The Celebration of the Black Architect: 
YESTERDAY + TODAY + TOMORROW

The Los Angeles National Organization of Minority Architects proudly presents “Celebrating 
the Black Architect: Yesterday + Today + Tomorrow” a series consisting of one lecture and 
three panel discussions centered on the stories and work of Black Architects. Yesterday will 
celebrate the architects of the past encompassing the 40 years in history and beyond. Today 
highlights those creating relevance in the many facets of architecture. And finally Tomorrow 
searches the under 40s to find those creating news or paving their paths in architecture. The 
series will educate, enlighten and expose all to the talents and contributions of Black 
Architects of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Program 1
The first program “Connecting the Lines: Western Architecture, Its African Origins” reaches 
into ancient history with the aim to connect with and educate young students but should find 
an interest with a wider audience. This lecture will use 3d computer models as well as photo 
documentation to trace incontrovertible evidence of the architecture of the ancient Nile 
Valley’s, Egypt and Cush to the buildings of Greece and Rome.

To the ancient Egyptians and Nubians the location of the center of the world (the Ta 
Neter land) was at the beginning of the Nile, the equator, the place where heaven 
and earth came together. This is where the Pygmies live, and where the Nile flows 
from the dwat (heaven) bringing the black land and the lotus and Papyrus to give 
life to Egypt. The Theban architects of the Golden Age (18th – 19th Dynasty), 
following an ancient tradition, modeled those conditions into their stone monuments 
as evidence of their ties to equatorial Africa. (Mathu Ater)

The presentation will be given by Mathu Ater. Ater studied and currently works in the field of 
arhcitecture. He began his interest in Egyptology in the 1980’s and has developed his 
expertise through his travels to Egypt and Europe. He was privileged to be one of a thousand 
to have attended the Fourth Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations 
(ASCAC) conference in Egypt. Ater continues to study and present research on African 
arhcitecture, conduct tours to Egypt and Ancient Mexico as well as design. Mr. Ater has a 
master’s degree from Pepperdine University.

For more information you may contact: 
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And also visit www.noma.net for additional information 
and to view updated information on the events in the 
“Yesterday+Today+Tomorrow” series.