



SOUTHERN MAYA IN THE LATE PRECLASSIC: The Rise & Fall of an Early Mesoamerican Civilization [Michael Love & Jonathan Kaplan (eds)] From 400 BC to AD 250, the southern Maya region was one of most remarkable civilisations of the ancient Americas. Filled with great cities linked by flourishing long-distance trade, shared elite ideologies, and a vibrant material culture, this region was pivotal not only for the Maya but for Mesoamerica as a whole. Although it has been of great interest to scholars, gaps in the knowledge have led to debate on the most vital questions about the southern region. Recent research has provided a wealth of broadly based new data that have expanded the understanding of this region and its influence on greater Mesoamerica. In this book prominent contributors debate whether the southern region was indeed "Maya" or instead a region of intense multiethnic interaction, with speakers of many languages and many sources of identity. The chapters address a host of advanced developments to which this area can lay claim -- urbanism and city-states, the earliest Maya writing, and the origin of the Maya calendar -- as well as additional issues including the construction of social and cultural identities, economic networks of early complex societies, relationships between the Maya and the Olmec, and a comprehensive discussion of the ancient city of Kaminaljuyu and its relationship to other cities in the region.

{507 pages, 155x230mm, b/w photos & illus; September 2011, HB, 1607320924 (9781607320920), £70.99, University Press of Colorado}

APEX: Retracing the Egyptian Pyramids [Ole Jørgen Bryn] This book is about lifting precision, not stones. Global headlines were made when Norwegian architect and researcher Ole Jørgen Bryn published his first article on the ancient Egyptian pyramids in 2010. Unlike numerous of existing theories concerning the building of these immense stone structures -- often put forward by historians, Egyptologists, and archaeologists -- Bryn's approach is as different and original as it is simple. In this book, Ole J. Bryn suggests that the Egyptians invented the architectural and engineering professions, and he finds evidence in the apex point; an invisible, theoretical point 146.6 metres above the ground level of Khufu's Great Pyramid at Giza. How the pyramids were built derives directly from how they were planned. However, the planning phase has not yet been explored in the research literature with the same vigour as the building phase. This book aims to balance this incongruity by examining thoroughly, in detailed project drawings, the 30 first Egyptian pyramids from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th dynasties. The author's theories about the planning phase of the pyramids are enhanced by his unique project drawings of the pyramids, and supported by photographs taken by fellow architect Håvard Houen.

AUTHOR INFORMATION: Ole Jørgen Bryn (born 1965) has held a position as Associate Professor in the Department of Architectural Design, Form and Colour Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) since 2000. He has wide experience as a professional architect, with prominent works to his credit..

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