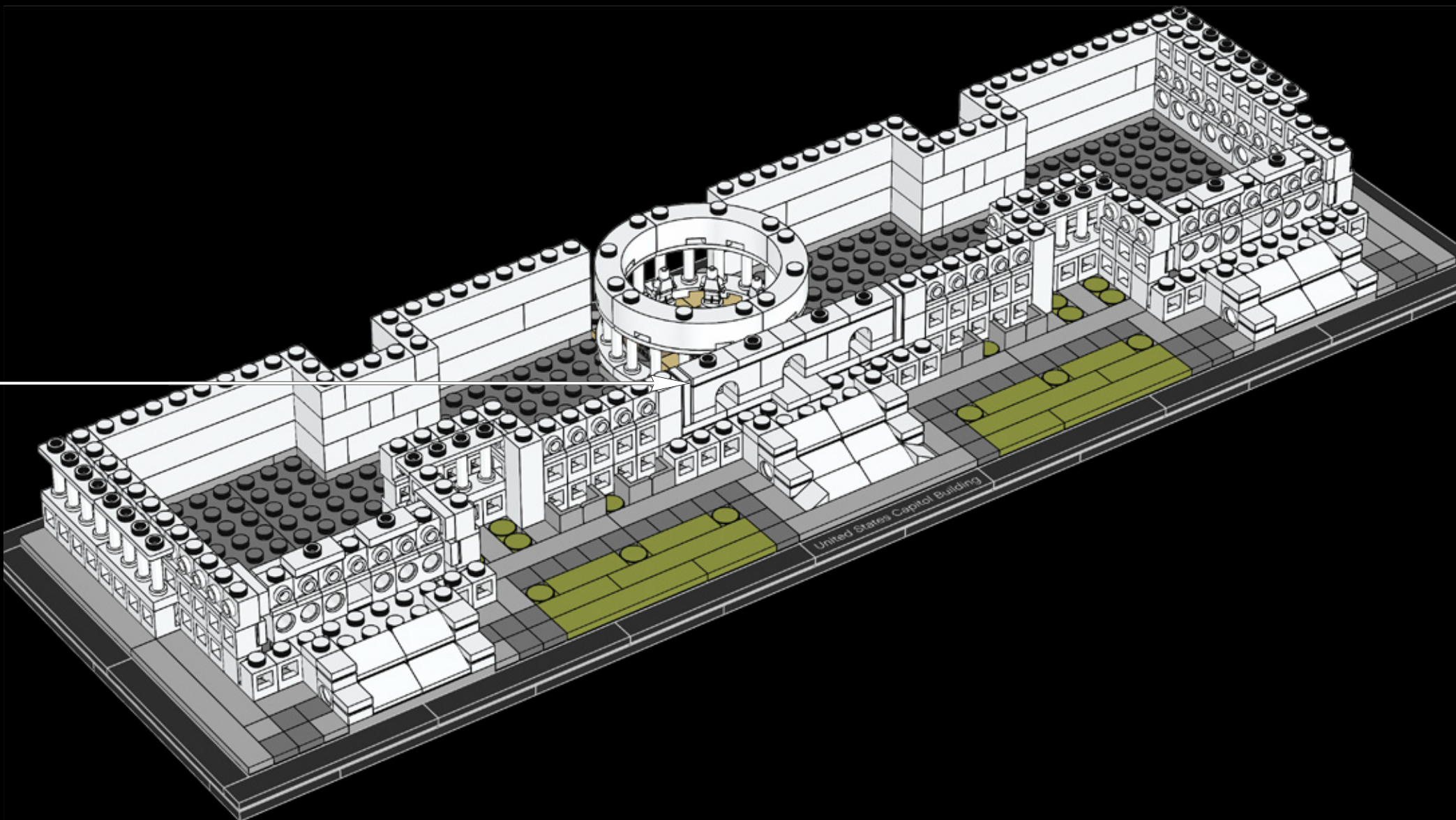
1x



4x

101

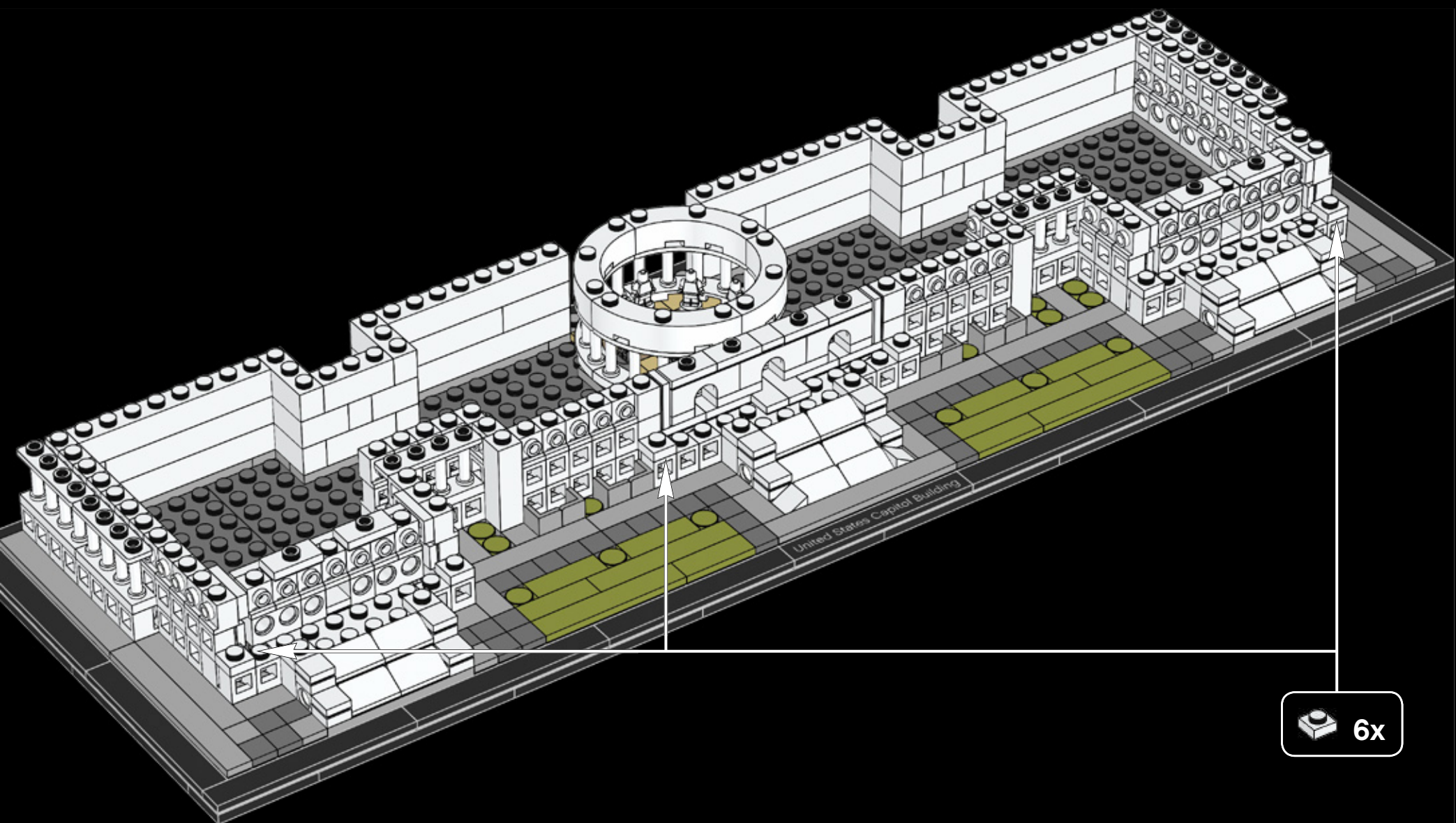






6x

103



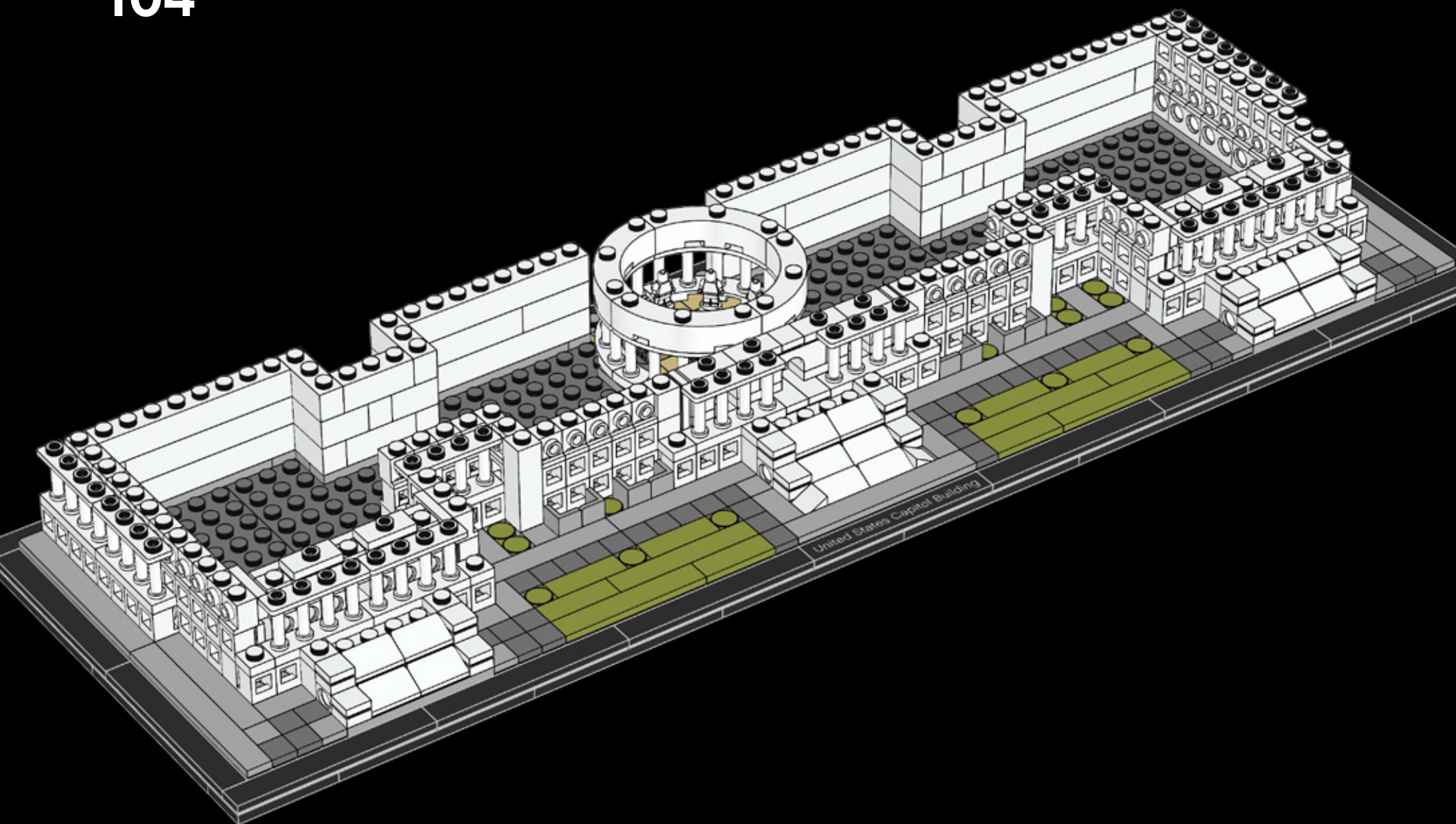
6x



6x

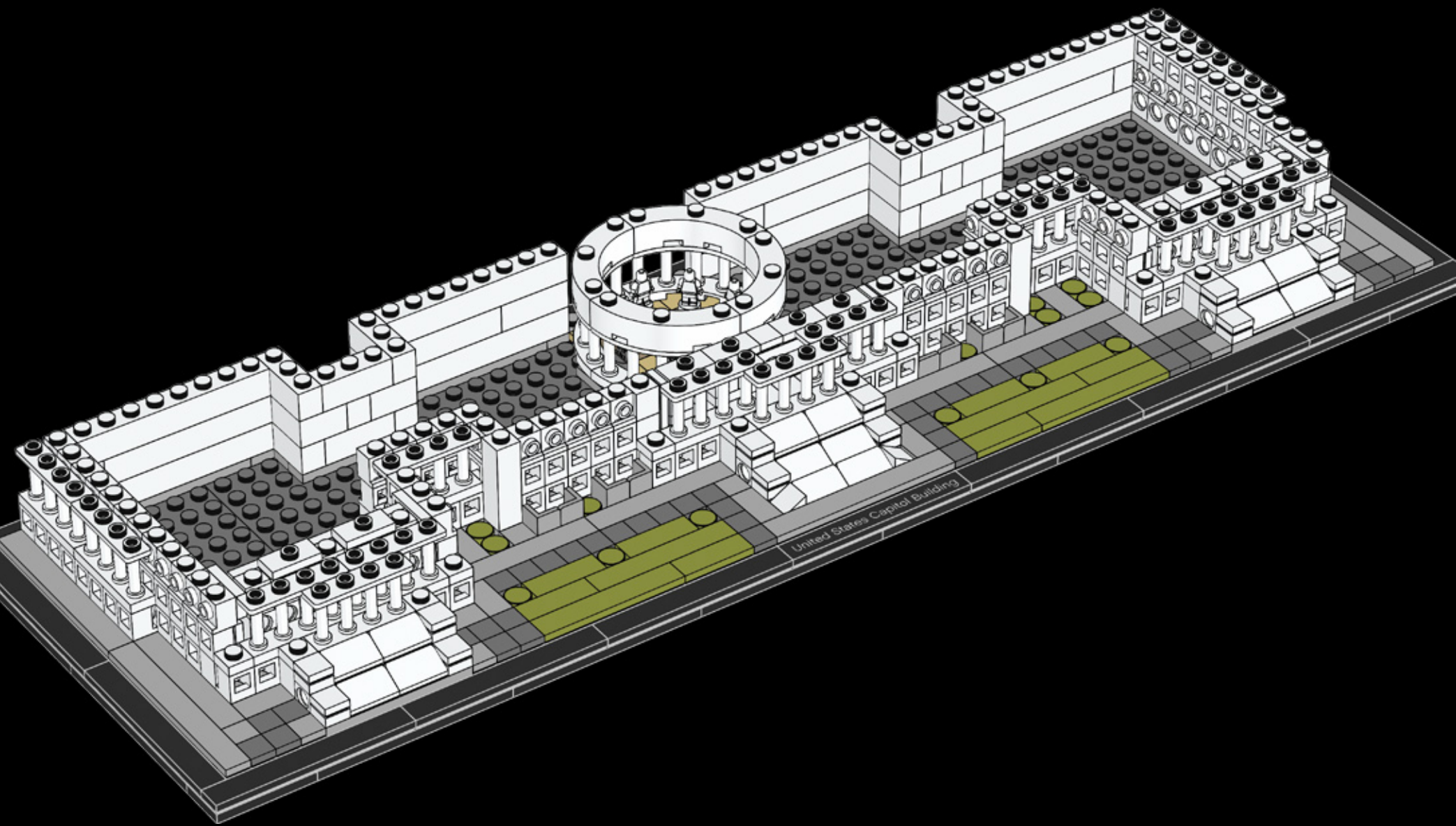
104

The U.S. Capitol Building is divided into five levels. The second floor holds both the Chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate.





