

Major Theme Parks Are Going Indoors ***Anchored by Shopping Malls, Hotels, Waterparks & Casinos;*** ***KidZania is fastest-growing in edutainment***

By Jeff Coy, ISHC

June 1, 2013 --- When you think about Six Flags, Sea World or Cedar Fair, it is typically an outdoor experience during summer when kids are out of school. But now, major theme parks and amusement parks are going indoors --- where they can attract visitors 365 days a year and not worry about poor weather wiping out profits.

Indoor theme parks are not new, but there is a surge of new development.

The first large-scale indoor amusement park, Galaxyland, built in 1985, was a giant success with 400,000 sf of amusements and thrill rides inside West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada --- combined with a 355-room hotel and a 217,000 sf indoor waterpark.



It seems Galaxyland continues to have a lot going for it --- satisfying numerous requirements for success.

Galaxyland, ranked 6th largest in the world, was soon followed by Lotte World's Adventure Indoor Theme Park with 871,000 sf in Seoul, Korea. Then came Adventuredome at the Circus Circus hotel in Las Vegas and Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of American in Bloomington MN. But now we see the new indoor giants. First World Hotel at Genting

Highlands Casino Resort near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has a 500,000 sf indoor theme park. And Ferrari World, now ranked 2nd largest, is an indoor theme park with 925,000 sf under roof that recently opened in Abu Dhabi.



Theme Parks, Amusement Parks, Family Entertainment Centers and Arcades are crossing over, blending and merging together in new facilities that defy categories and labels.

Lodging, recreation and entertainment concepts are merging. Now the indoor entertainment center is attaching itself to a hotel, a waterpark, casino or shopping mall. Many new projects are mixed-use resort developments with a variety of components mixed together in one destination project.

Of the largest indoor theme parks in the world, 53.8% of them were opened or will open during the period from 2010 – 2015.

The recent surge in new development is led by two companies, KidZania and Legoland Discovery Centers, that occupy the **edutainment** space --- a new concept that makes learning fun.

While the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) tracks the major theme parks and the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA) has an FEC Council, no one was tracking this newest phenomenon called the Indoor Entertainment Center.

As a result of a recent consulting assignment, JLC Hospitality Consulting of Phoenix-Cave Creek AZ completed an in-depth search and built a database which is rapidly expanding.

Upon completing the data search, the firm discovered that about 100 indoor entertainment centers, 30,000 sf or larger in size, were open or about to open worldwide. And it discovered that thousands of indoor facilities, less than 30,000 sf in size, were using entertainment, arcades and games to sell pizza, restaurant food and bar drinks.

To profile the Indoor Entertainment Center Industry, we decided to focus on facilities that were 30,000 sf and larger.

We purposely excluded companies such as Chuck E. Cheese with 507 stores, Dave & Busters with 68 stores, John's Incredible Pizza with 23 stores, Boomers by Palace Entertainment, America's Incredible Pizza Company, Gatti's Pizza, ITZ USA Family Fun, Brunswick Zone, Adventure Landing and others --- due to the small size of their indoor entertainment centers.

Highlights of the Indoor Entertainment Center Industry:

In the course of building this database we tackled the label and definition problems by creating two qualifiers --- focus and anchors.

First, what is the focus of the entertainment center? Is it a themed experience, amusements & thrill rides, edutainment, high-tech games, bowling, adventure or sports?

- 57.9% of all indoor entertainment centers are focused on edutainment, led by companies such as KidZania and Legoland Discovery Centers.

World's Top Indoor Entertainment Centers Theme Parks, Amusement Parks & FECs 30,000 sf & Larger		
%	By Focus	Examples
57.9	Edutainment	KidZania, Legoland Discovery Centers
13.7	High Tech Games	GameWorks
12.6	Themed Experience	Ferrari World, Lotte World, Sanrio Puroland
11.5	Amusement & Thrill Rides	Galaxyland, Adventuredome, Toverland
2.1	Sports	Spooky Nook Sports Center
1.1	Annual Event	I-X Center Indoor Amusement Park
1.1	Bowling	The Summit
100.0	Total	
Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382.		

Second, is the entertainment center a standalone or is it anchored to demand generators, such as a shopping mall, hotel, casino or waterpark?

