

Z Stuff

1:220

op Z

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Visual Value



# Visual Value <sup>op</sup>Z

I want to be a model building artist who pushes the horizon of what viewers expect and exceed my own performance. But what detail is useful?

Reality does not exist. We construct it from what we observe. We cannot notice everything which is clear from eyewitness accounts. Of course everybody tells the truth, but often completely different.

This knowledge can be used well in model building. If a viewer is willing to study a scale model extensively, detailing is useful. But if it is only intended as a decoration, hyper-detailing makes little sense.

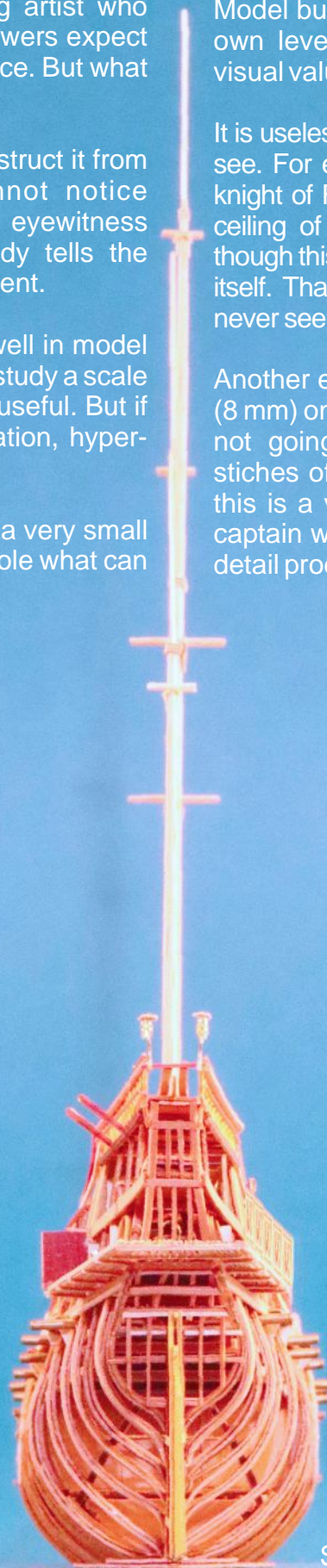
Now, if it concerns a model on a very small scale Z (1:220), it also plays a role what can be seen by 95% of humanity.

Model builders will in time get used to their own level of detail. These factors define visual value.

It is useless to work out things that no one will see. For example, it is interesting to detail a knight of Falckenhoff Castle, but not the tiled ceiling of its base-ment, even though this is part of the building itself. That basement is simply never seen.



Another example is the outfit of the captain (8 mm) on the ship St.Alexandra. While I am not going to paint all the many sewing stiches of sails in detail-dots, even though this is a visible part of the ship itself. Our captain will simply be more interesting. His detail produces a higher visual value.



Ship St.Alexandra

## Detail in proportion



Hotel Der Blaue Rytter (1972)

A further example is Hotel Der Blaue Rytter. I built that when I was fourteen (1972), with little detail. I couldn't cut out windows yet and my materials were scarce.

Would I detail the landscape in the diorama more, the Hotel itself would appear coarse. So I deliberately don't do that now. What happens on the meadow, must be in balance with the Hotel.

However, here I can add its fictional history. I wrote a complete story of two artists and a saga about Der Blaue Rytter in the Middle Ages. Those stories, *Historiae Thalgovensii*, in turn complete the history of the Castle & Cathedral. That also adds visual value...



## Realistic use of materials

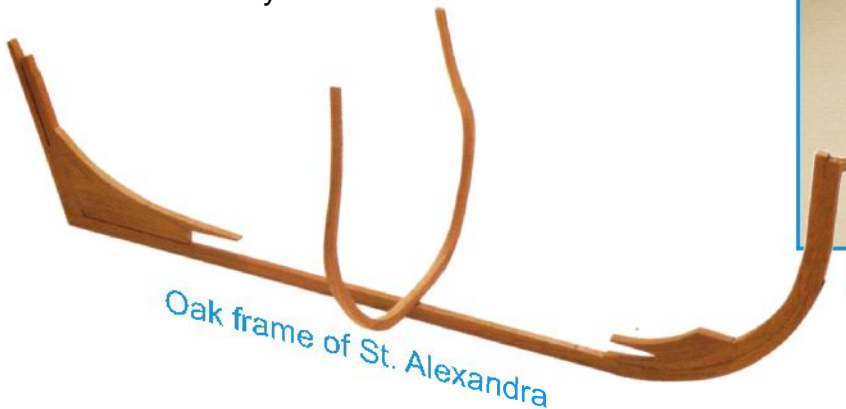
Sometimes the use of realistic materials makes sense. I take immense pleasure in making the rather complex half-timber of a building in real wood.