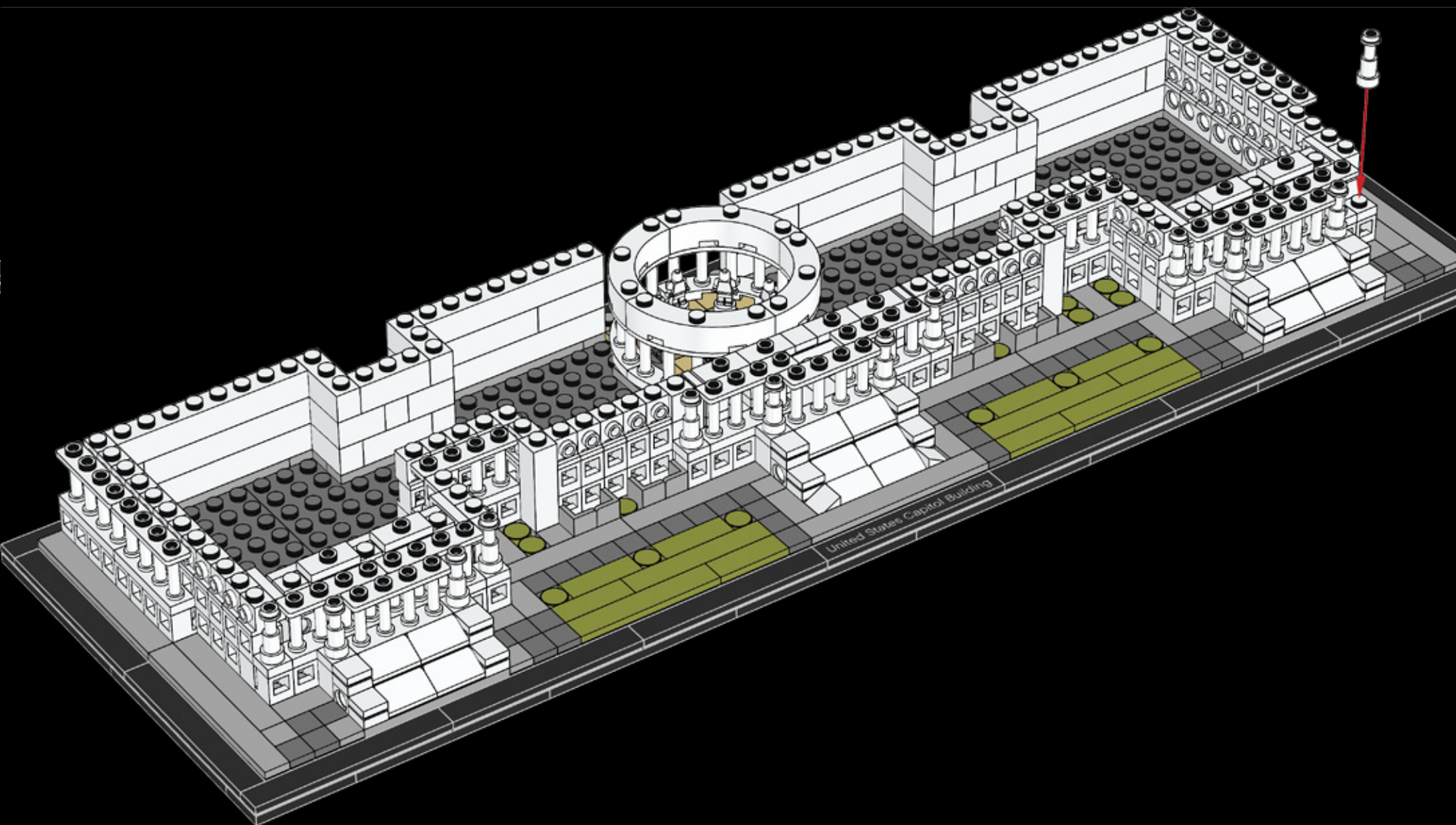
105





12x

106



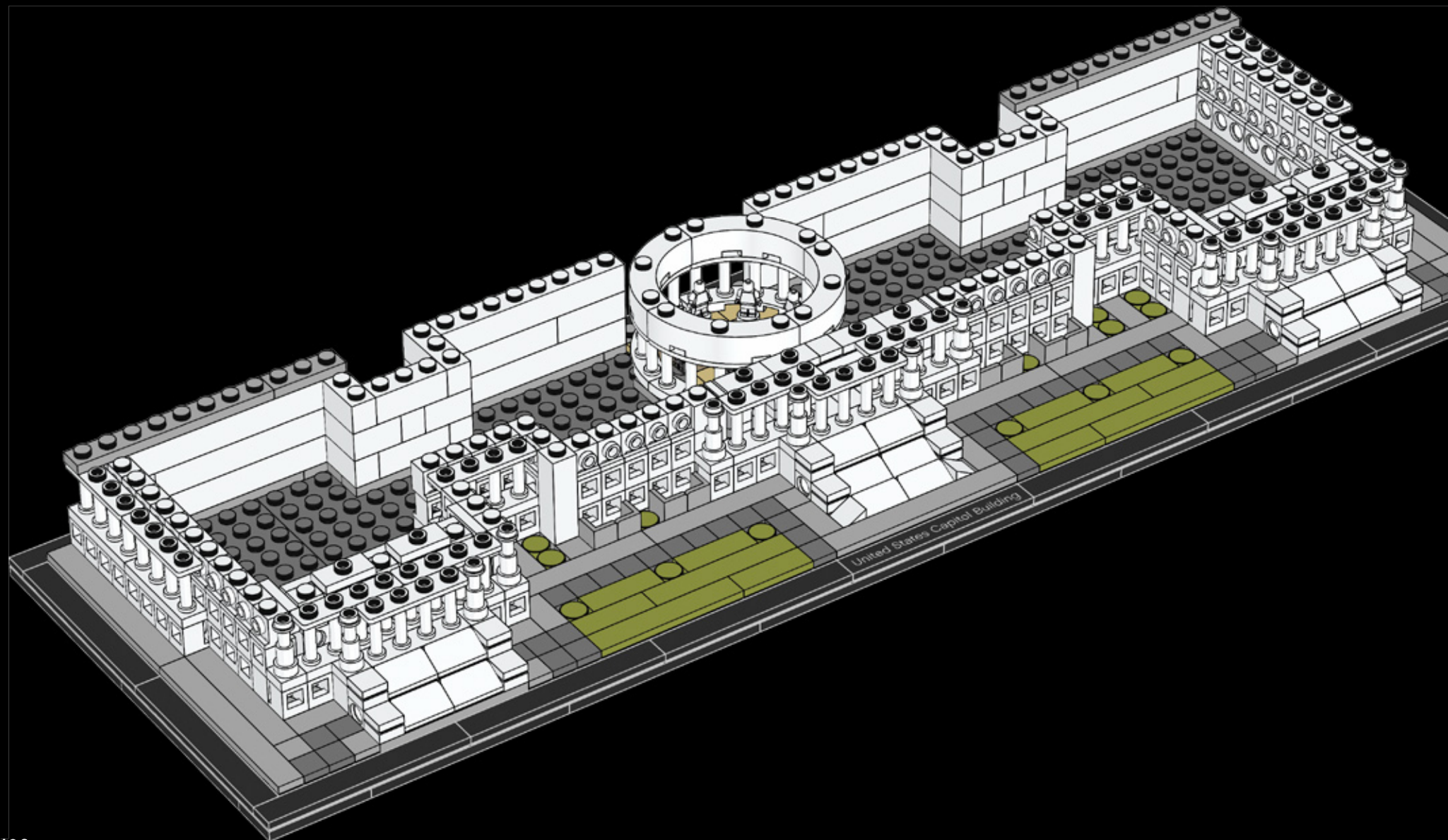


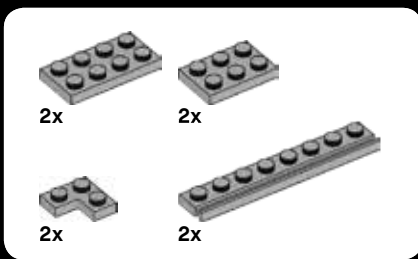
2x



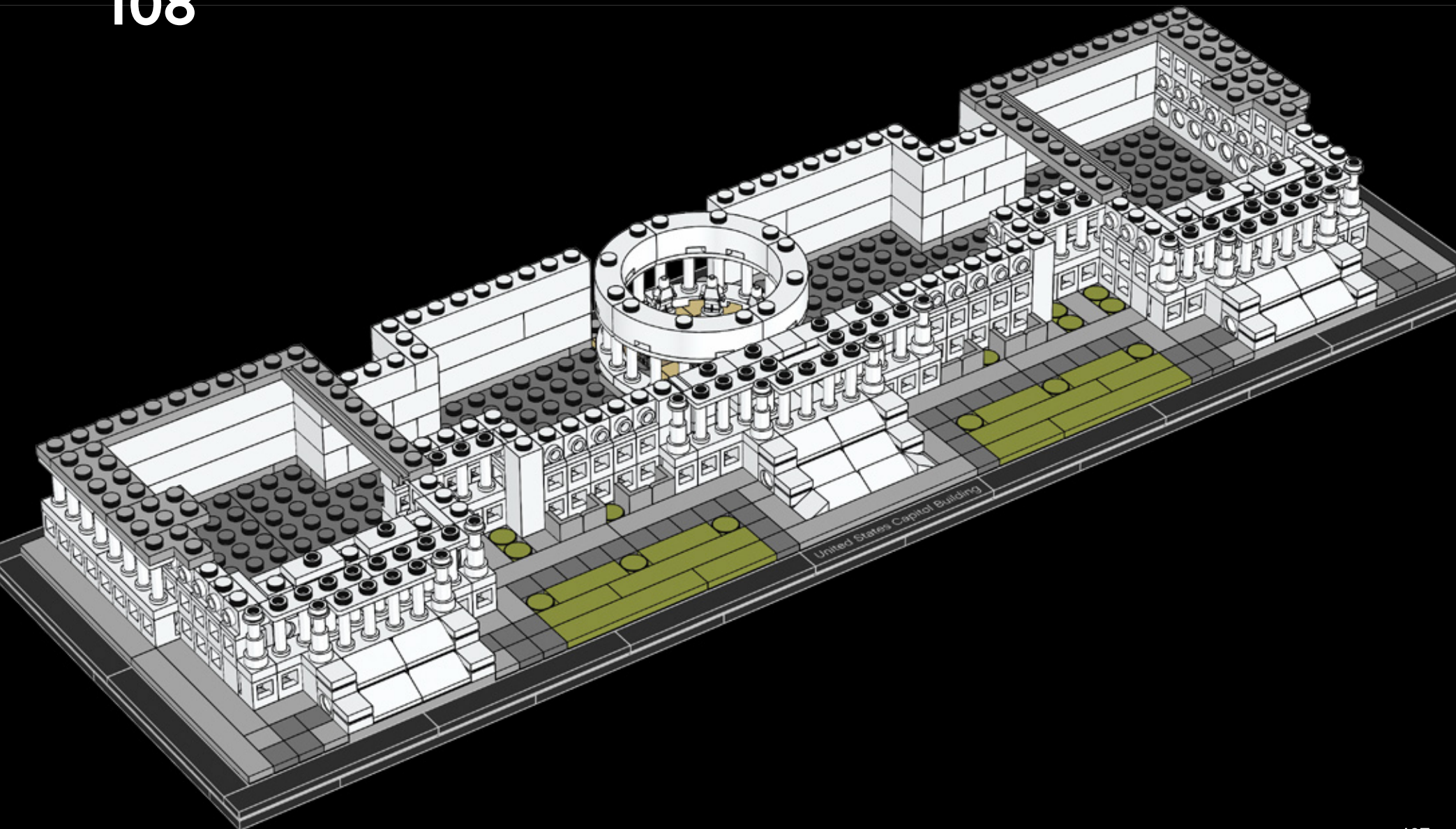
2x

107





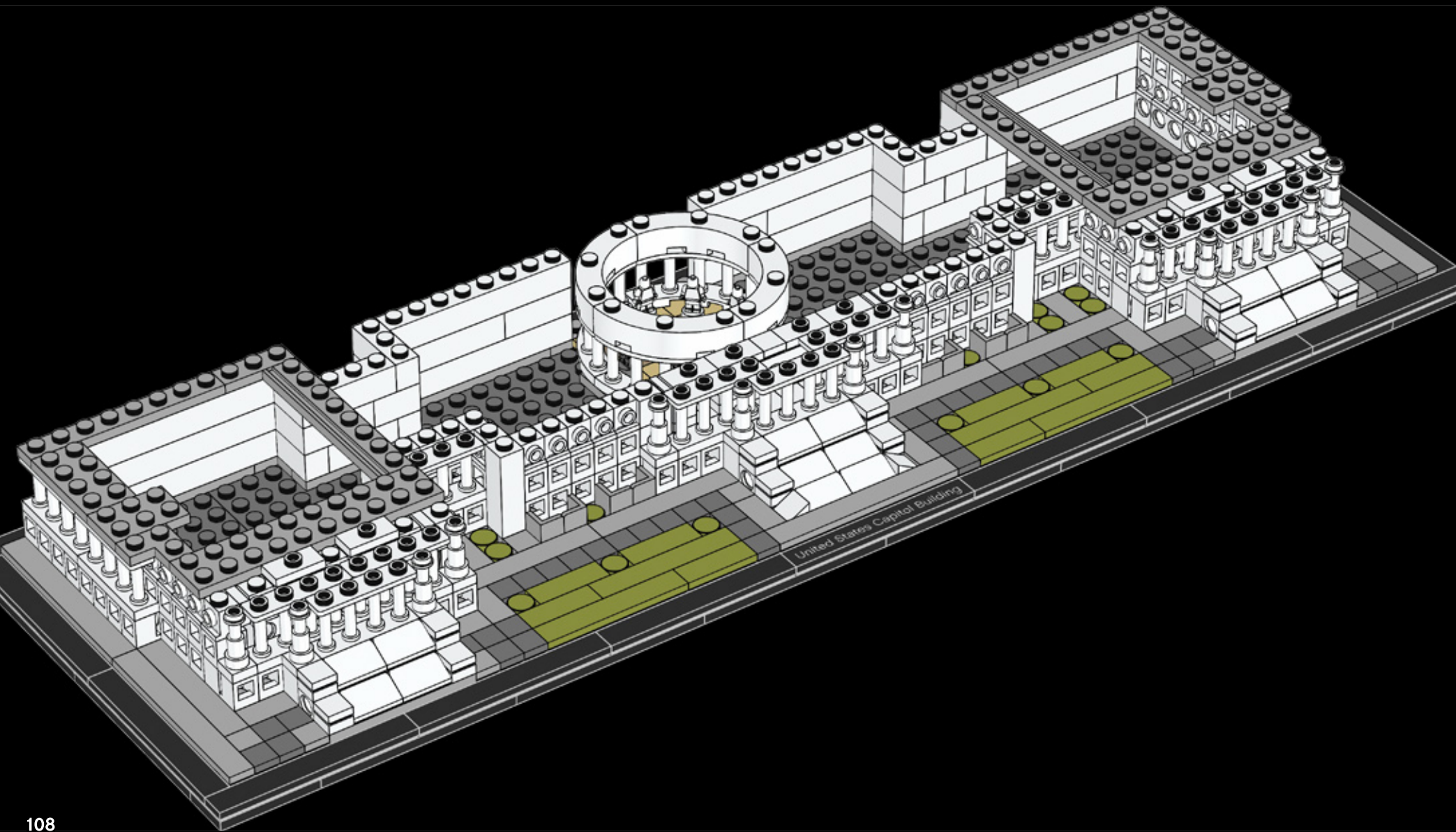
108





2x

109



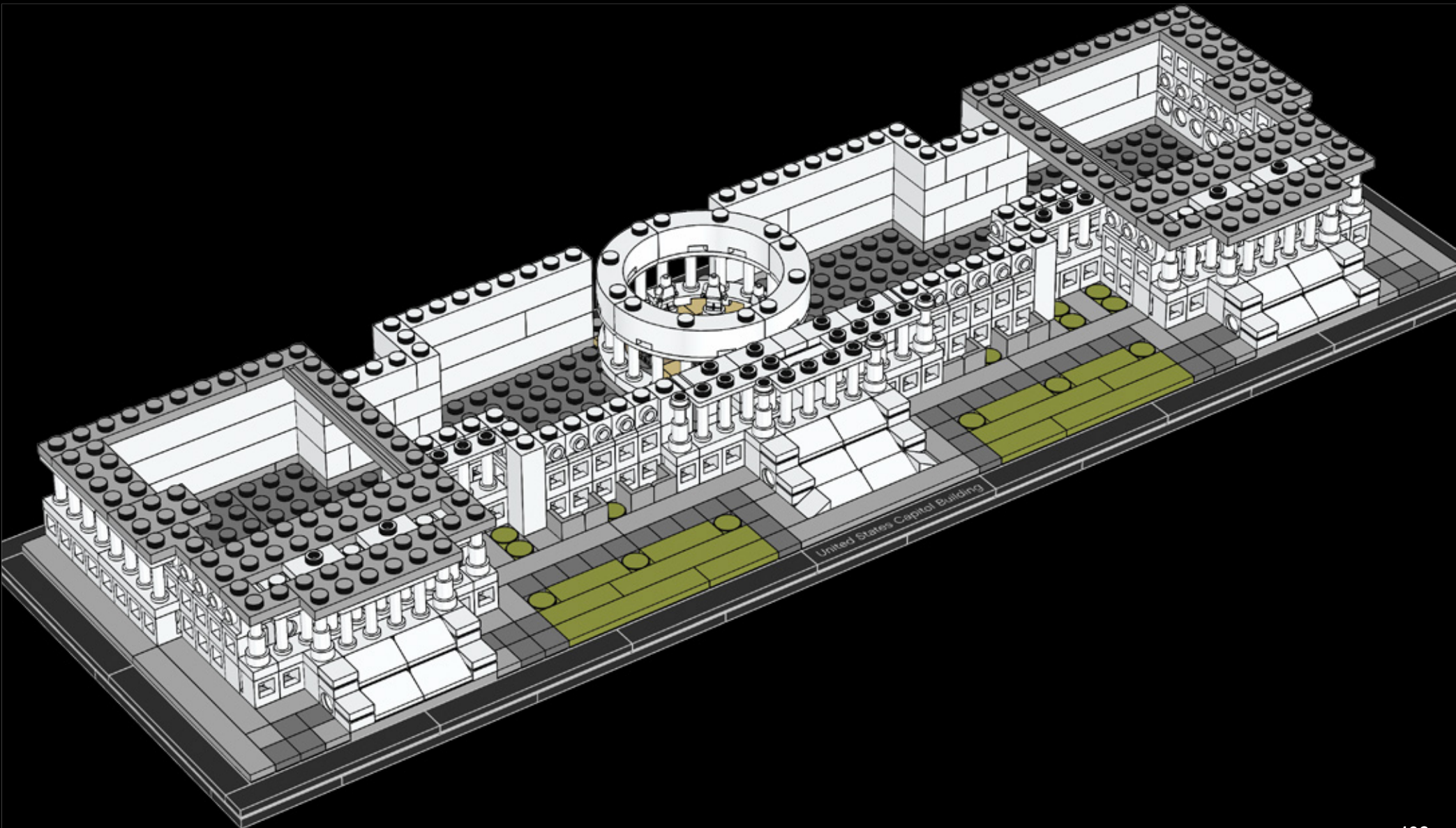


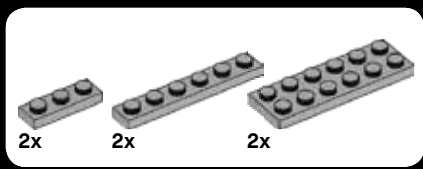
4x



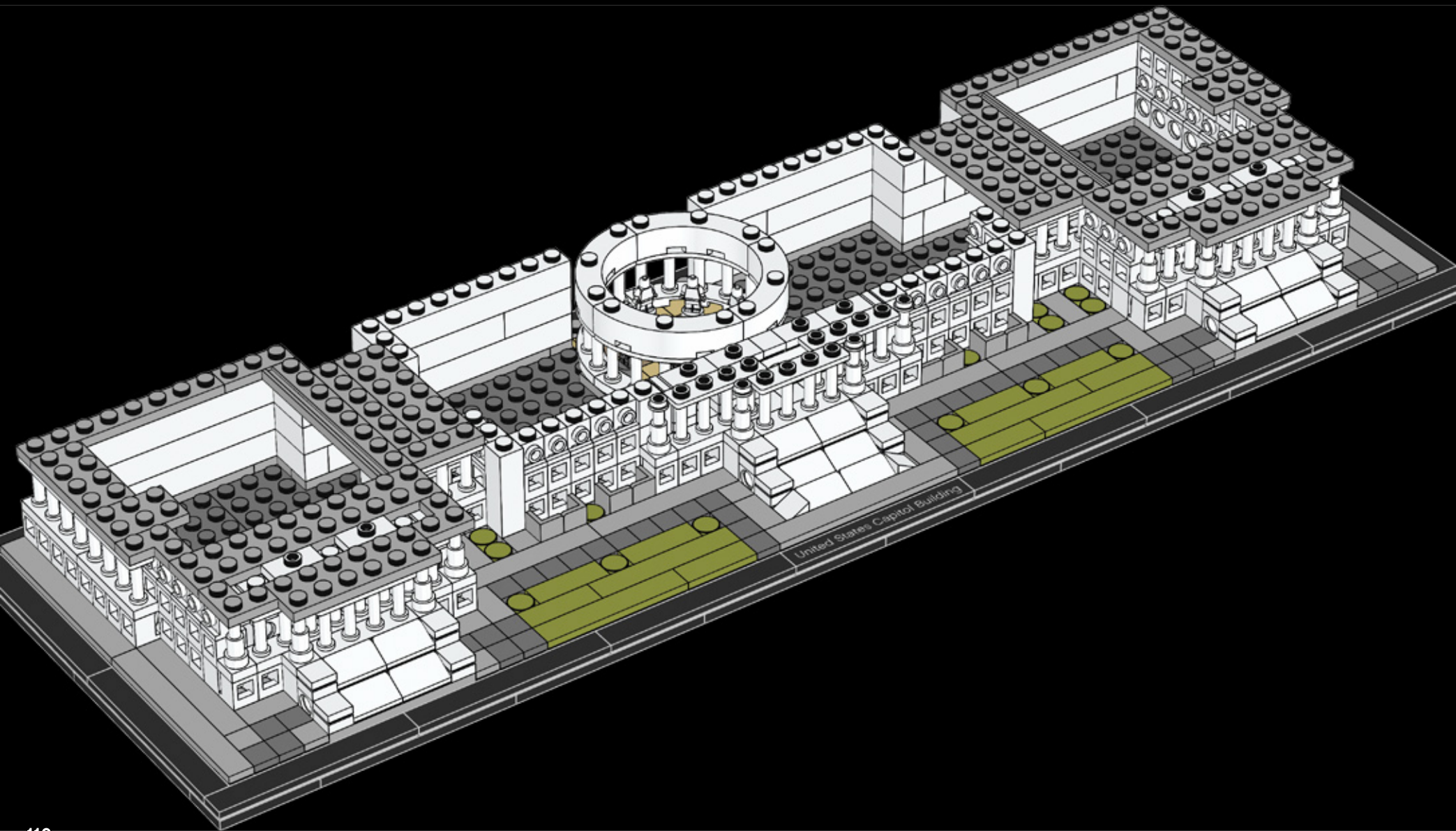
2x