- 75.5% of all indoor entertainment centers are anchored to shopping malls; again, the leading examples are KidZania and Legoland Discovery Centers.

World's Top Indoor Entertainment Centers Theme Parks, Amusement Parks & FECs 30,000 sf & Larger		
%	By Anchor	Examples
75.5	Shopping Mall	KidZania, Legoland Discovery Centers
8.5	Hotel	Adventuredome Circus Circus, Kalahari
6.6	Standalone	Trans Studio, iPlay America, FunTime America
4.7	Waterpark	Kalahari, Yas Island, Lotte World
1.9	Casino	Circus Circus, Genting Highlands
1.9	Exposition Center	I-X Center, Plopsa Indoor
0.9	Theme Park	
100.0	Total	
Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382		

Where is the indoor entertainment center located?

- 40.0% of all indoor entertainment centers are located in the USA, followed by 11.6% in Japan and 6.3% in the United Arab Emirates.

World's Top Indoor Entertainment Centers Theme Parks, Amusement Parks & FECs 30,000 sf & Larger		
%	By Country	Examples
40.0	USA	I-X Center, Nickelodeon at Mall of America
11.6	Japan	Sanrio Puroland, Joypolis-Sega, J-World
6.3	UAE	Ferrari World, KidZania, Sega Republic
4.2	Mexico	KidZania
3.2	India	KidZania
3.2	Korea	Lotte World, KidZania
3.2	Malaysia	First World Genting, Berjaya Times Square
28.3	Other	
100.0	Total	

Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382

How big are the world's top indoor entertainment centers?

- 31.7% are 30,000 sf to 49,999 sf
- 25.0% are 75,000 sf to 99,999 sf
- Only 6.7% are giants with indoor space between 500,000 sf and 1,000,000 sf --- which includes the I-X Center Indoor Amusement Park annual event in Cleveland, Ferrari World on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, Lotte World's Adventure Indoor Theme Park in Seoul, Korea and First World Hotel & Indoor Theme Park at Genting Highlands Resort near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

World's Top Indoor Entertainment Centers Theme Parks, Amusement Parks & FECs 30,000 sf & Larger		
By Indoor Square		Examples
%	Feet	
6.7	500,000 - 1,000,000	I-X Center, Ferrari World, Lotte World
8.3	250,000 - 499,999	Galaxyland, Nickelodeon at Mall of America
8.3	125,000 - 249,999	Adventuredome, KidZania, Toverland
8.3	100,000 - 124,999	KidZania, iPlay America, Kalahari, DisneyQuest
25.0	75,000 - 99,999	Joypolis, Plopsa Indoor, KidZania
11.7	50,000 - 74,999	KidZania, J-World, Namja Town

31.7	30,000 - 49,999	Mt Olympus, Legoland Discovery Centers
100.0	Total	
Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382		

When did indoor entertainment centers open?

- Galaxyland was the first large-scale indoor amusement park to open in 1985 with 400,000 sf of space inside of West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada.
- 15.0% of all indoor entertainment centers opened from 1995-1999 when the first KidZania opened near Mexico City.
- 18.8% of all indoor entertainment centers opened in 2005-2009 when Plopsa Indoor opened in Belgium and Mt Olympus added the Parthenon Indoor Theme Park in Wisconsin Dells WI.
- 53.8% of all indoor entertainment centers in the world were opened or will open during the period from 2010 – 2015. The recent surge in new development is led by two edutainment companies, KidZania and Legoland Discovery Centers.

World's Top Indoor Entertainment Centers Theme Parks, Amusement Parks & FECs 30,000 sf & Larger		
%	By Opening	Examples
2.5	1985 - 1989	Galaxyland, Lotte World,
5.0	1990 - 1994	Sanrio Puroland, I-X Center, Nickelodeon
15.0	1995 - 1999	Funtime America, Namja Town, KidZania
5.0	2000 - 2004	First World Genting, Toverland, GameWorks
18.8	2005 - 2009	Plopsa Indoor, KidZania, Mt Olympus
53.8	2010 - 2015	KidZania, Ferrari World, iPlay America
100.0	Total	
Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382		

What's Causing the Surge in New Development?

- During the global recession (2007-2009), many consumers in the USA faced loss of jobs, loss of homes due to a mortgage crisis and lower budgets to live on --- thus a reduction in travel. It seemed that a visit to a theme park or an overnight stay in a hotel was a luxury that many could not afford.
- Hotels were foreclosed, also due to a mortgage mess, and sold at bargain prices to new owners with private funds.