Hunting Castle Falckenhoff

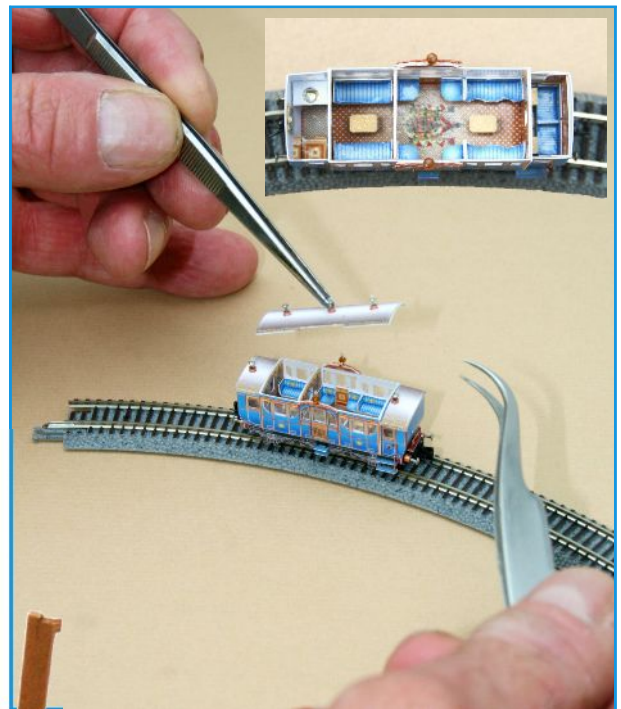
I also find it thrilling to develop all the oak frames of the 17th century ship. They may be largely invisible, still I detail them as much as possible, according to the original. This way you are not making a dummy hull, but a truly hollow ship with holds and decks. It may not be noticeable to everyone, but the 'knowing' that it is genuine also adds to its visual value: real materials have been used!

There is also a number of gravestones on the bottom of the ship to stabilize it. Of course they are made of real stone.



Below you see the Royal Railway carriage of Friedrich William IV of Prussia from 1843. Later it became 1st class carriage No. 1 of the Magdeburger-Halberstädter Eisenbahn.

Then it could accommodate 16 passengers. It was converted by Plug & Zoller in Berlin and upholstered by Hoftapezierer Hiltl. The thing weighed over 10 tons, because the chassis was completely made of wood. Here it is made opZ in photo cardboard and has a really luxurious interior. Not that you ever see that when on track, but it was just irresistibly fun to make.



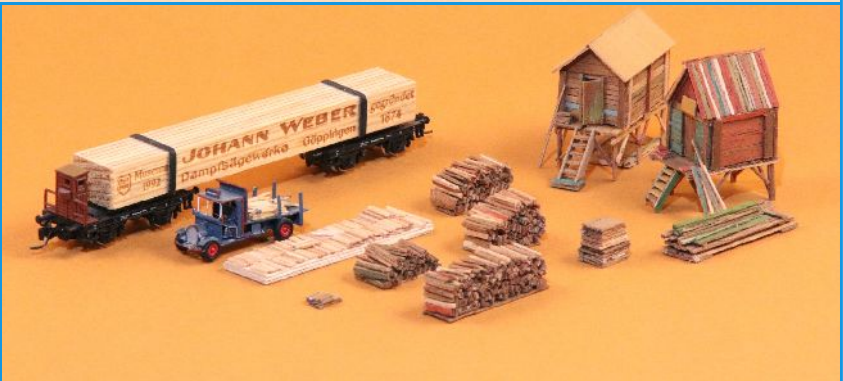
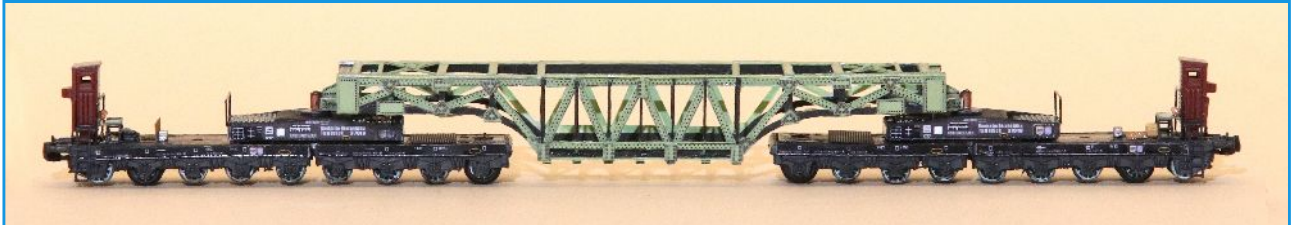
Railway carriage of Friedrich William IV