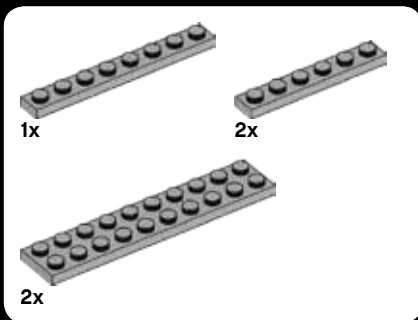
110



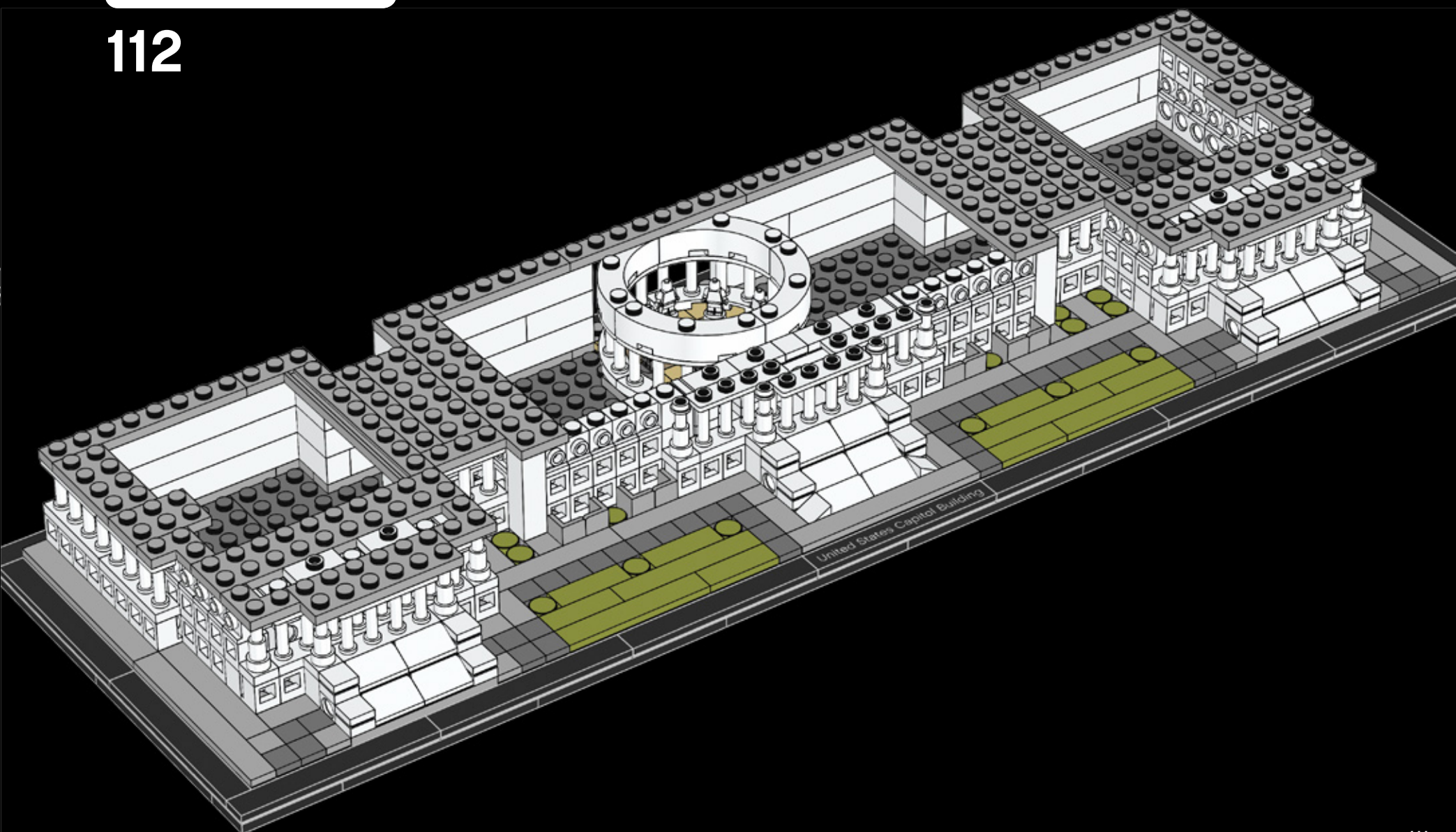


111





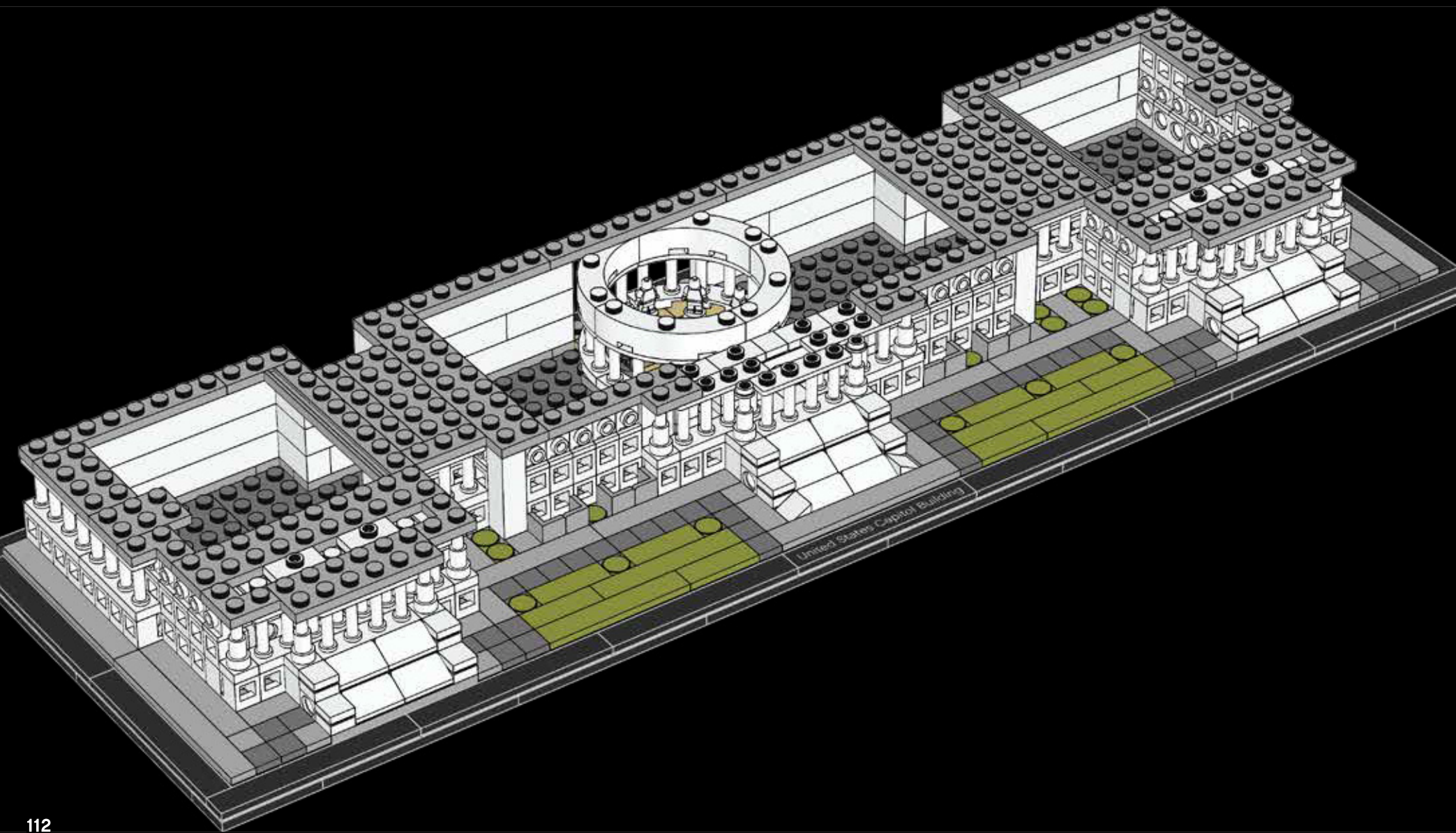
112

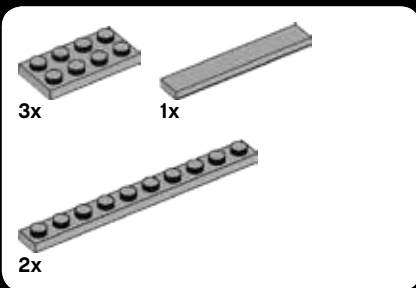


2x

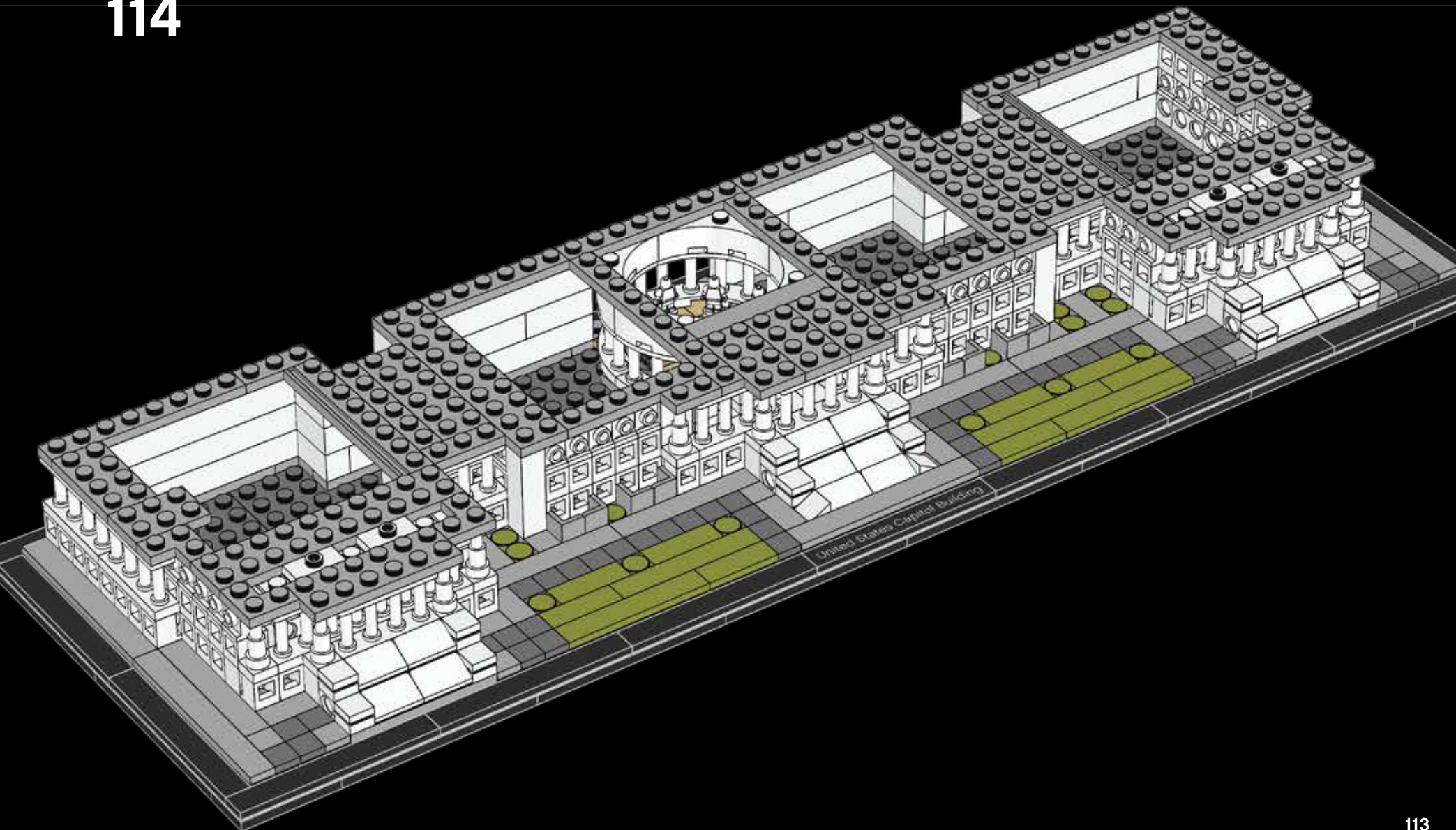
2x

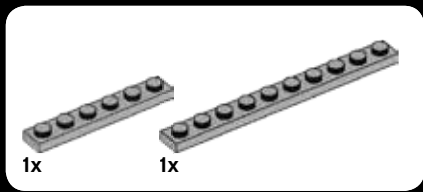
113



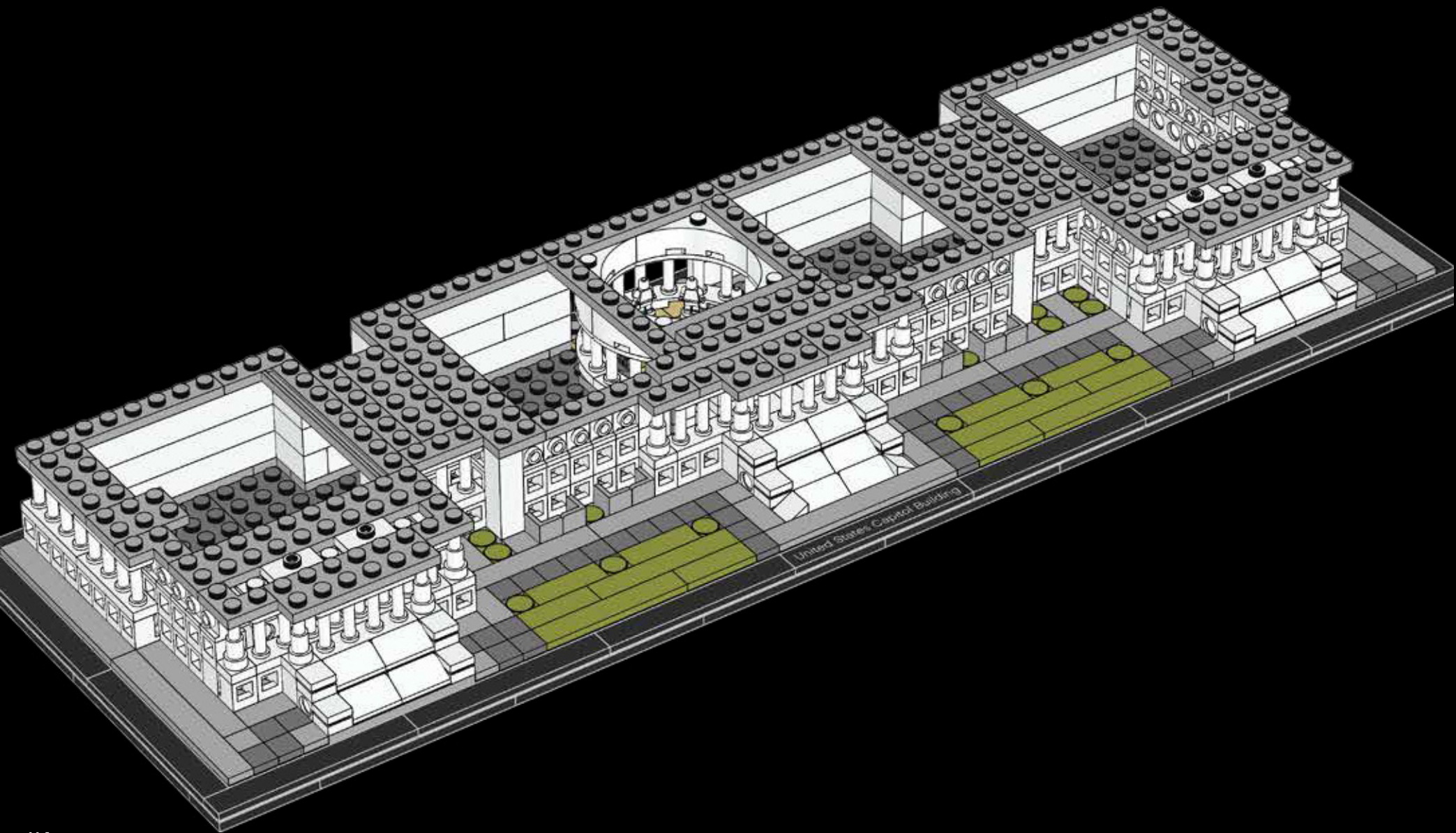


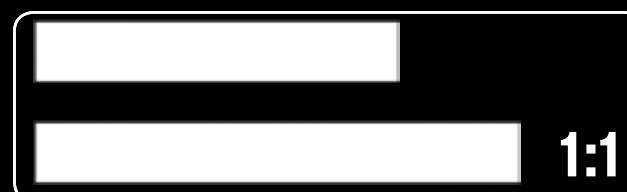
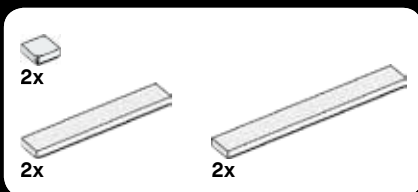
114



