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05/21/2010



Vale competition offers chance to win a piece of Christ the Redeemer statue

Would you like to win a piece of the most famous monument in Brazil, personalized with your name? Then don't miss the global "Christ the Redeemer Forever" competition, which Vale has launched in partnership with the Archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro. To take part, just answer the question on the competition website: "Why would you like to have a permanent reminder of the Christ the Redeemer monument?" The people who come up with the 80 best responses will receive a piece of soapstone identical to those being used to restore the statue, engraved with their name or that of someone special of their choosing. Take part by going to www.christtheredeemerforever.com.

The competition revives a tradition begun when the monument was built. The small triangular pieces of soapstone that form the statue's external covering were stuck one by one onto wide strips of cloth or paper before being fixed in place. This work was done by groups of female volunteers. In order to honor their loved ones, they wrote their names on the stones and strips of paper on which they were stuck.

You can see these and other interesting facts on the site, which includes a virtual tour of the monument, including a feature enabling you to see the statue in 3D. This is possible thanks to an Augmented Reality tool, which allows 3D objects to be superimposed onto a real environment using a webcam. Click on the link below to see the page:

Restoration of the statue

The site also features interactive videos in English and Portuguese, explaining the statue's current restoration work step by step. In one of these videos, you will discover that the Christ monument has a heart, positioned at chest height, to represent the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is the only part of the statue that was sculpted both externally and internally.

The interactive site also has collaborative features. In the Photo Gallery, users are invited to document the emotions they experienced when they visited the monument by posting their photos with the statue. "Email us your photo taken at the foot of the statue and join the 'Christ the Redeemer Forever' gallery," the site says.

Sponsorship by Vale

Vale is sponsoring the restoration, maintenance and conservation of the statue and surrounding platform over the next five years. The restoration, which began in January, is the most thorough ever conducted since the statue was inaugurated in 1931.

In order to identify the work required to fully restore the statue, a detailed study was carried out. A number of surface problems were detected: parts of the statue's soapstone mosaic covering were found to be missing and some small cracks were found, as well as moisture stains and irregularities in the joints between the mosaic pieces. For safety reasons, the monument has had to be covered with a transparent screen, although visits have not been interrupted. The restoration work is due to be completed in June.

More information



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