*Choose thy Timbers with greatest Care  
Off all That is unsound Be Ware  
For only What is Sound and Strong  
To Deutsch Bessel shall belong...*

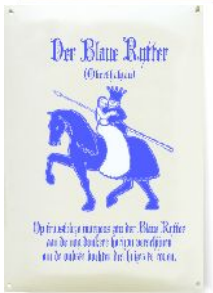
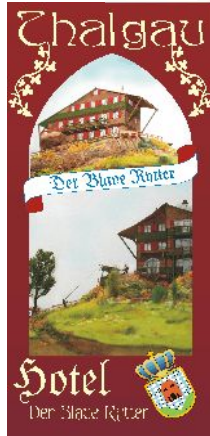
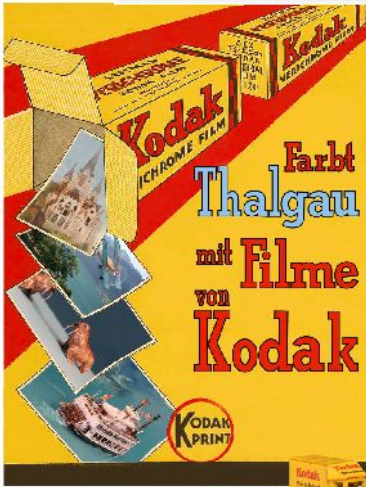
# Visual Value is a sum

Visual value is therefore a summation of correctly balanced and placed detail, focused attention, evoked atmosphere and the 'known extras' about the model.

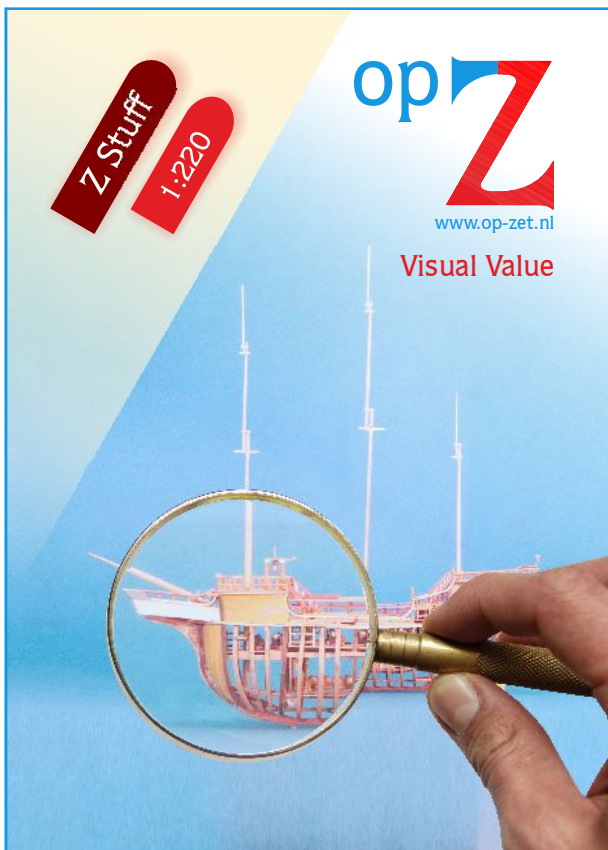
Finally it is obvious that historical context also plays a role. Layout and lighting and even personal presentation, life and on a website, contribute to the visual value...



museum wagon 2021



Fictional history ads visual value



## Colophon

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