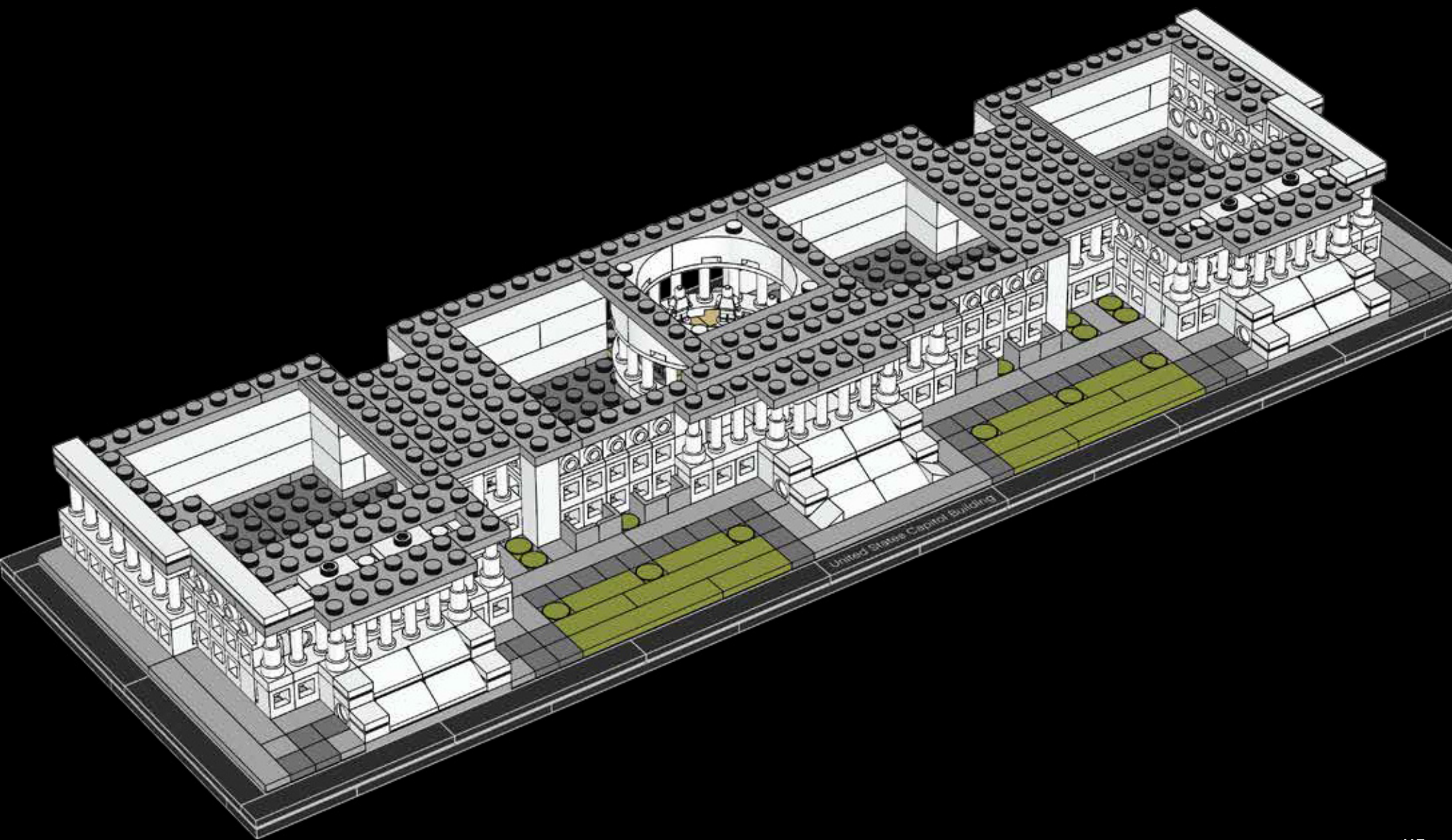


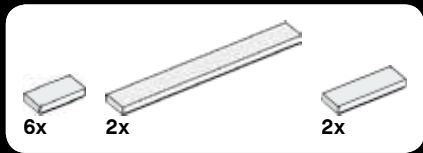
115



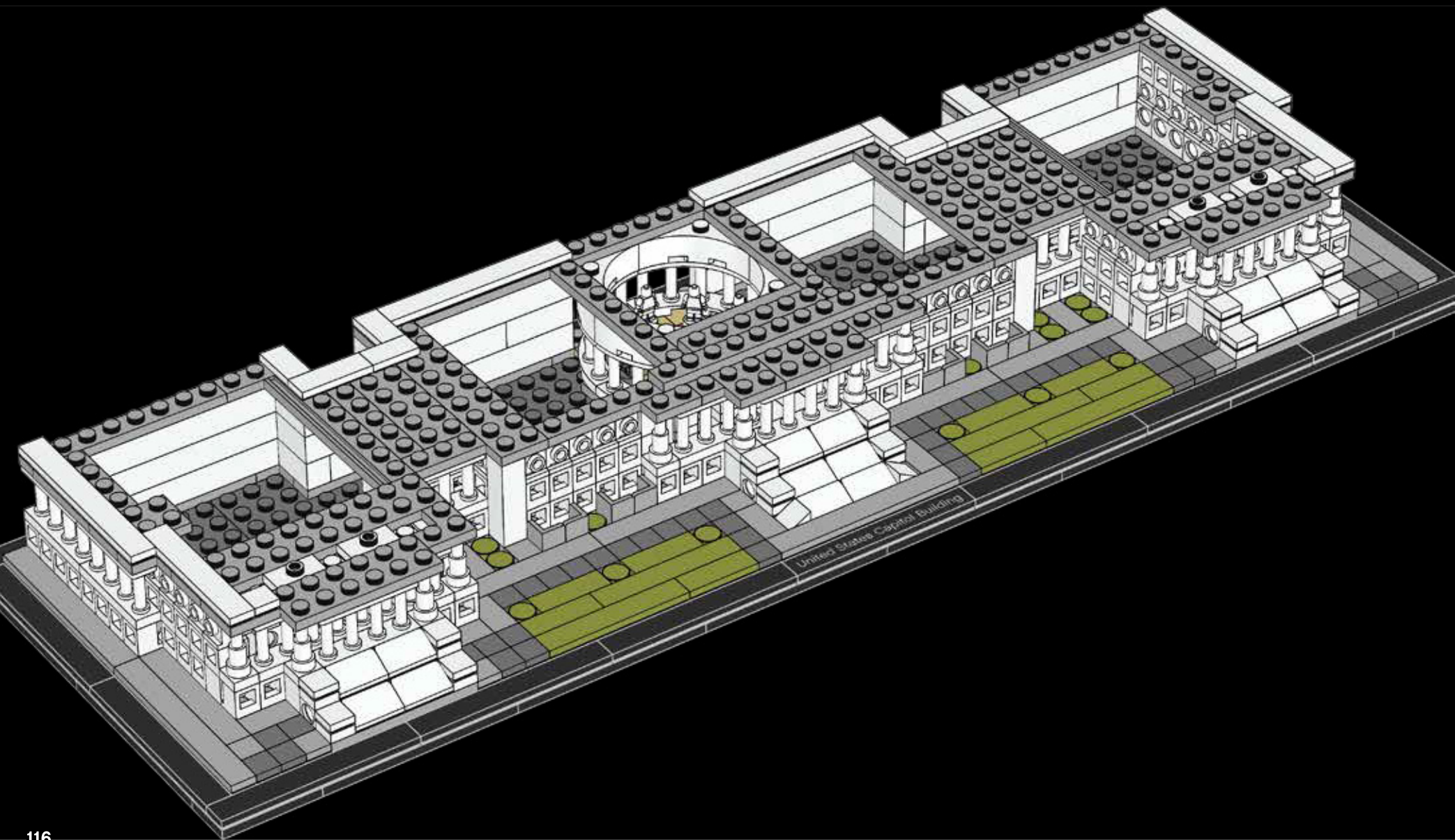


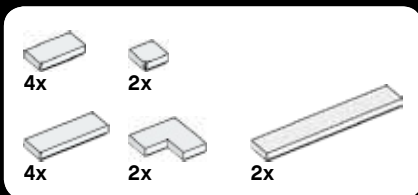
116



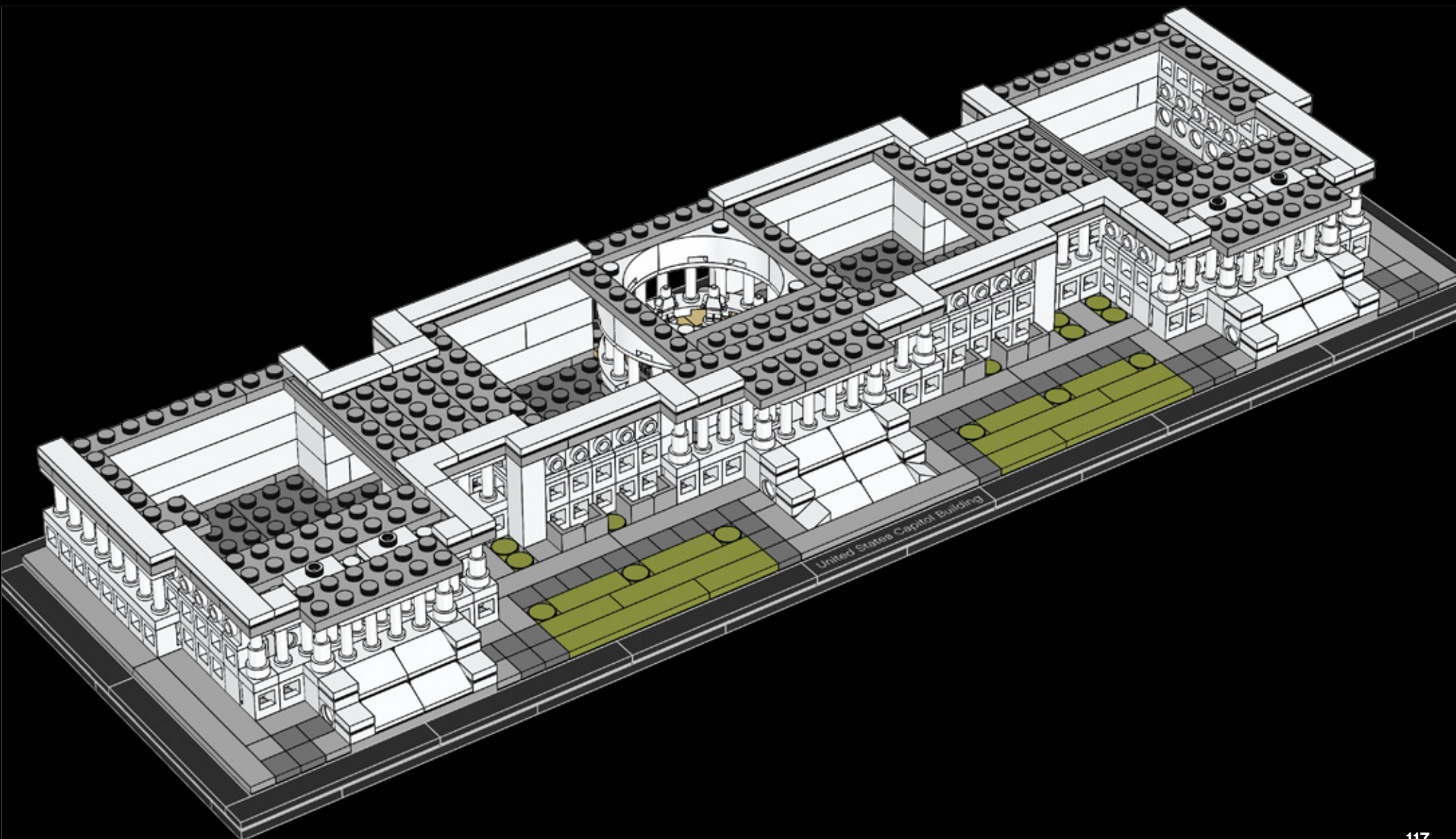


117





118



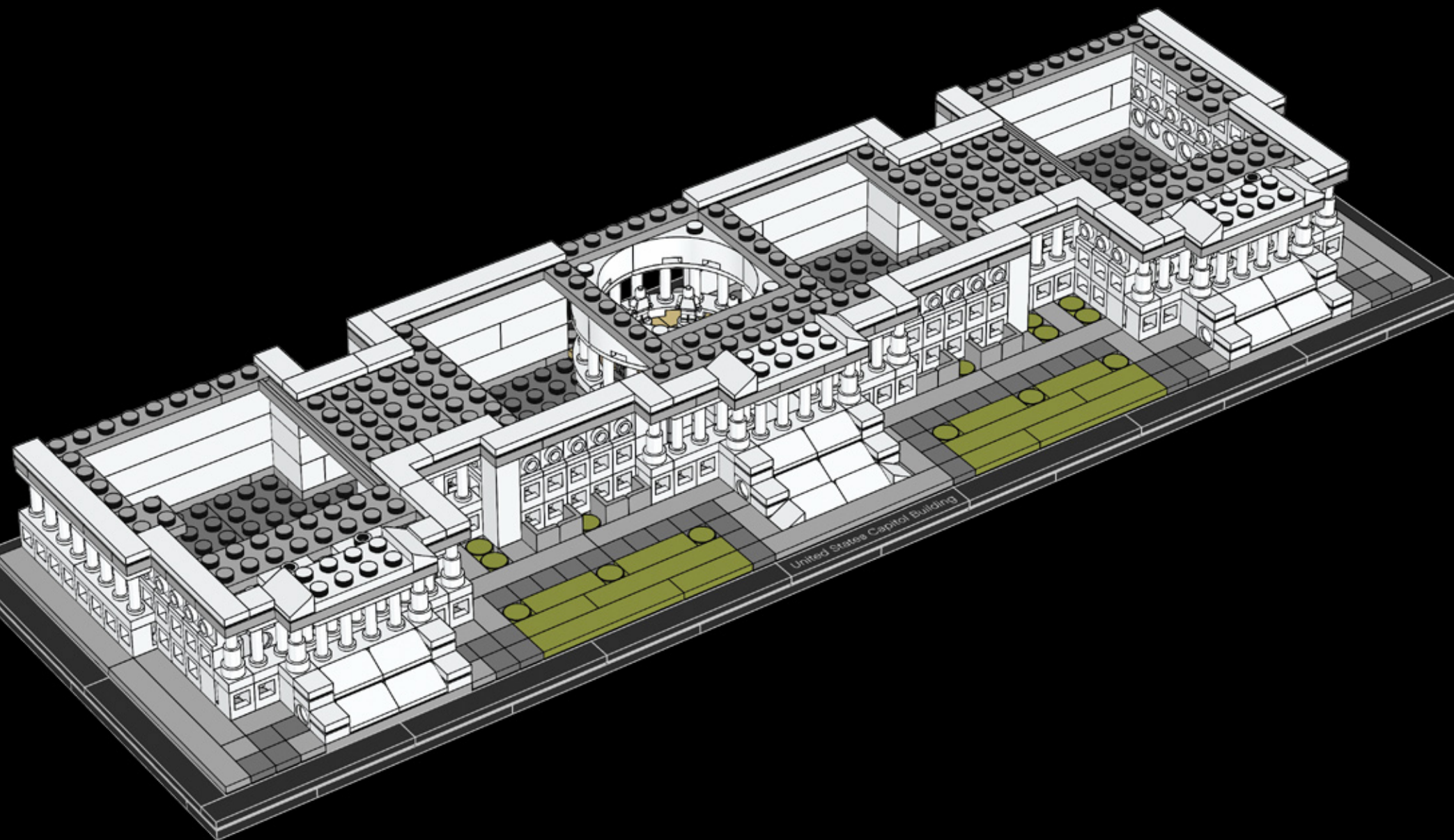


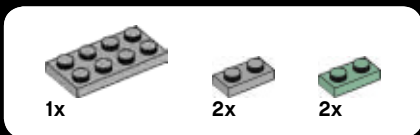
3x



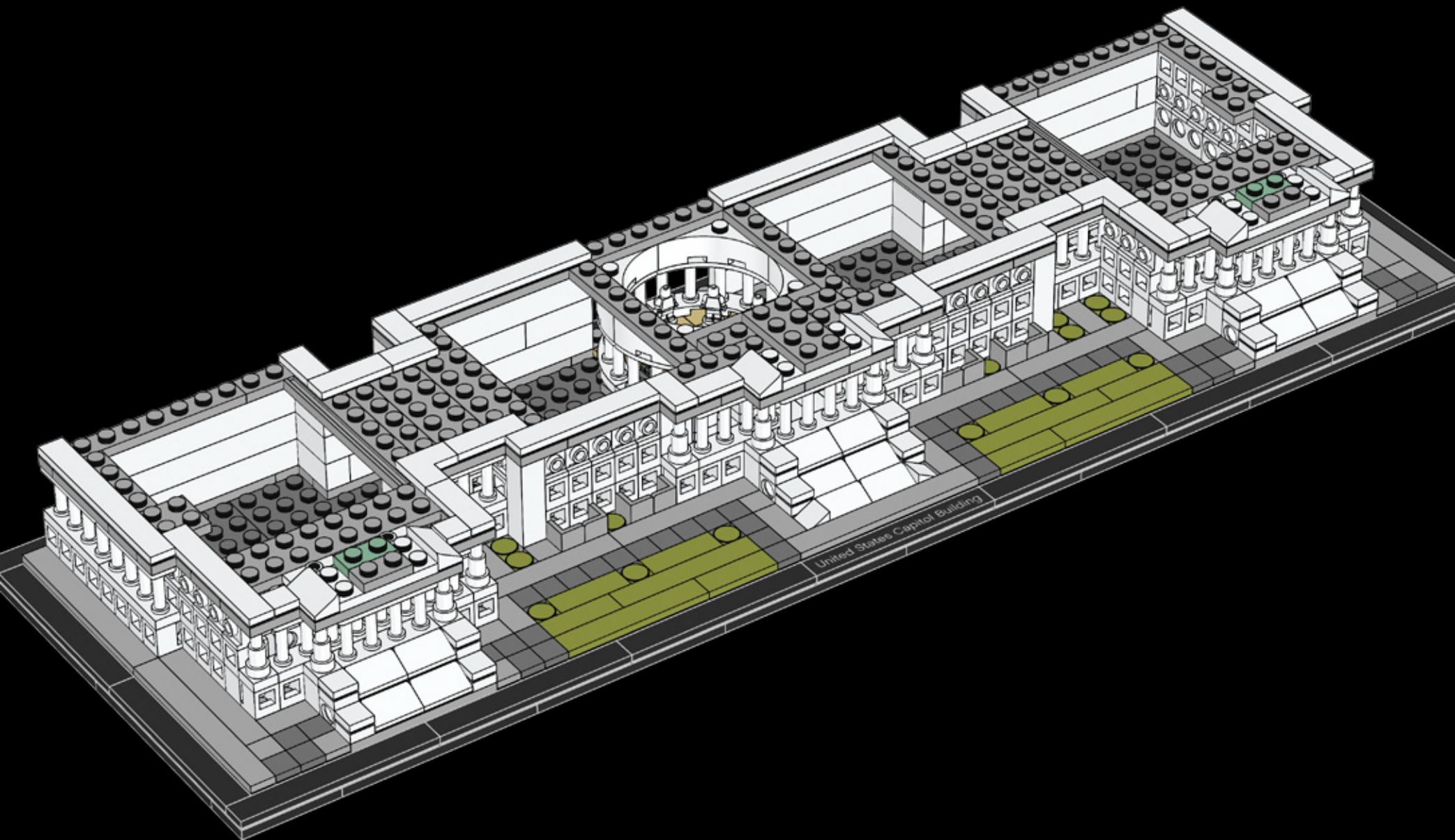
6x

119





120



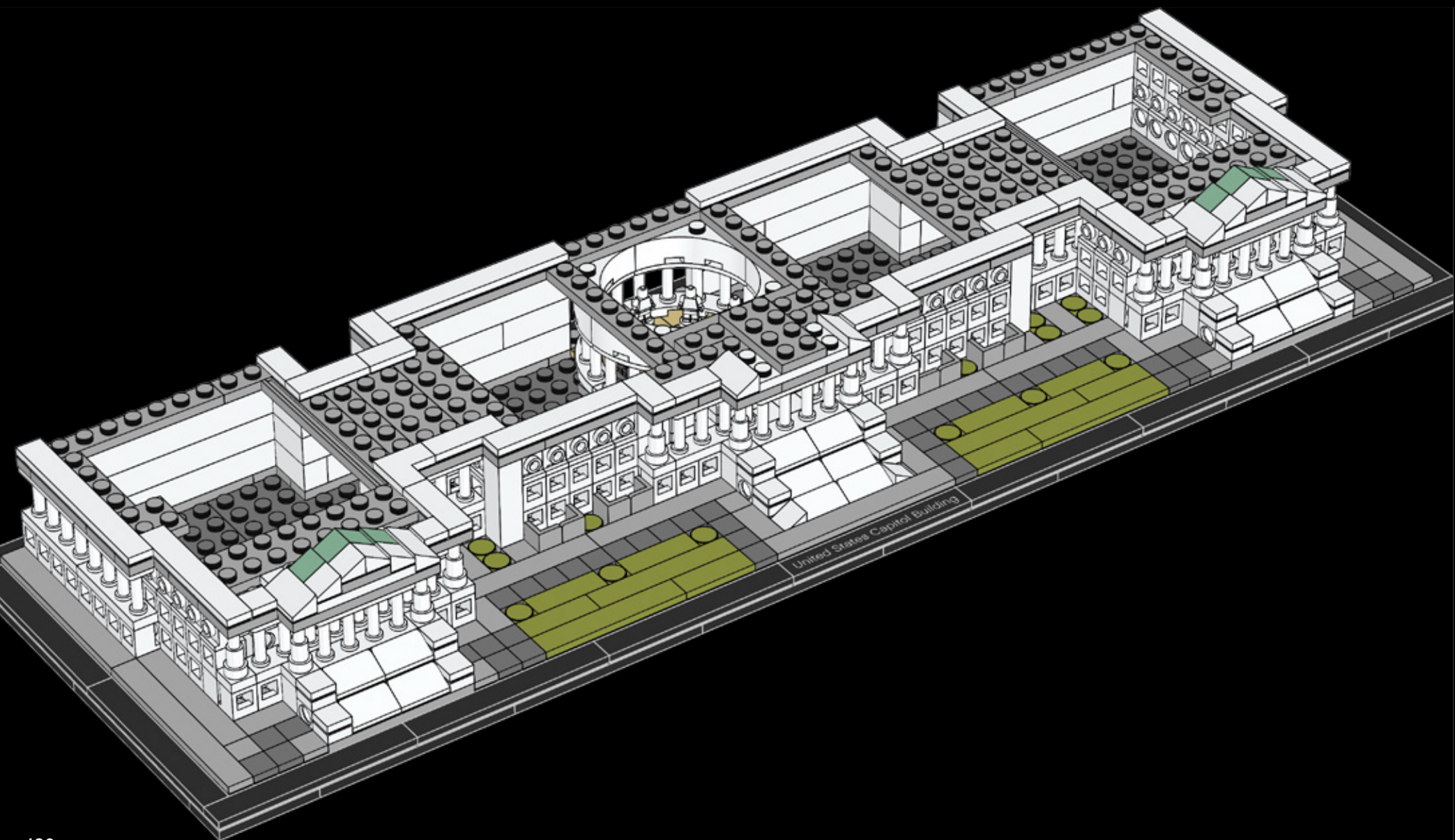


8x



8x

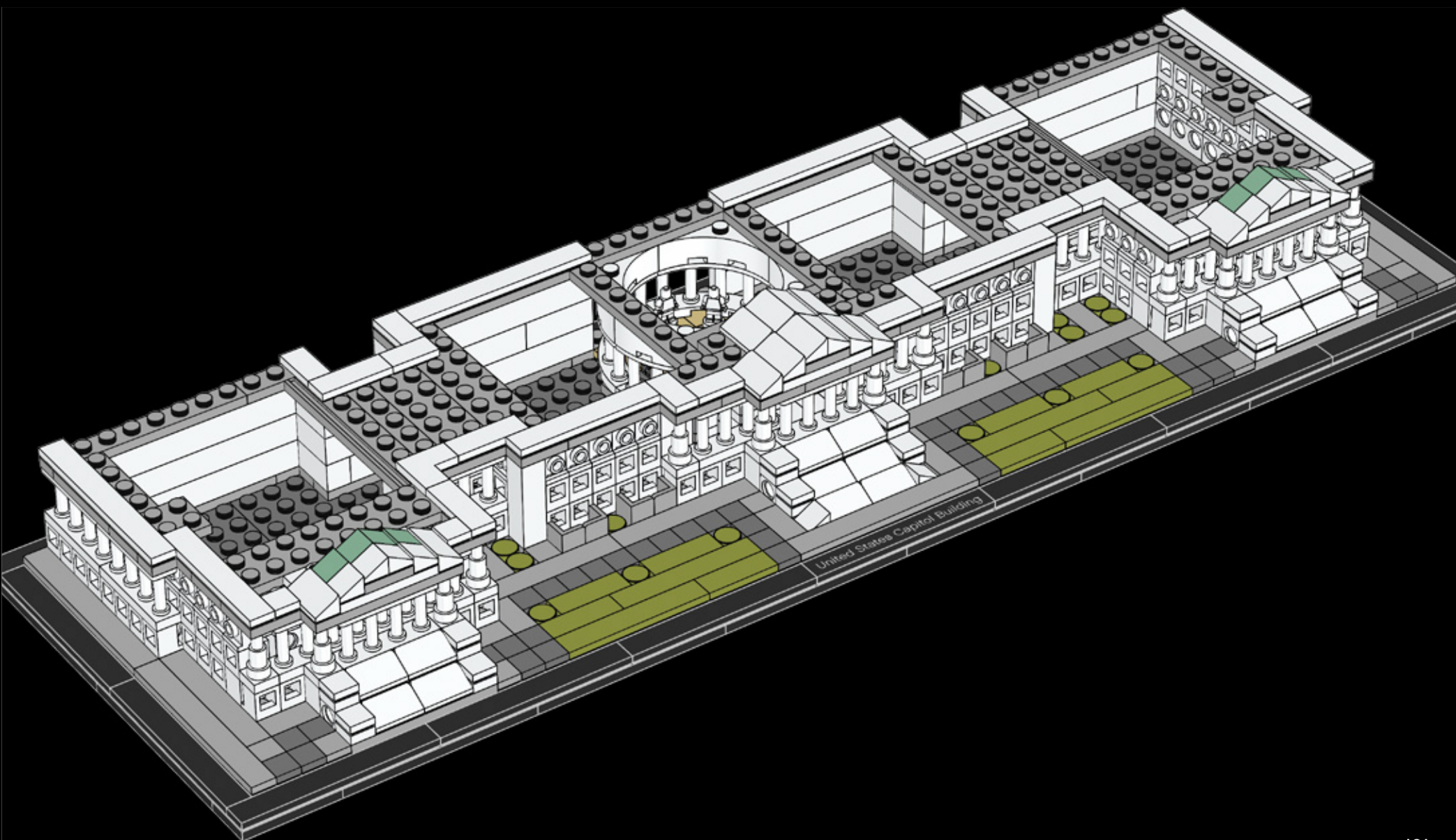
121