- New construction of hotels and tourist attractions dwindled to near zero in the USA, while any new construction was happening outside the USA.
- The Aldar Properties Group restructured itself and continued construction on Ferrari World on Yas Island in the UAE.
- Slowly, money for expansion projects loosened up.
- Gradually, the USA and world economy started to improve.
- Indoor entertainment centers attached themselves to shopping malls, hotels, waterparks and casinos --- to guarantee visitor demand and to help bolster shopping malls as mixed-use destination developments.
- Indoor entertainment centers shifted their focus to a combination of entertainment and education --- now called edutainment.
- Legoland continued to roll out its string of discovery centers.
- Xavier Lopez Ancona, the founder of KidZania, had opened his 6th edutainment center and was now ready for accelerated global growth.

What Recently Opened from 2010 through 2013?

When you look at what indoor entertainment centers were built since 2010, you see that almost all the growth is the result of two very successful companies --- Legoland Discovery Centers and KidZania. What's the story with these two companies?

Name	Location	Country	Open	Indoor SF
KidZania 7 at Dubai Mall	Dubai	UAE	201001	80,000
KidZania 8	Seoul	Korea	201002	120,000
Ferrari World	Yas Island, Abu Dhabi	UAE	201011	925,696
Legoland Discovery Center	Dallas-Fort Worth TX	USA	201103	32,500
iPlay America	Freehold NJ	USA	201111	115,000
KidZania 9	Mexico City-Cuicuilco	MEX	201201	149,800
KidZania 10	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	201201	79,646
Legoland Discovery Center	Kansas City MO	USA	201204	32,500
Legoland Discovery Center	Atlanta GA	USA	201204	32,000
KidZania 11	Santiago	Chile	201205	80,722
Legoland Discovery Center	Tokyo-Odaiba	Japan	201206	42,800
Legoland Discovery Center	Schaumburg IL	USA	201206	30,000
Legoland Discovery Center	Tokyo Beach	Japan	201212	43,056
Legoland Discovery Center	Tokyo-Minato	Japan	201212	32,500
KidZania 12	Bangkok	Thailand	201303	107,000
Legoland Discovery Center	Toronto ON	CAN	201303	34,000

Legoland Discovery Center	Westchester-Yonkers NY	USA	201303	32,500
KidZania at Mall of Arabia	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	201304	150,682
Legoland Discovery Center	Oberhausen	Germany	201304	32,500
Indoor FEC at Yas Island Mall	Yas Island, Abu Dhabi	UAE	201304	
Spooky Nook Sports Center - Phase 1	Lancaster PA	USA	201306	300,000
KidZania at Cairo Festival City	Cairo	Egypt	201306	80,250
Legoland Discovery Center	Manchester	UK	201306	32,500
KidZania at R-City Mall	Mumbai-Ghatkopar	India	201307	79,991
Namco J-World ITP at Sunshine Mall	Tokyo-Toshima	Japan	201307	66,386
KidZania at Eldorado Shopping Mall	Sao Paulo	Brazil	201308	91,485
KidZania at Ak Asya	Istanbul	Turkey	201309	75,000
KidZania at The Avenues Mall	Kuwait City	Kuwait	201312	75,000

Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382.

Legoland Discovery Centers

Legoland Discovery Centers is an indoor edutainment chain operated by Merlin Entertainments, a division of the Blackstone Group, which also owns SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment and Hilton Hotels Worldwide. The centers, which feature models inspired by the Lego building block toys, are smaller versions of their Legoland theme parks in Carlsbad CA and Cypress Gardens FL.

A typical Legoland Discovery Center is 30,000 sf to 35,000 sf in size. The centers feature local landmarks built with Lego bricks. Visitors learn how Lego bricks are manufactured and participate in building classes. The edutainment centers offer a small roller coaster, a fortress, 4-D movies, gift shop, birthday party rooms and a restaurant. The typical center attracts families with children 3-12 years old. In one year, a single center can host from 400,000 to 600,000 visitors.