8x

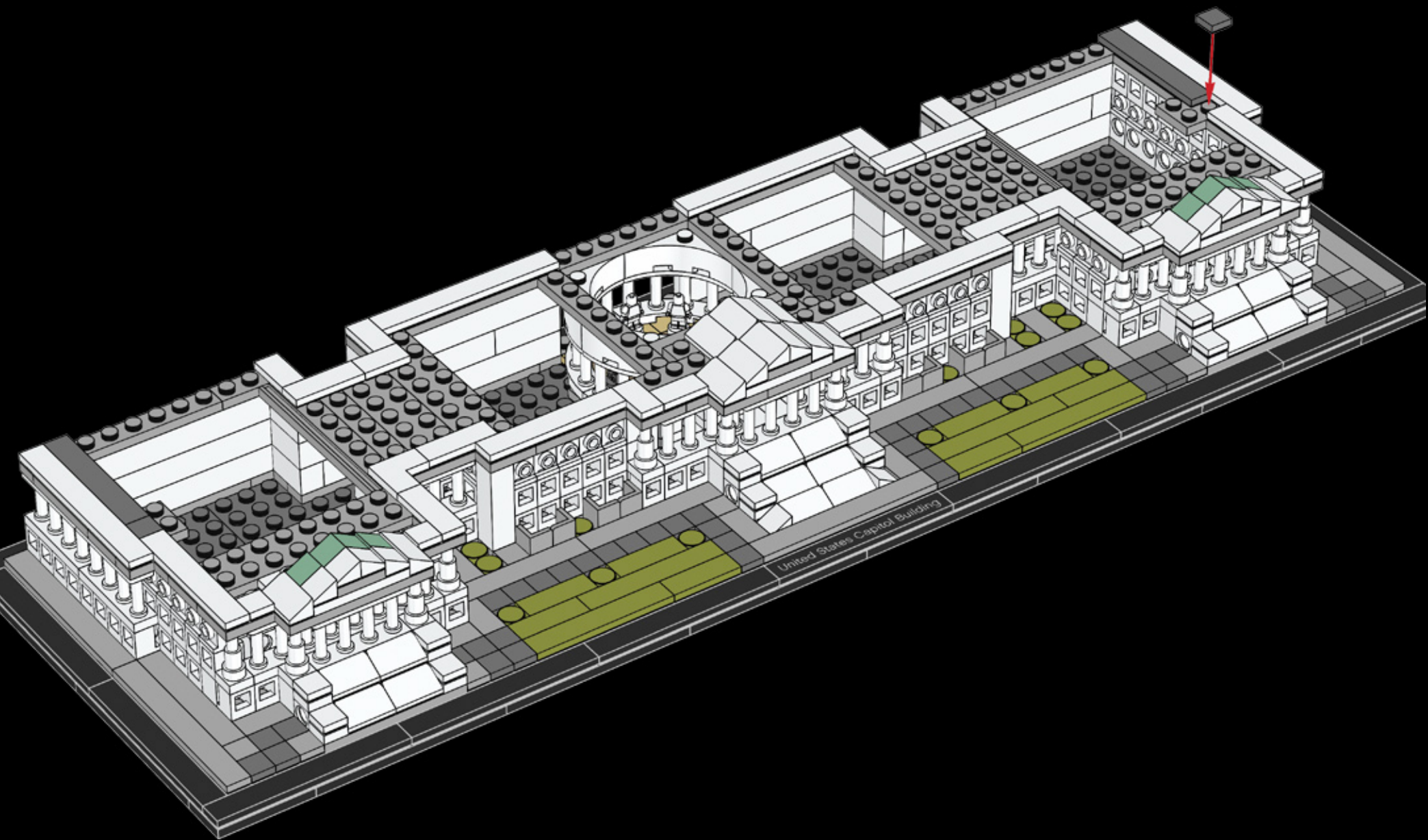
122



2x 2x

1:1

123



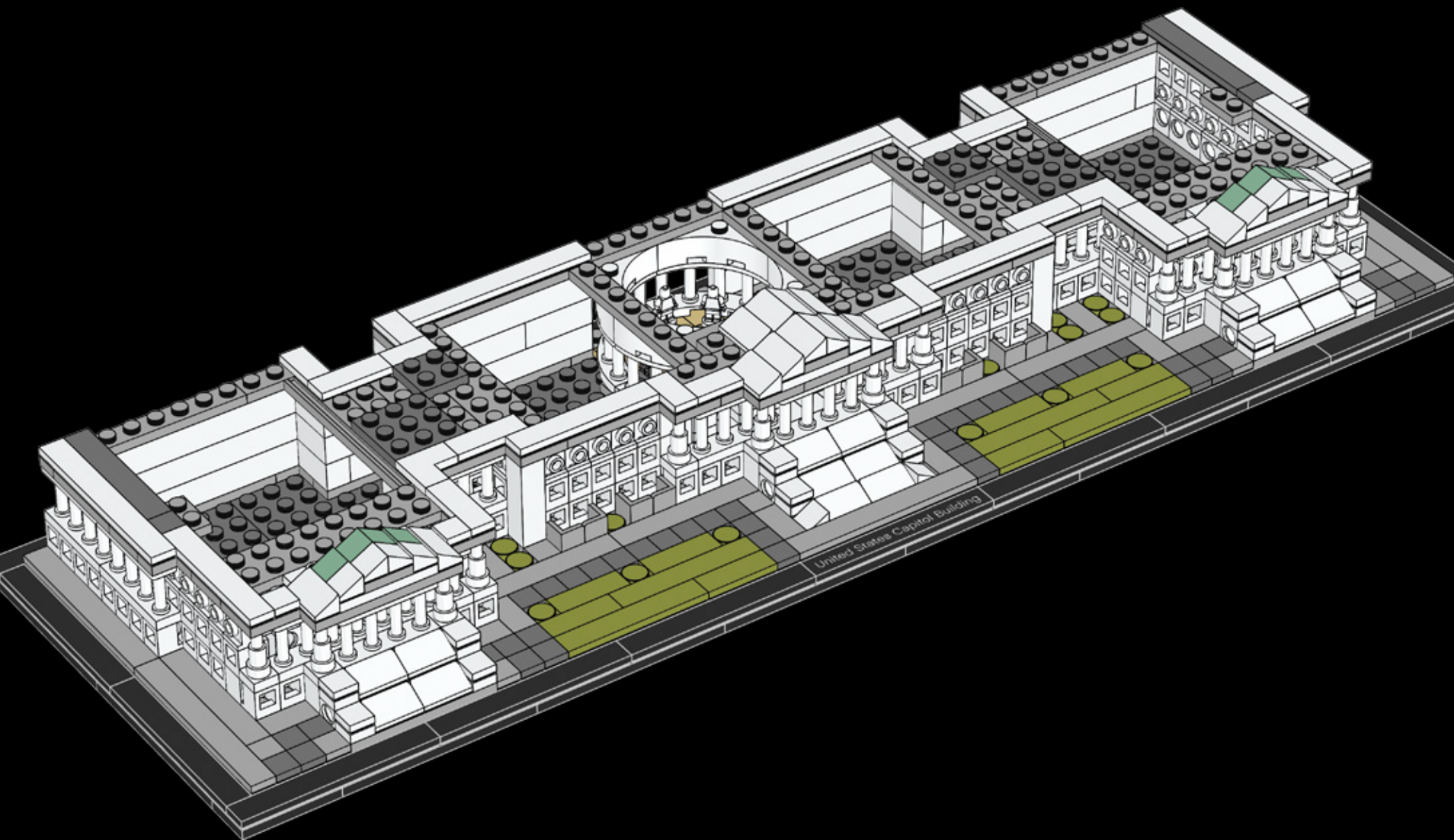


2x



2x

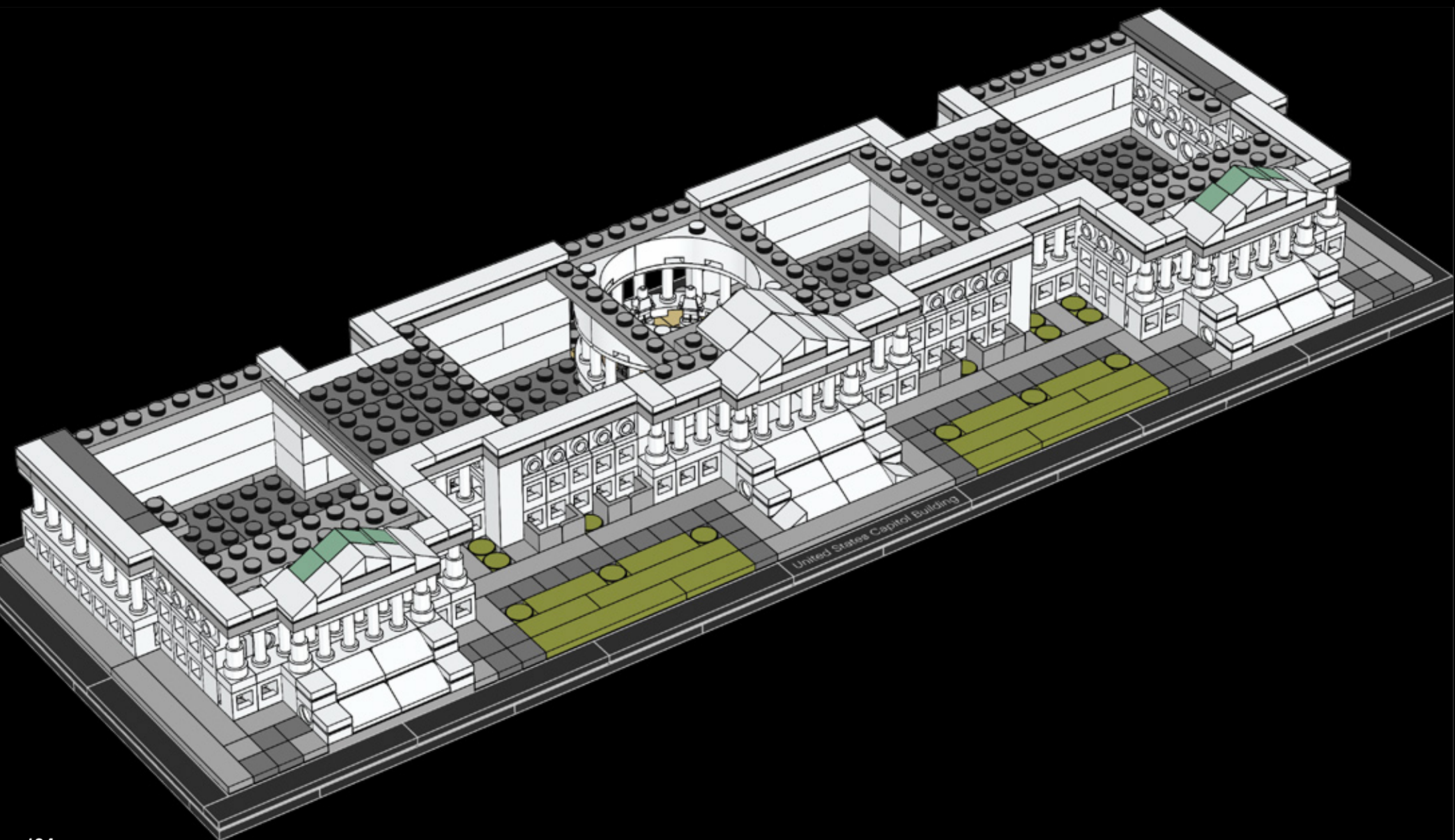
124

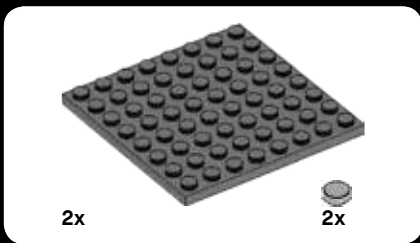




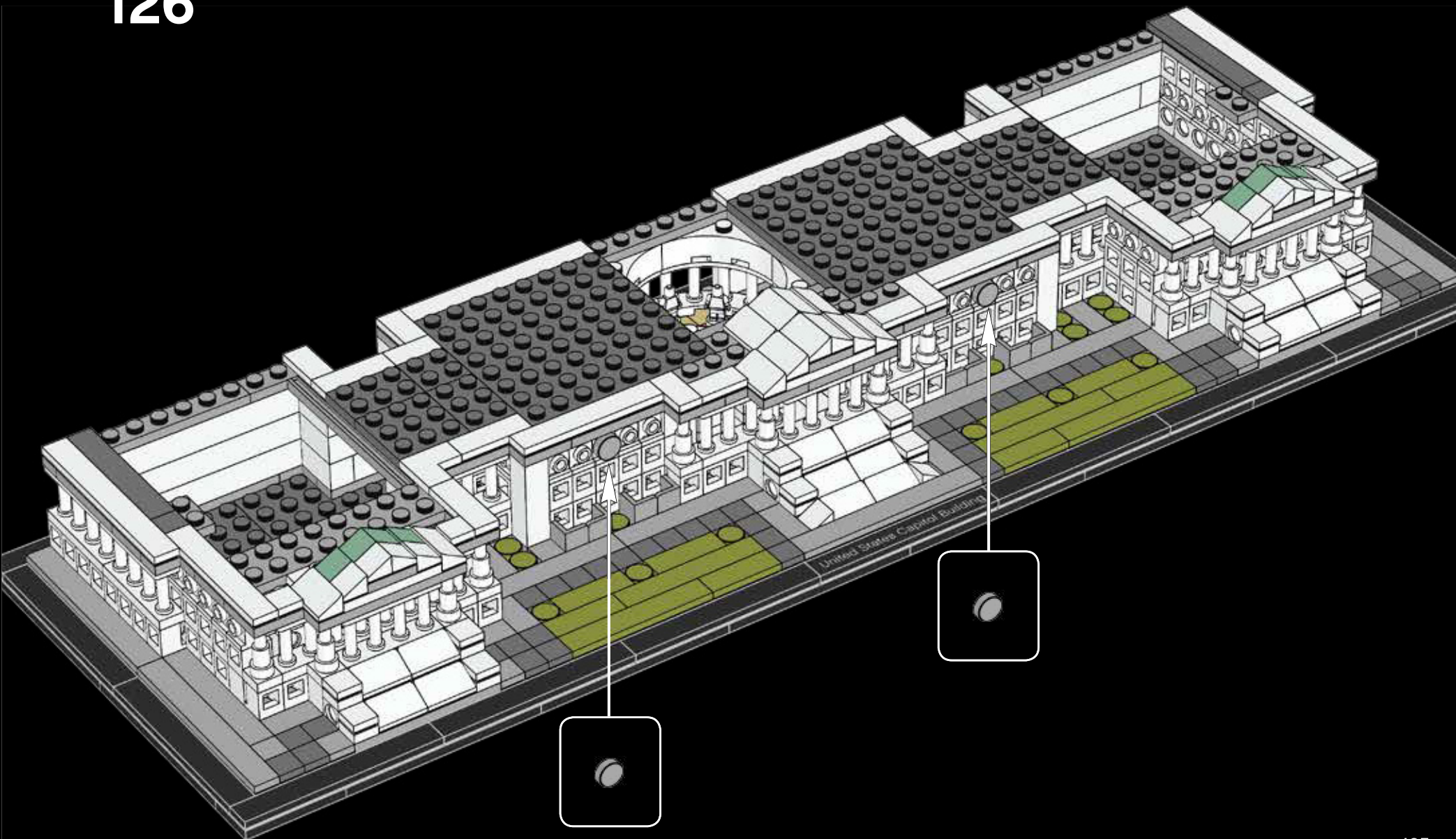
4x

125





126

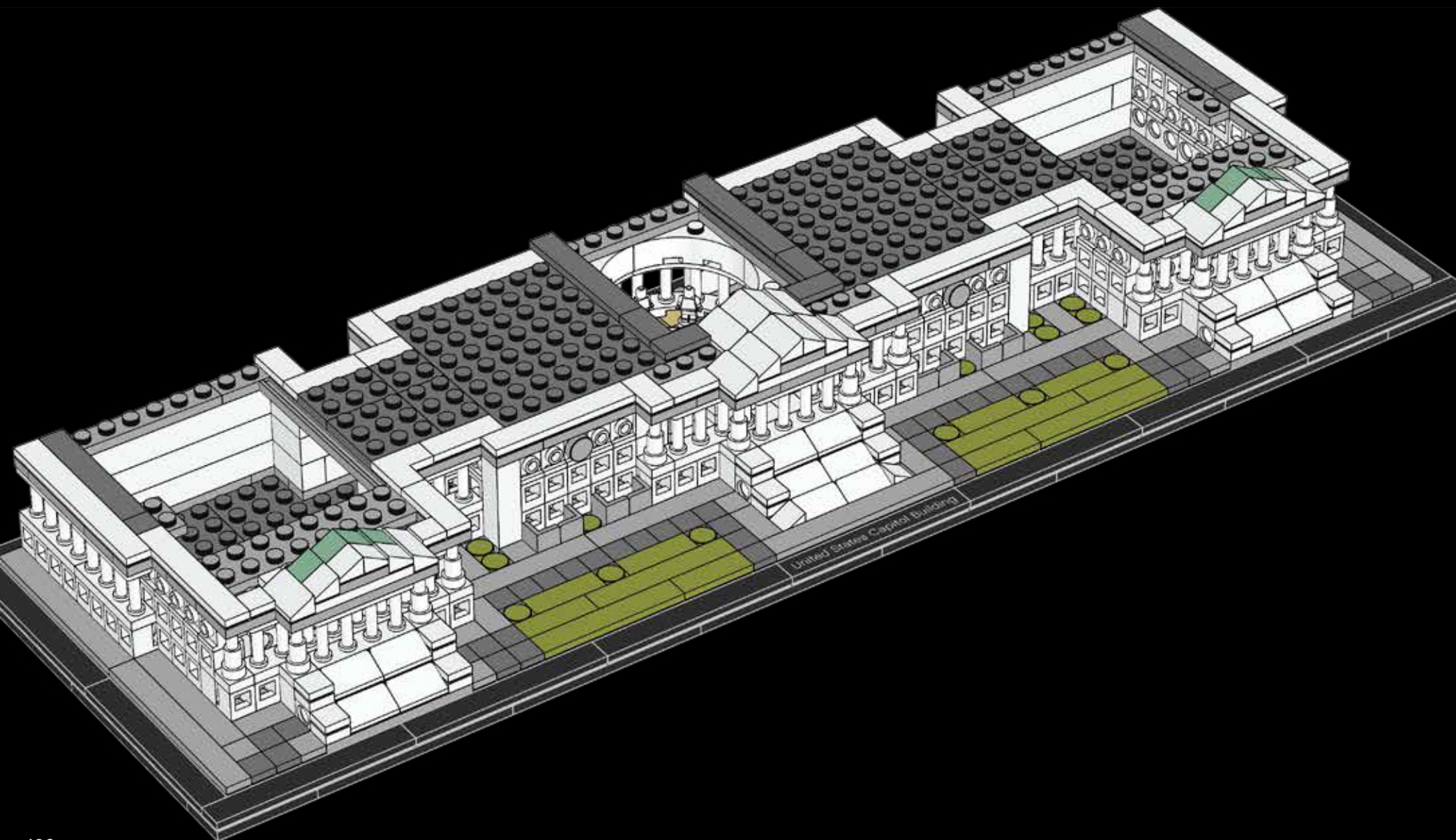


2x

4x

1:1

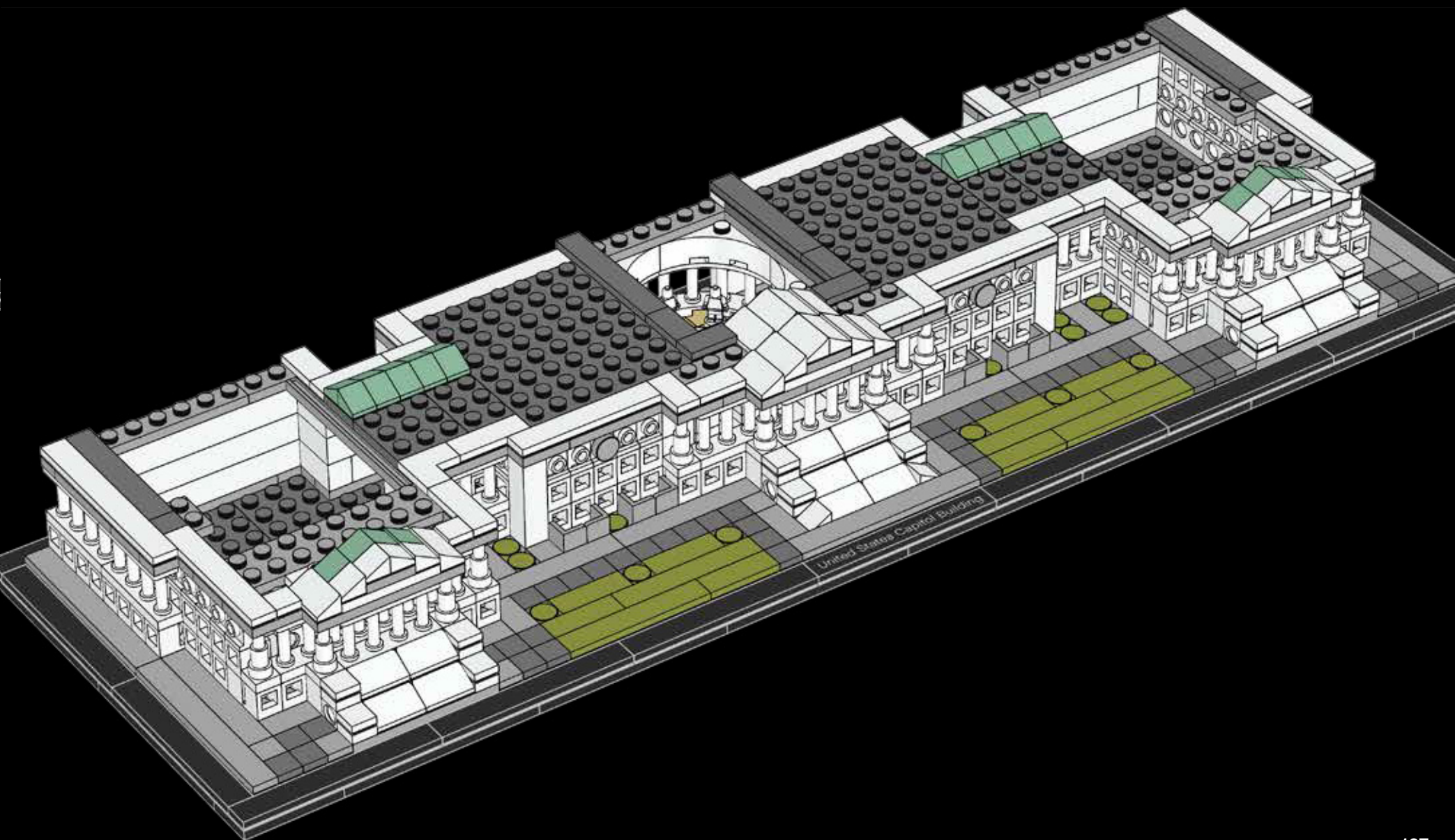
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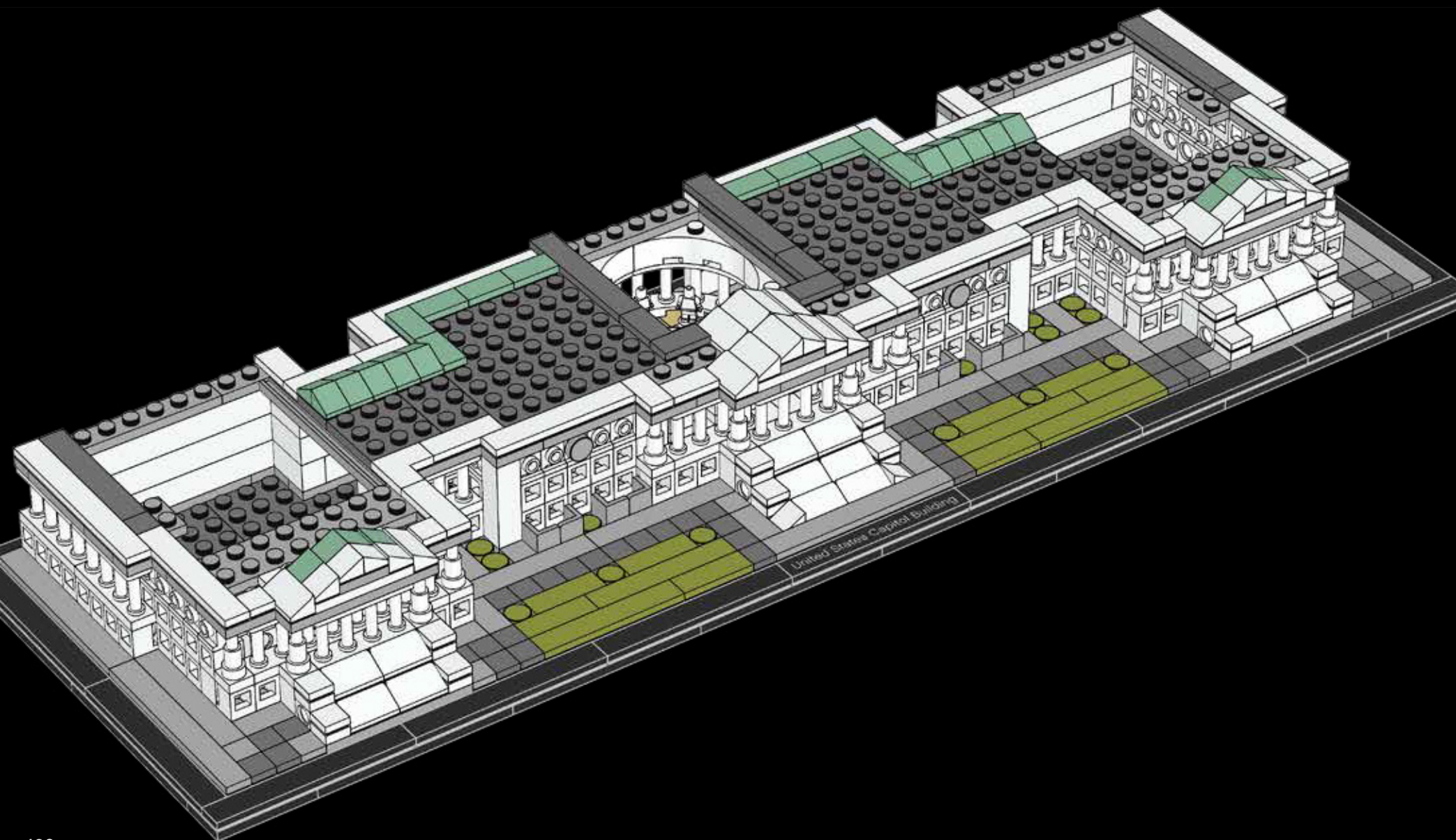
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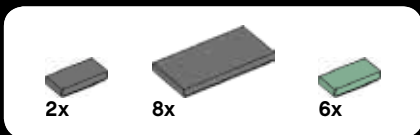
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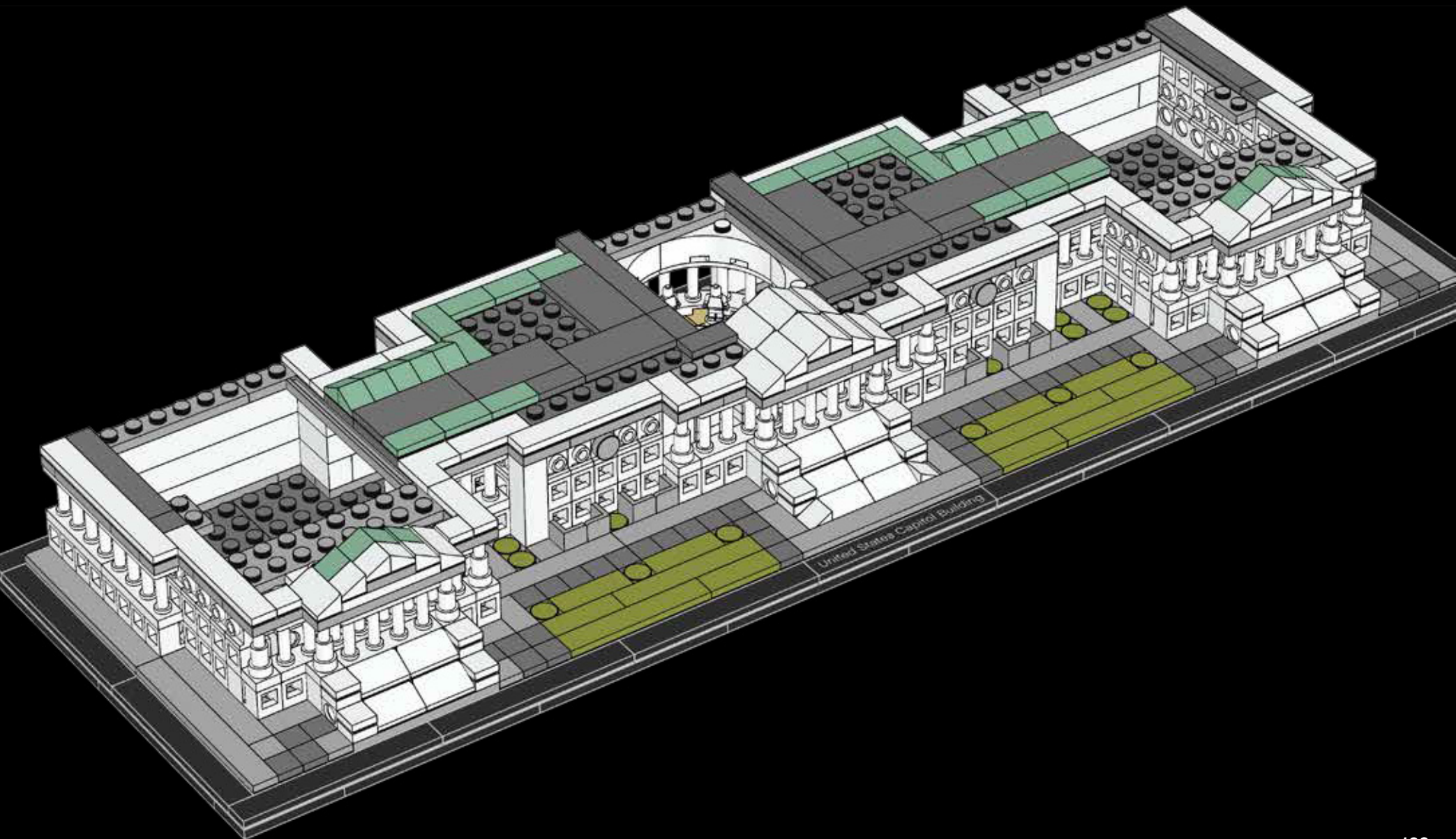
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129





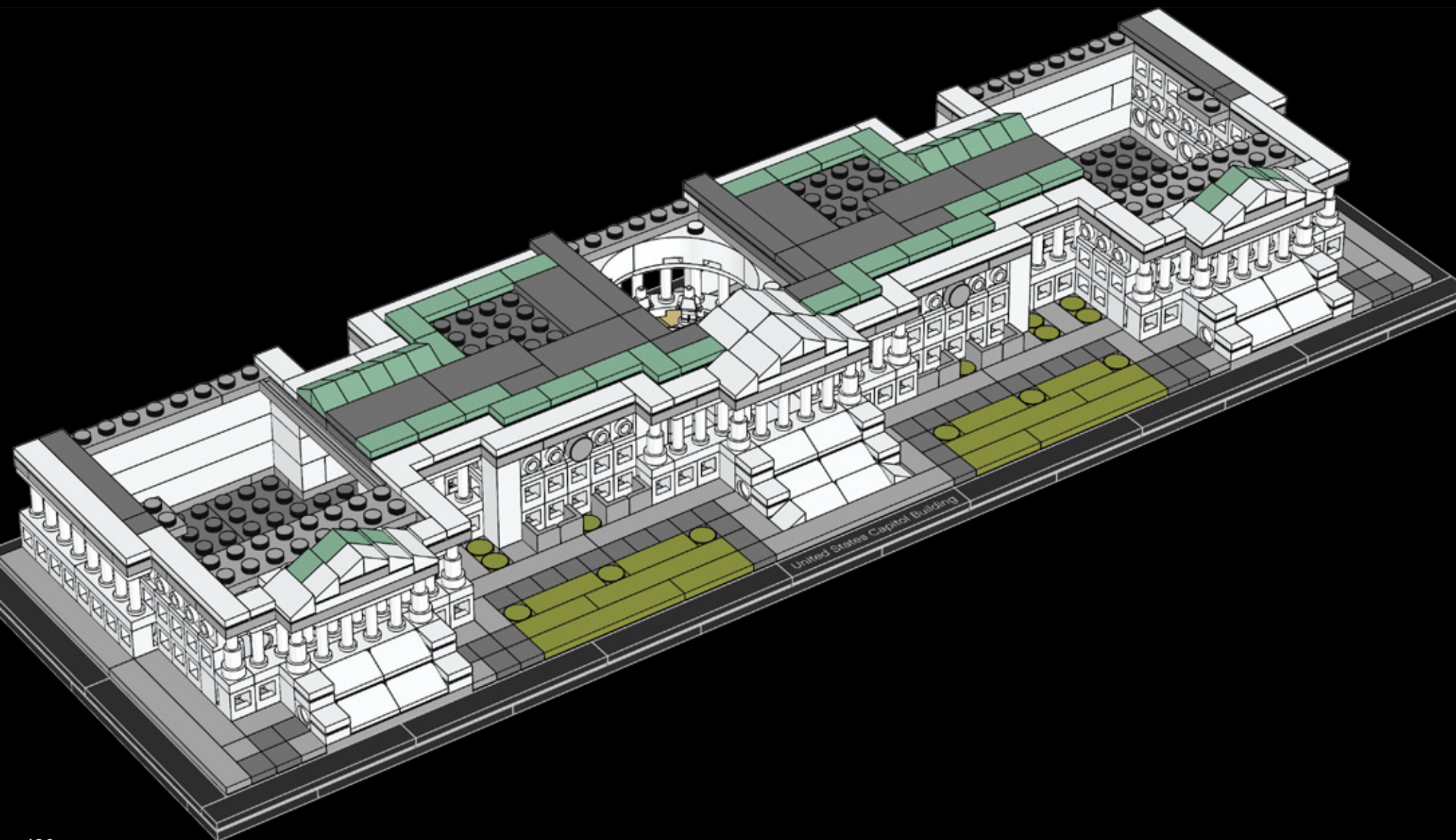
130





10x

131

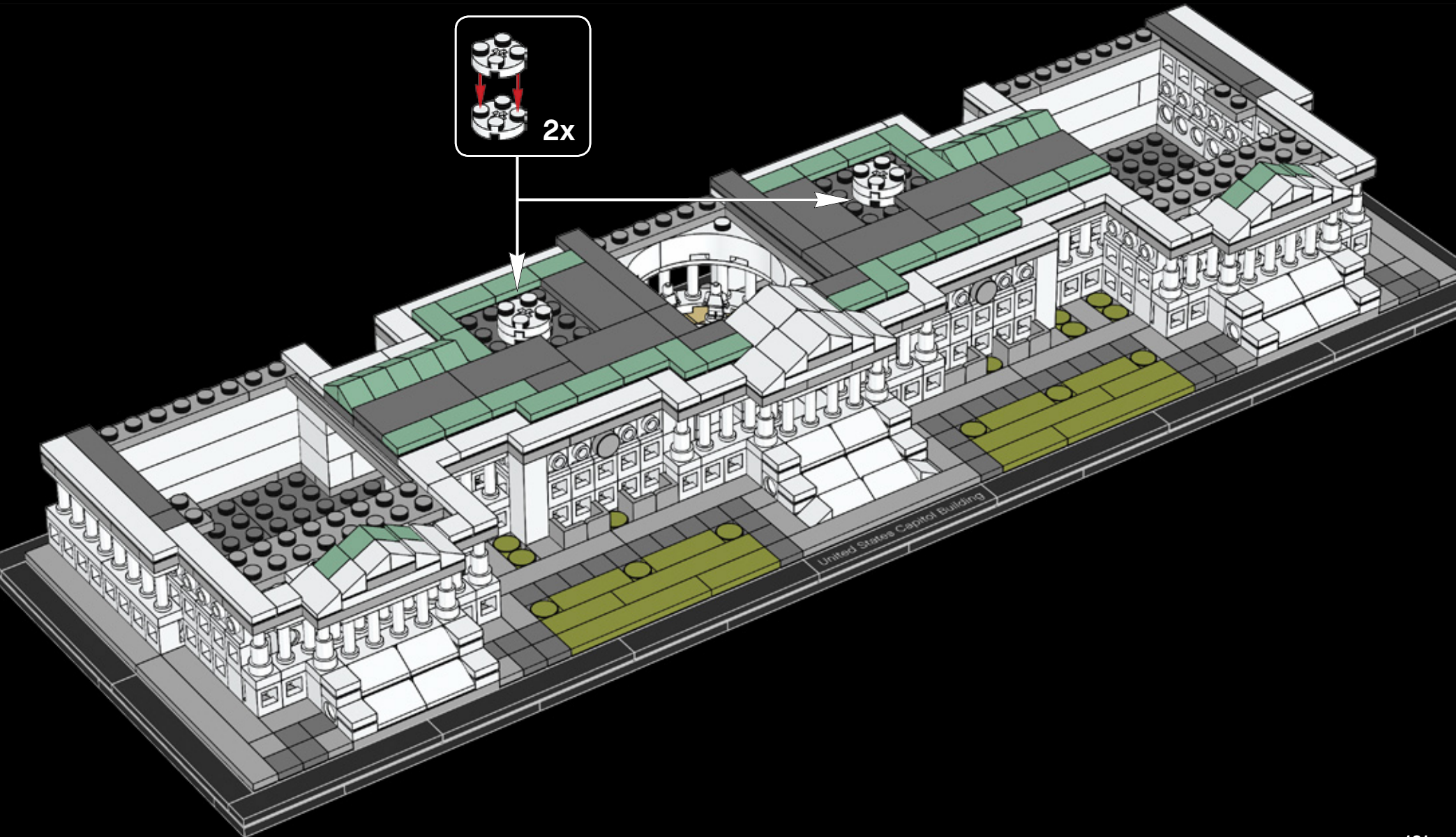
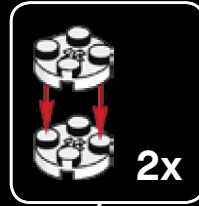




4x

132

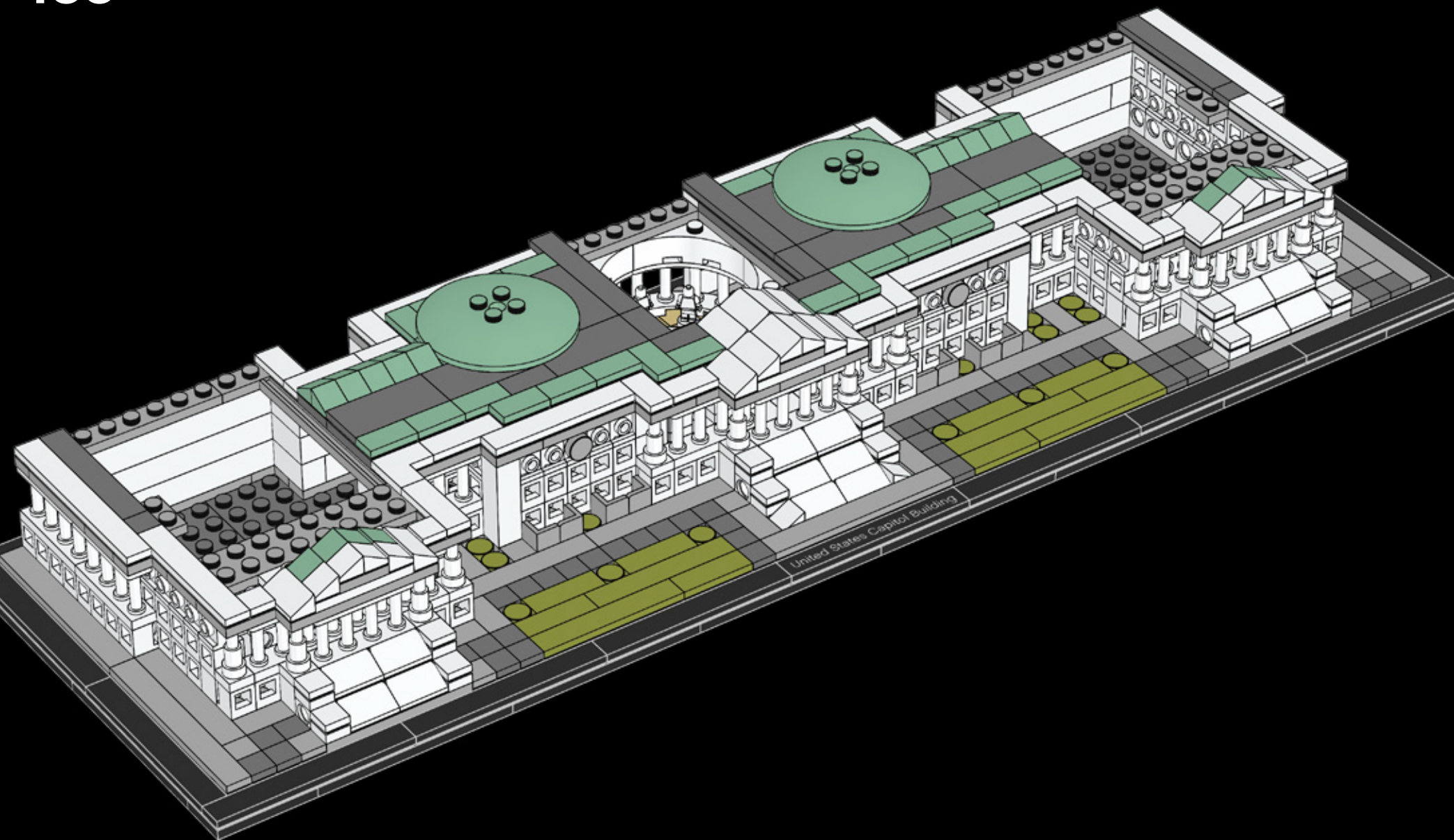
The building's dome is made of
8,909,200 lb. (4,041,100 kg) of
cast iron.