Ten (10) Legoland Discovery Centers were open and operating as of 2010; since 2010, the company has opened 11 centers:



Location	Country	Opened	Indoor SF
Dallas-Fort Worth TX	USA	201103	32,500
Kansas City MO	USA	201204	32,500
Atlanta GA	USA	201204	32,000
Tokyo-Odaiba	Japan	201206	42,800
Schaumburg IL	USA	201206	30,000
Tokyo Beach	Japan	201212	43,056
Tokyo-Minato	Japan	201212	32,500
Toronto ON	CAN	201303	34,000
Westchester-Yonkers NY	USA	201303	32,500
Oberhausen	Germany	201304	32,500
Manchester	UK	201306	32,500

What is KidZania?

KidZania is the fastest growing chain of edutainment centers in the world.

Founded in 1996 by Xavier Lopez Ancona. He and his partners opened the first center in Santa Fe on the outskirts of Mexico City in 1999. Seven years later, in 2006, after perfecting and expanding the concept, Lopez opened his second KidZania in Monterrey in northern Mexico. Using a franchising model, he expanded to Tokyo, Jakarta, Osaka and Lisbon by 2009.

THE CONCEPT

KidZania allows kids to pretend to be grown up and have fun at the same time. KidZania takes entertainment and learning to a whole new level by combining role playing with real life in a kid-sized environment. KidZania allows kids 4 to 12 to do what comes naturally to them; role-playing by mimicking traditionally adult activities. As in the real world, kids perform adult jobs and get paid for their work. It is a place where they can learn life skills and have fun. KidZania replicates the real world in a safe and contained 80,000 sf kid-sized city, which runs just like a real city, but with kids in charge.

There are typically 60 occupations to try and 75 brands that sponsor storefront establishments and about 100 learning experiences. Kids earn kidzos currency, open bank accounts, manage their money, cash checks and purchase goods and services. It is a place where kids can try out early what they want to be --- before they are faced with real life choices.



THE SETTING

Hundreds of children wait in line to buy a ticket, typically US\$20, to enter a kid-sized city that is built to 3/4th scale inside a shopping mall. The kid-city has a functioning economy with its own kid-currency, called kidzos. Once inside, these children or KidZanians receive a passport, RFID bracelet and 50 kidzos to spend or use to open a bank account which remains open to encourage repeat visits.

When kids run out of money, they learn they have to work. They put on the uniforms of fire fighters, police officers, painters, pizza chefs, bankers, pilots, travel agents, fashion designers, journalists and TV newscasters. They receive assignments to role play with other children to learn about the adult world --- like how to direct traffic, solve a crime or fly an airplane. Real world sponsors, such as American Airlines, provide the lesson plan for how to fly a plane.

THE FOUNDERS

In 1996, Luis Laresgoiti came to Xavier Lopez Ancona, a Northwestern graduate, with a business plan to construct and operate several day care facilities where children could perform various trades, occupations and professions. The day care idea evolved into Kids City.

A few months later, Xavier Lopez left his vice president position at GE Capital's private equity group and became an entrepreneur. He formed a partnership with Luis, Esteban Lopez and Francisco Ares. And the KidZania idea was put into motion.

Considering the overwhelming acceptance of KidZania today, it is hard to believe that 15 years ago Xavier Lopez and his partners had trouble getting funding for the idea. Back then, he says, "there were no seed capital investors in Mexico. It was really difficult getting financing for the project." A recession hit Mexico in 1997 and bank funding dried up.

The first kid's city opened in Santa Fe on the outskirts of Mexico City in 1999 with a US\$7 million investment, where 55% came from participating sponsors, 25% from a bank loan and 20% from partners. The partners never imagined the success they would achieve. "For the first year, they estimated 400,000 visitors and they received 762,000.

The brand KidZania was created almost immediately after consolidating the business in Mexico City with Xavier Lopez Ancona as CEO.

THE PROPERTIES

The first center opened in Santa Fe on the outskirts of Mexico City in 1999.

Seven years later, in 2006, Lopez opened his second KidZania in Monterrey.

Using a franchising model, he expanded to Tokyo, Jakarta, Osaka and Lisbon by 2009. Franchise licenses are granted to a single exclusive licensee for each country. Upfront capital costs run about US\$20 million per location.