2x

133



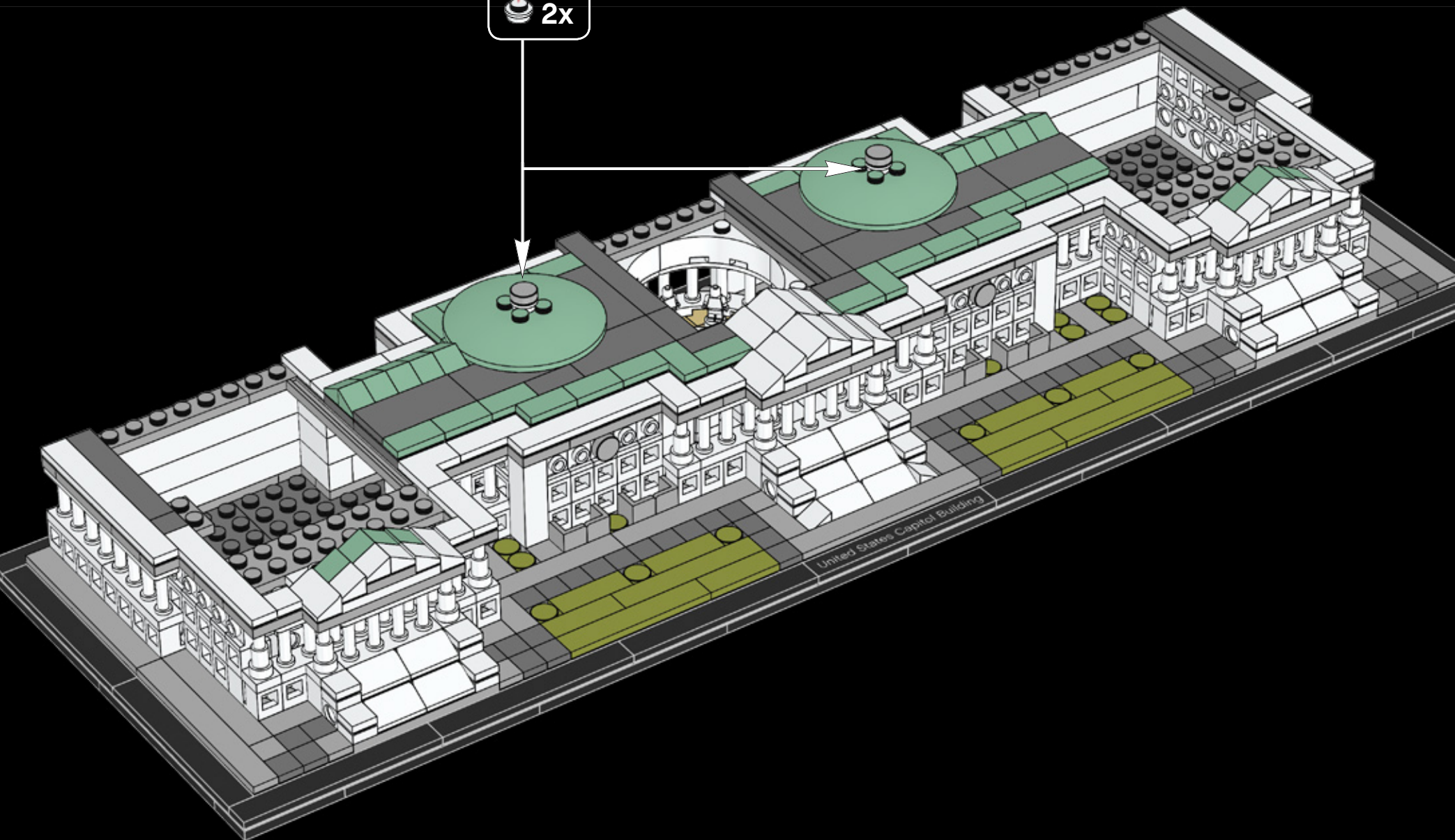
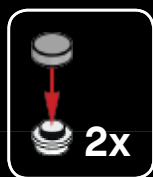


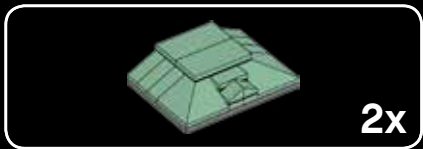
2x



2x

134

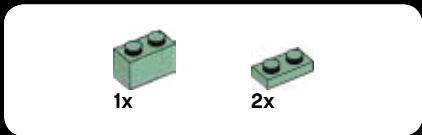
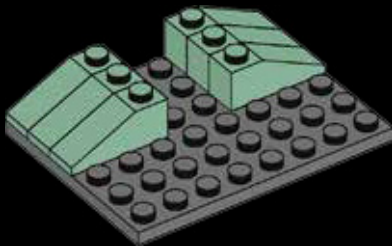




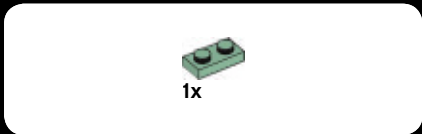
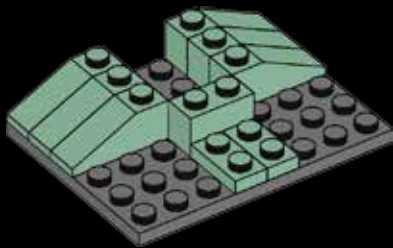
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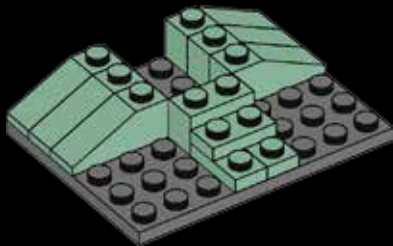
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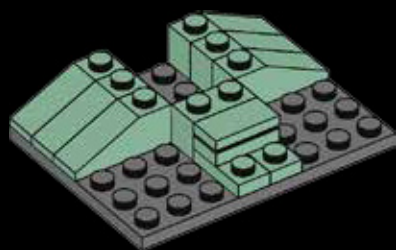
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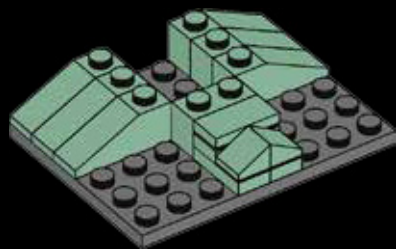
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139



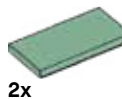
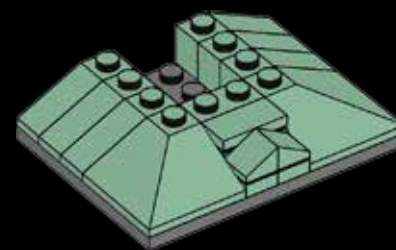
2x

140



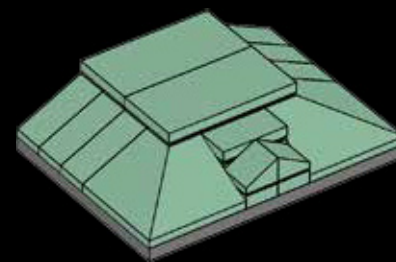
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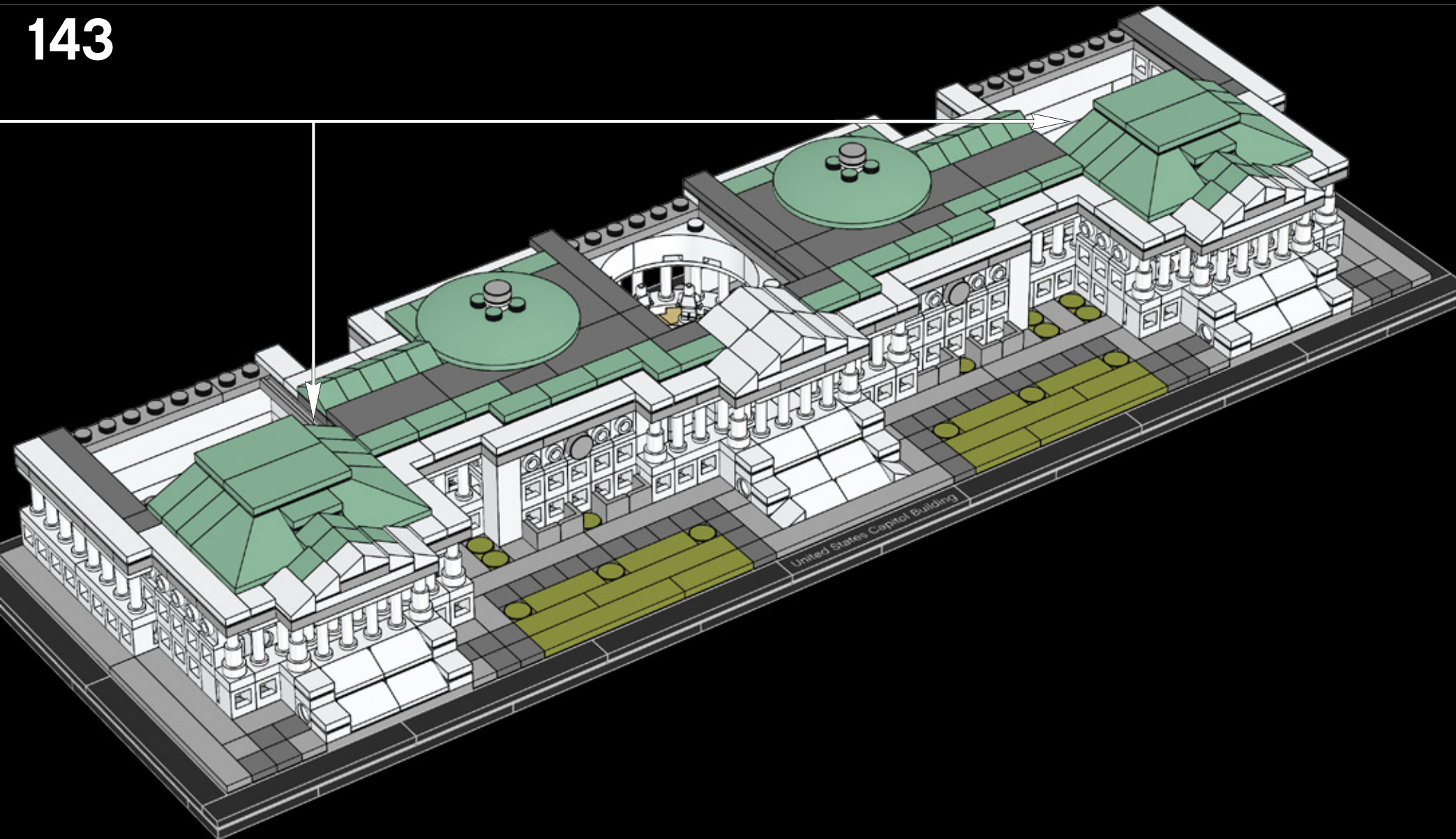
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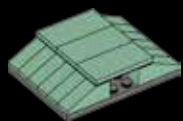
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2x

143





2x



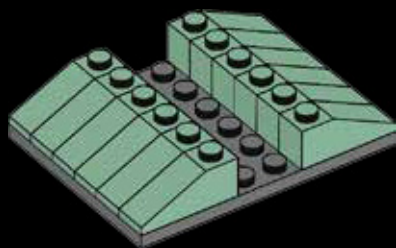
1x

144



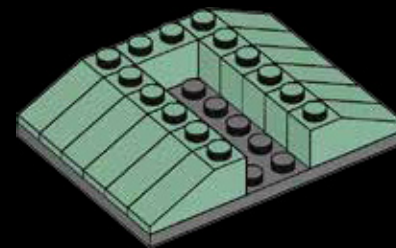
12x

145



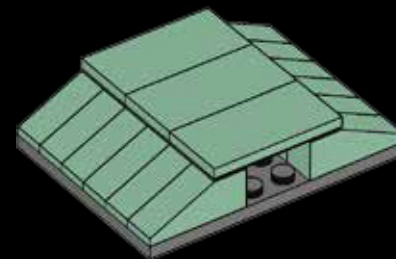
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146



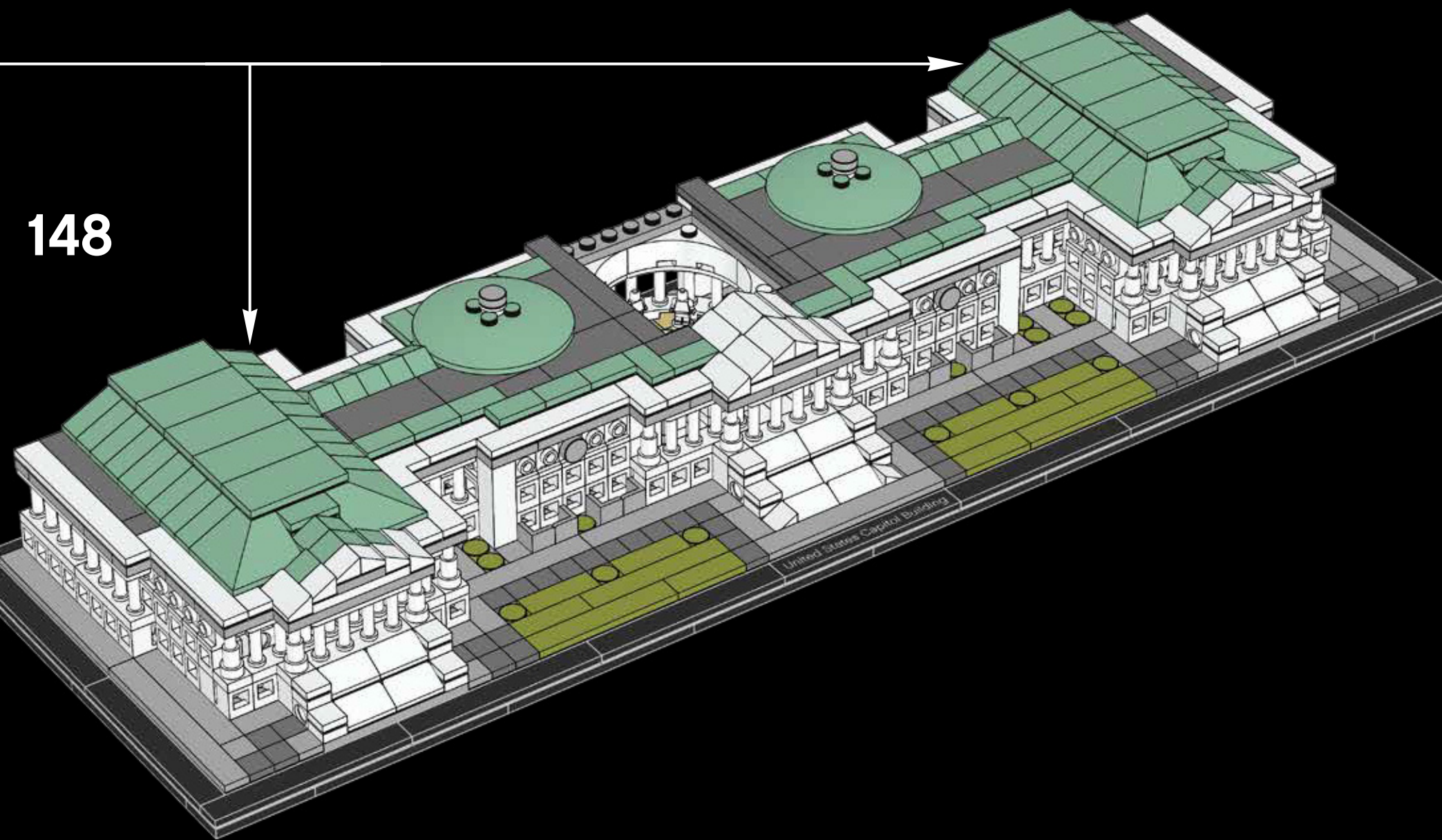
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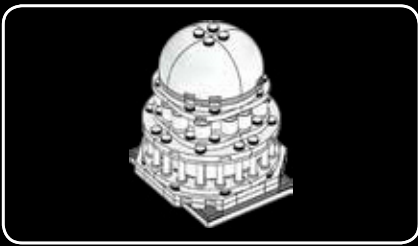
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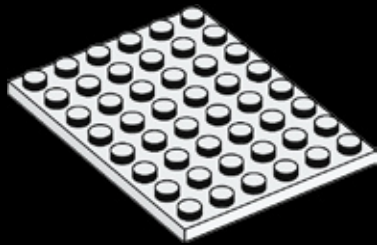
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148

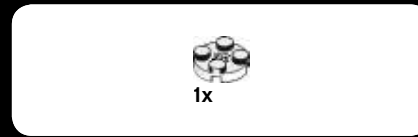
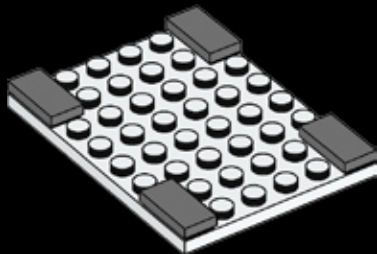




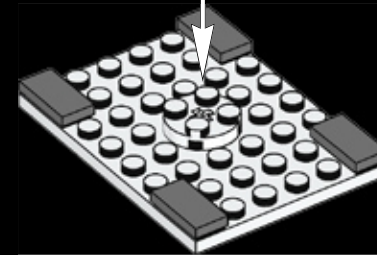
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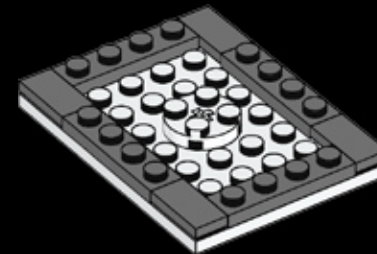
150



151



152



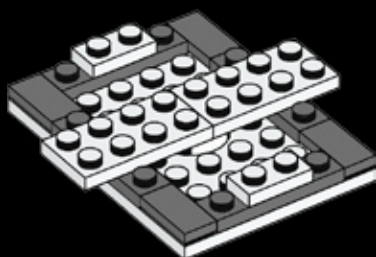


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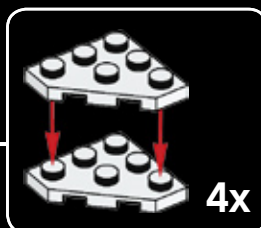
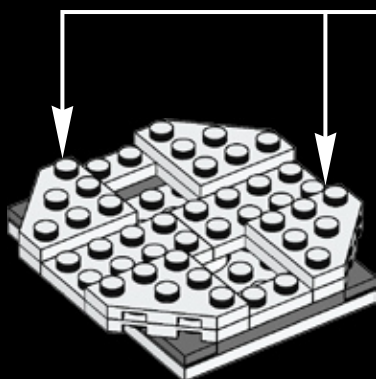
2x

153



8x

154

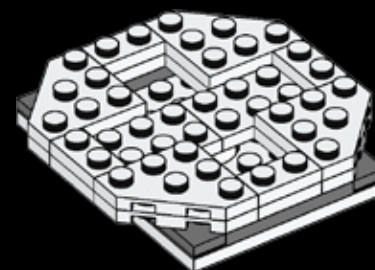


4x



4x

155

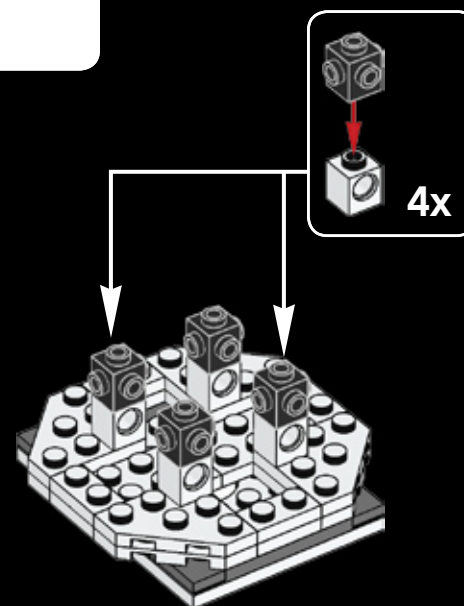


1x



1x

156



4x



4x



8x

157

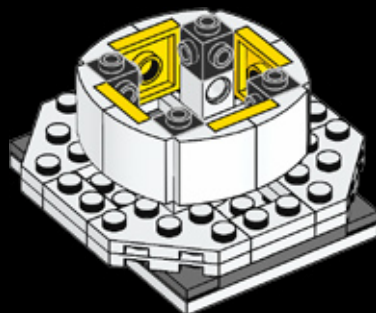
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2

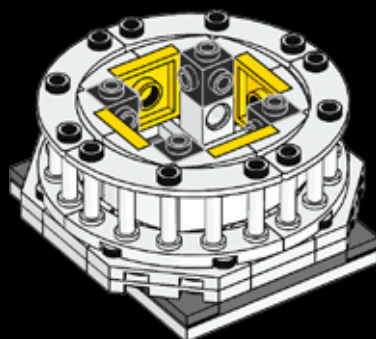


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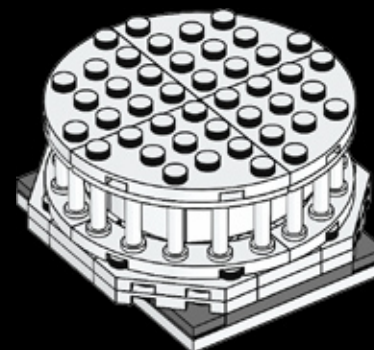
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158



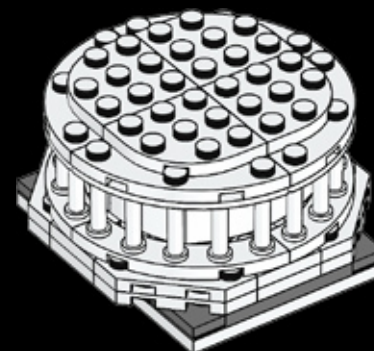
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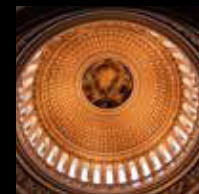


4x

160



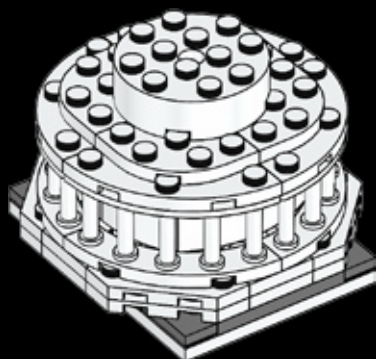
The current "wedding-cake style" cast-iron dome was added in 1855 and is three times the height of the original one.