From 2010 through 2013, thirteen (13) additional KidZania edutainment centers opened in Dubai, Seoul, Mexico City-Cuicuilco, Kuala Lumpur, Santiago, Bangkok, Jeddah, Cairo, Mumbai, Sao Paulo, Istanbul and Kuwait City. KidZania is the fastest growing edutainment center brand in the world.

The KidZania recently built in Mexico City-Cuicuilco is twice the normal size at 149,800 sf and provides both indoor and outdoor learning experiences --- where, for example, kids can drive real electric cars on kid-size highways.

In the period 2014-2017, twenty-three (23) addition KidZania centers are expected to open, including 14 in the USA, which will be company-owned and operated. The first three US

locations may be Los Angeles, Chicago and New York; although as of May 2013 no locations have been announced.

Cammie Dunaway joined in 2010 to serve as global marketing director and CEO for KidZania USA, based in San Jose CA. Dunaway is working with CB Richard Ellis to identify US locations. Locations can be 65,000 sf to 80,000 sf and cost from US\$35 million to US\$45 million to develop. Costs are defrayed by income from corporate sponsors. For more, contact Dunaway at usinquiries@KidZania.com.

SHOPPING CENTERS ARE A KEY

Shopping centers offer a great location for KidZania for many reasons. First, the investment is lower than if you go buy a piece of land, build a structure and provide for parking. Shopping centers already have a well-known name, a visible address, good infrastructure, access and transportation. And most shopping centers need entertainment.

SPONSORS ARE A KEY

KidZania is a child-size urban environment in which companies such as McDonald's, Domino's Pizza, Coca Cola, Walmart and American Airlines pay to open miniature authentic-looking storefronts. For example, there is the nose of an airline jet that sits above a travel agency check-in counter. Sponsors share inside knowledge on how their businesses operate, so KidZania can design a realistic, authentic experience for children.

An airline knows best how to train pilots or run an airport. A bank knows best how to teach children about saving and investing. It is the integration of real-world brands with KidZania staff that enriches the learning experience. KidZania and its sponsors go through an immersive process to make the learning experience interesting and fun. Companies pay millions of dollars to set up shop in KidZania, but there are very strict rules on how they get involved.



ADAPTING TO NEW MARKETS

Everywhere KidZania goes, they choose local sponsors who know the market and the culture. In Indonesia, for example, kids learn how to run a noodle factory. In Jakarta, kids learn how to grow and market coffee. In Kuala Lumpur, kids learn how to fly an airplane. In Bangkok, you can practice being a deejay on a radio station. In Japan, kids can attend a university where they earn higher kidzos.

KidZania is seeking potential licensees who are committed to fostering the education and success of children. A potential licensee must be locally based in each country where it

operates. Candidates must possess the “know-how” necessary to achieve success and have extensive relationships with national and international brands --- especially hospitality, entertainment and media.

What’s Coming in 2014 and 2015?

Name	Location	Country	Open	Indoor SF
The Summit Entertainment Center	Windsor CO	USA	201406	50,000
KidZania USA 1	Chicago IL	USA	201412	65,000
KidZania USA 2	New York City NY	USA	201412	65,000
KidZania USA 3	Los Angeles CA	USA	201412	65,000
Legoland Discovery Center	East Rutherford NJ	USA	201412	32,500
KidZania 18 at Crocus Vegas Mall	Moscow	Russia	201412	
KidZania 19 at Bonifacio Global City	Manila	Philippines	201412	
KidZania on Sentosa Island	Singapore	Singapore	201502	81,799
Spooky Nook Sports Center - Phase 2	Lancaster PA	USA	201506	300,000
KidZania NCR Region	New Delhi	India	201512	75,000
KidZania	London	UK	201512	
KidZania 20 at Villagio-Hyatt Malls	Doha	Qatar	201512	
KidZania USA 4	TBD	USA	201512	
KidZania USA 5	TBD	USA	201512	
KidZania USA 6	TBD	USA	201512	

Source: JLC Hospitality Consulting, Jeff Coy, 480-488-3382.

KidZania is definitely dominating the growth in new edutainment centers. There are more on the horizon for 2016-2017.

So, you want to build an Indoor Entertainment Center? If so, run the comparables, learn the requirements for success and hire an independent consultant to help you determine the market support and economic feasibility.

To read more, go to [World's Top 30 Indoor Entertainment Centers - Part 2](#) for profiles and photos of the top indoor entertainment center worldwide.



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