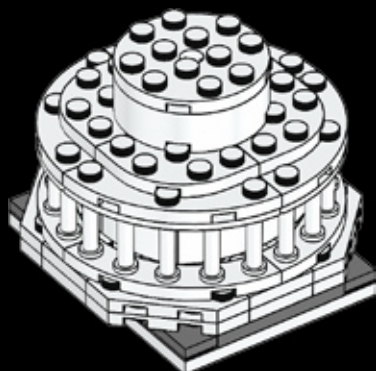
1x

161



1x

162



4x



12x



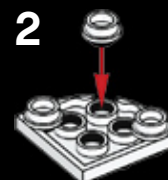
12x

163

1



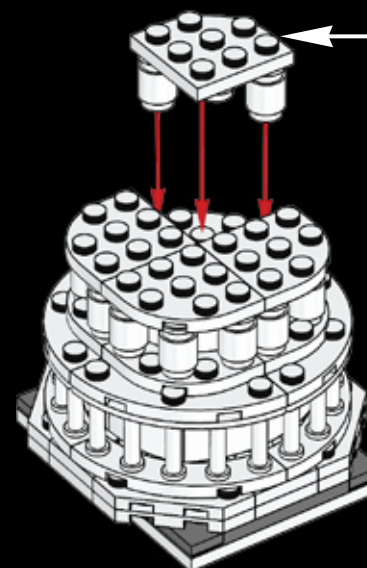
2



3



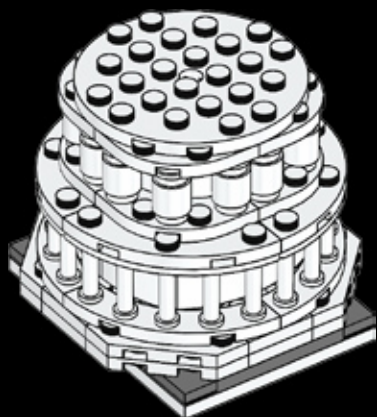
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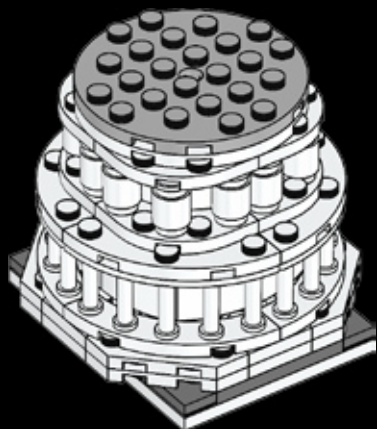
1x

164



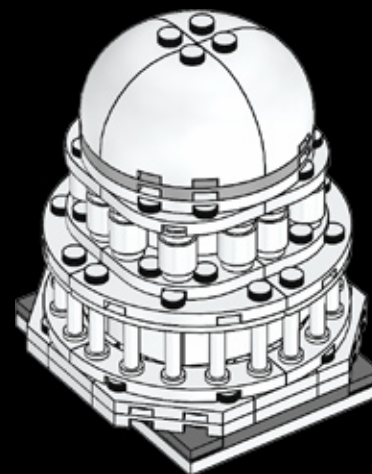
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165

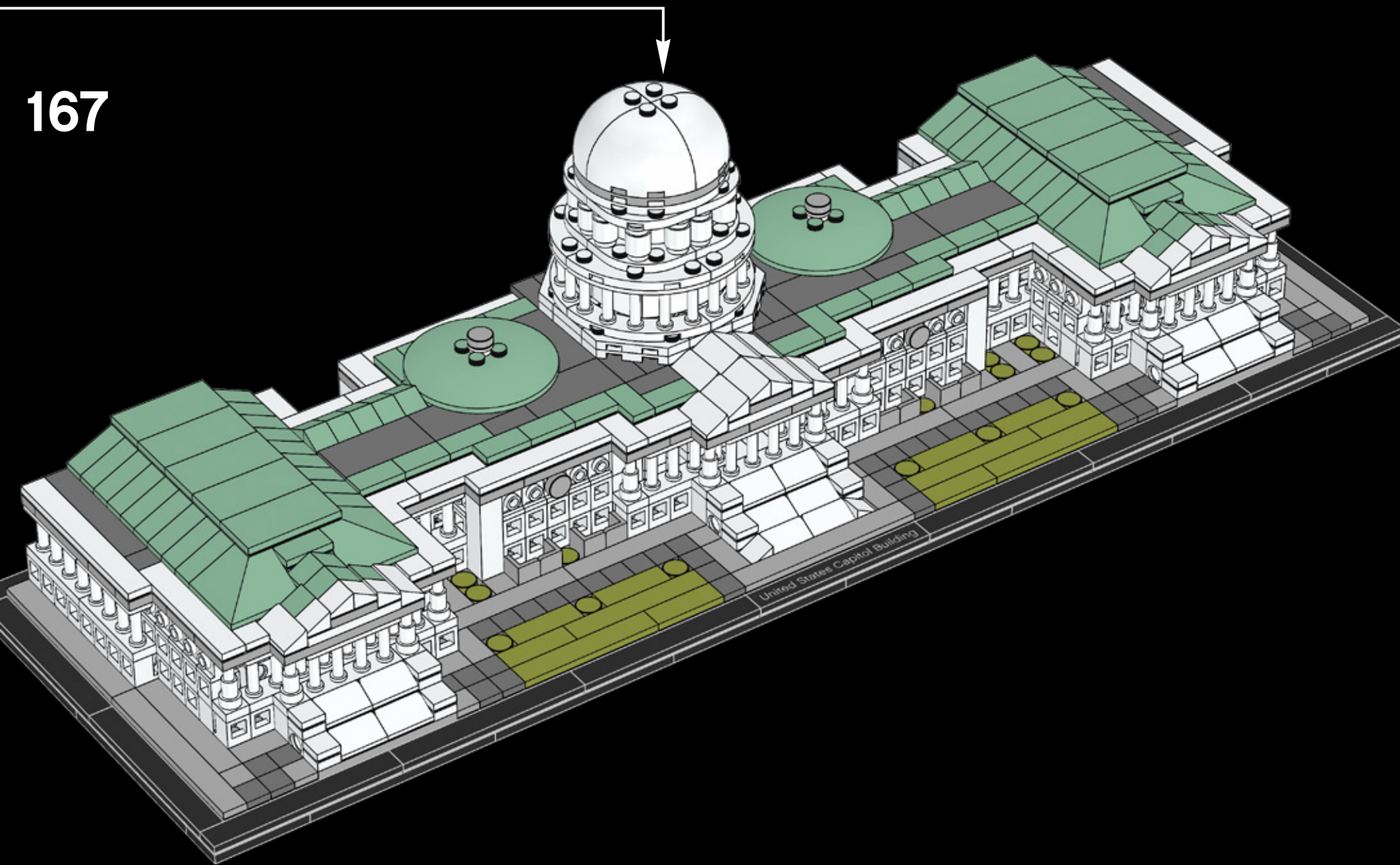


4x

166



167



The statue at the top of the dome is entitled the Statue of Freedom.



168

4x

1x

1x

2x

1x

1



2



3

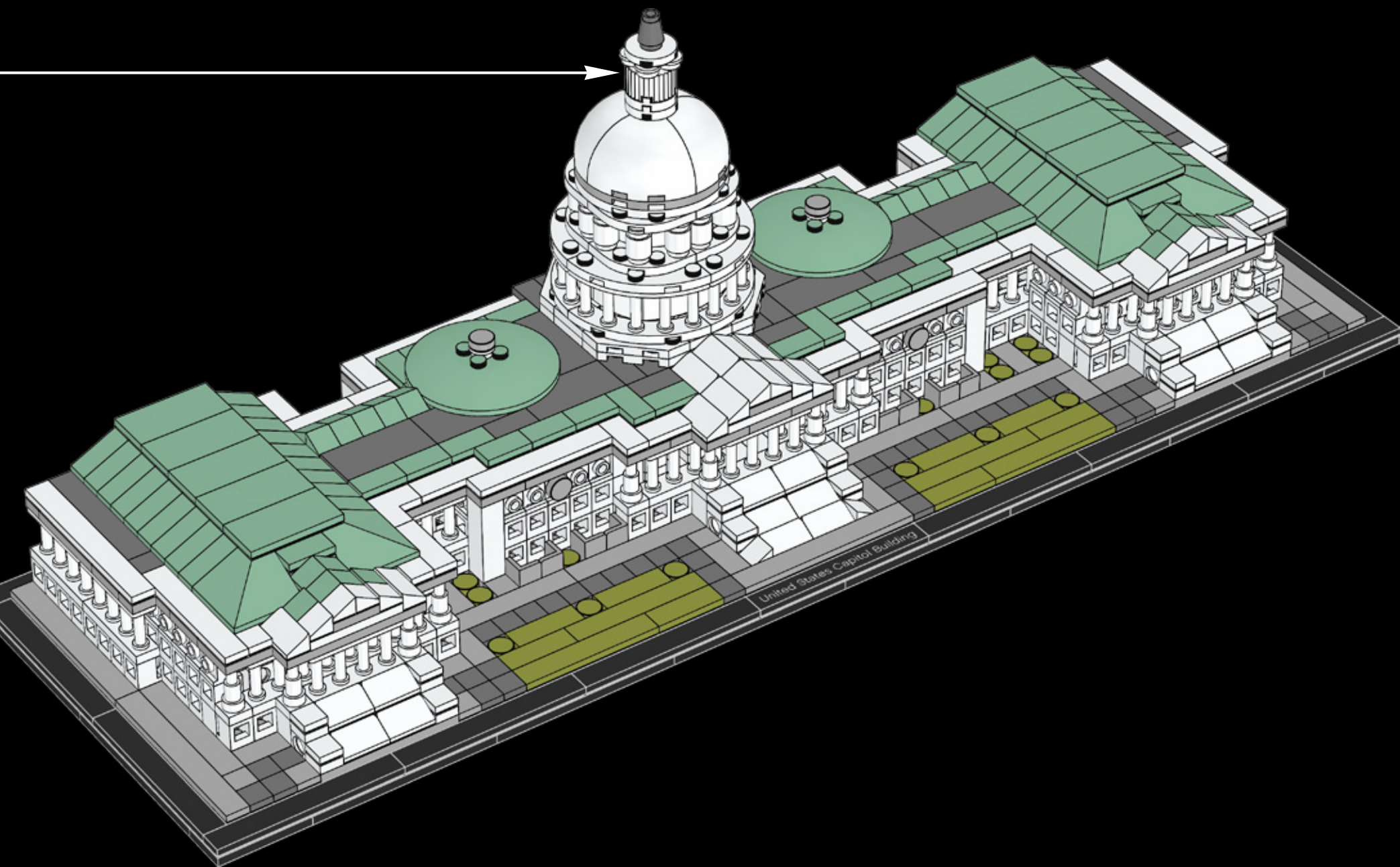


4



5

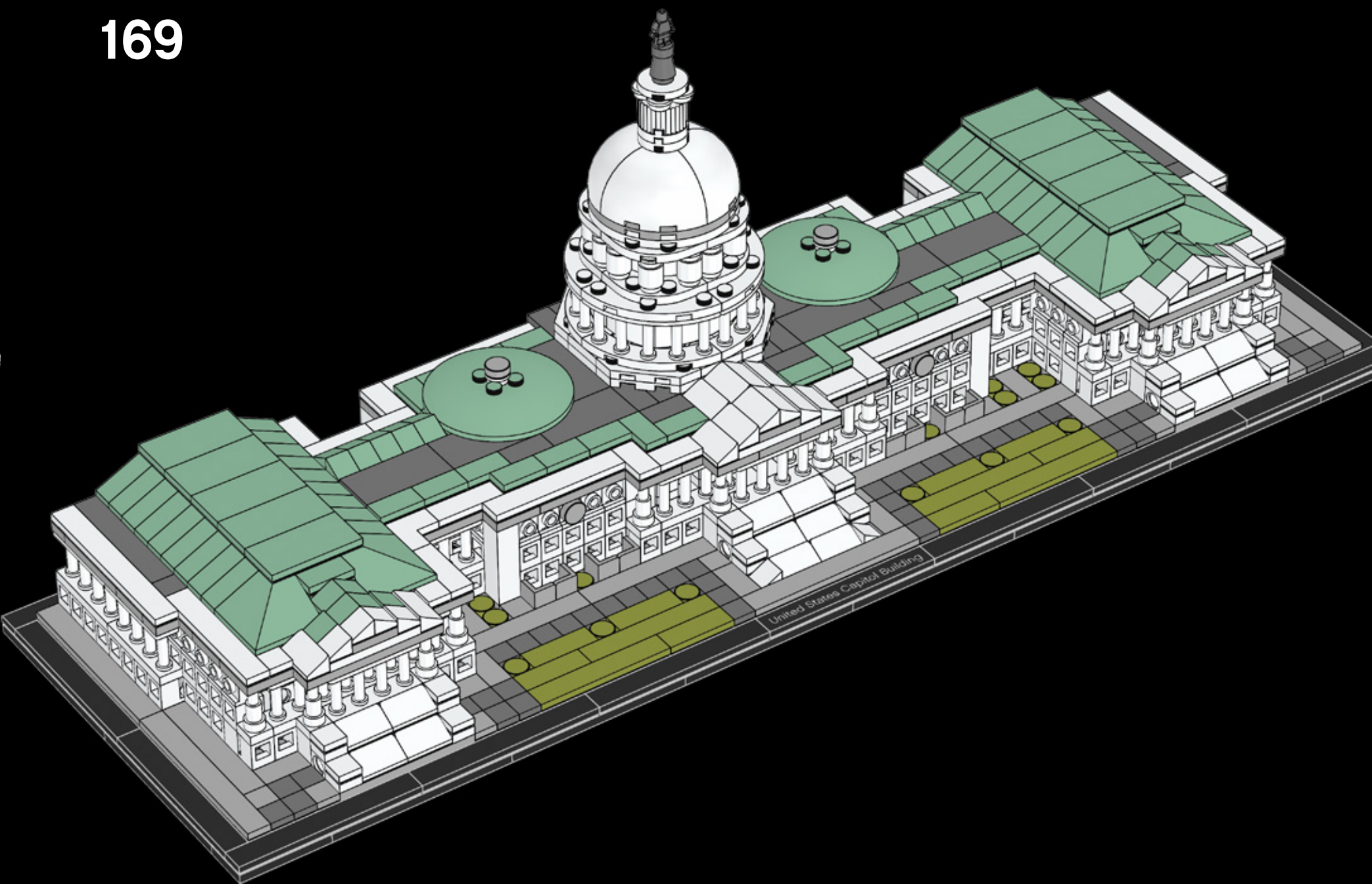






1x

169



[One country, one Constitution, one destiny]

—Daniel Webster



LEGO® Architecture—then and now

There has always been a natural connection between the LEGO® brick and the world of architecture. Fans who build with LEGO elements instinctively develop an interest in the form and function of the structures they create. At the same time, many architects have discovered that LEGO bricks are the perfect way of physically expressing their creative ideas.

This connection was confirmed in the early 1960s with the launch of the LEGO 'Scale Model' line. It matched the spirit of the age where modern architects were redefining how houses look and people were taking an active interest in the design of their new homes. These sets were designed to be different from the normal, brightly colored LEGO boxes; they also included a book on architecture as a source of inspiration.

Decades later, architect and LEGO fan Adam Reed Tucker, revived the idea of expressing architecture using LEGO bricks and in partnership with the LEGO Group, launched the LEGO Architecture line that we know today.

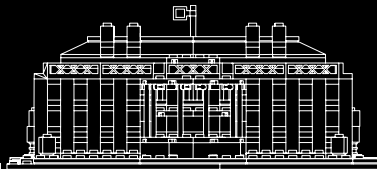
His first models, and the original sets in the current LEGO Architecture series, were interpretations of famous skyscrapers from his hometown of Chicago. Since then LEGO Architecture has developed and evolved, first with well-known buildings from other cities in the United States, and now with iconic structures from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The introduction of our LEGO Architecture Studio set echoes the ambitions of the earlier LEGO 'Scale Model' line and widens the potential of the LEGO Architecture series. Now you can enjoy building and learning about specific landmark buildings, or create exciting architectural models from your own fantasy. An inspiring 270-page book, featuring a number of renowned architects from around the world, guides you through the principles of architecture and encourages you in your own creative building.

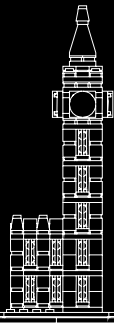


21050
Studio

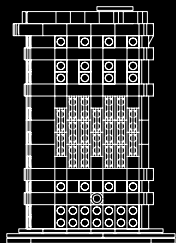
Celebrate the world of architecture and collect all the models



21006
The White House



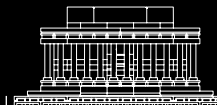
21013
Big Ben



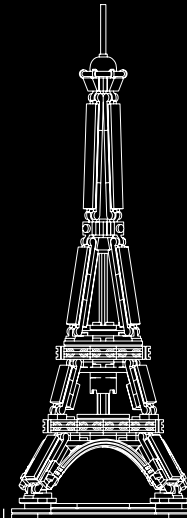
21023
Flatiron Building



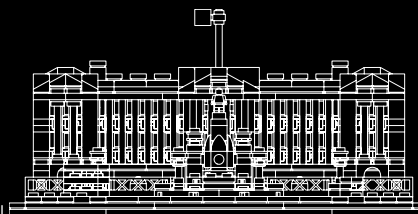
21024
Louvre



21022
Lincoln Memorial



21019
The Eiffel Tower



21029
Buckingham Palace



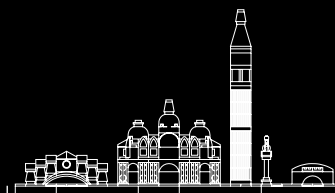
21020
Trevi Fountain



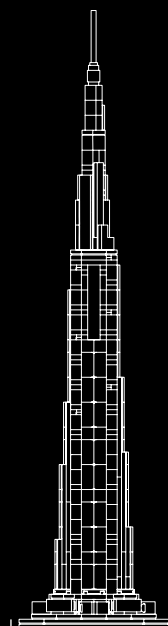
21028
New York City



21027
Berlin



21026
Venice



21031
Burj Khalifa

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306201

18x
614101

178x
407001

10x
4504369

2x
4558952

28x
654101

19x
307001

26x
302401

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403201

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