



## BARDESSONO ARTISAN STORIES

As gifted craftsmen, Bardessono artisans have worked closely with developer Phil Sherburne to take part in an aesthetic tradition that links history to modern design. They have built with simple materials such as locally quarried stone and milled Orchard Walnut, salvaged Monterey Cypress and steel slabs that patina with age. From furnishings to landscapes to stone. From constructing a bar to designing a spa to commissioning photographs of the landscapes nearby. They have sourced locally and chosen wisely.

The list of Bardessono artisans is long. But each one has played a critical role in building the hotel and the story of their talents enriches each stay. We believe these are stories that should be told. Connecting with artisan values is equally important as connecting with the artisans themselves.

bardessono  
NAPA VALLEY

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[www.bardessono.com](http://www.bardessono.com)



### **RON MITCHELL** *Design*

When Phil Sherburne and Ron Mitchell met, there was an immediate connection. Together with Noe Pegarido and Becky Ellis, members of Ron's former staff at the Seattle-based office of Wimberly, Allison, Tong and Goo (WATG), they set to work closely on a design. Ron is a person without artifice or pretension, says Sherburne. He wanted to design simple, honest buildings that work well. In particular, he sought to use simple materials beautifully. And that is exactly what he did.

Ron left WATG to form his own firm, with Noe and Becky joining him. But his personal commitment to the design launched the architectural message. His influence has been enduring, and the authenticity he brought to bear in the design process contributed importantly to the hotel's sense of soul.

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### **CELLO & MADRU** *Construction*

For such an expansive project, developer Phil Sherburne took a risk. He hired a general contractor that had never built a hotel. But their experience with building in the Napa Valley for demanding winery and custom home clients, and a demonstrated understanding of the project, told Sherburne that Cello & Maudru was the right choice for the job. With skilled craftsmen on their team and attention to detail they fast became relentless advocates for creating a deeply green hotel experience -- the common vision behind the design. 93 percent of the construction waste was recycled during the site preparation and building process. Cello & Maudru is also accredited as being the first contractor in Napa to complete a privately constructed building according to the exacting standards of the U.S. Green Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) System. Under the same accreditation process, the Bardessono has been submitted to achieve LEED Platinum certification, the highest level of environmental design.

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### **EVAN SHIVELY** *Salvaged and Reclaimed Specialty Wood*

After being intrigued by a large wood sculpture in Erin Martin's St Helena gallery followed by weeks of searching for the artist, Bardessono developer Phil Sherburne could scarcely have known that Evan Shively of Arborica in West Marin, would fast become one of the most potent influences on the design and a paramount figure in building the hotel.

From the memory of their first meeting, Sherburne described Evan as a "smiling husky man in his 40's with a trace of the 'hippie' look and a sawdust encrusted shirt." A comparative literature graduate from Harvard College, and a former chef at Postrio in San Francisco, Evan is a sawyer specializing in expressing the natural beauty of salvaged woods from Northern California. He and his unparalleled warehouse of woods made an immediate impression and Sherburne was quick to recruit him as a part of the Bardessono artisan team.

Salvaged wood means that it is not logged. An important distinction as Evan is mindful of the scarcity of this precious resource and has become known as someone seeking interesting old trees that would otherwise be chipped or burned. These are the trees unwanted by larger commercial mills. Evan



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rescues them from junk heaps and landfills, turning them into pieces of art-wood and grabbing the attention of architects and those who see the distinctive beauty that these salvaged and "up-cycled" materials bring to life.

The wood Evan reclaimed for the Bardessono was all found within a 100-mile radius of the Napa Valley. The list of woods to be used throughout the hotel became Evan's biggest order to-date. Monterey Cypress has been milled for the building's wood sidings; the stunning grain and color of orchard Walnut made into entry doors and laid as flooring in the guest rooms; desks are crafted of raw slabs of California Bay Laurel; Redwood recycled from wine barrels have become the entry doors to the reception area and restaurant, as well as the ceilings for many public rooms; large tables for the lounge and restaurant are made of Walnut and Cypress

The celebration of California woods at the Bardessono is in no small part a curated experience informed by Evan's relationship with the wood, its natural beauty, and its gift to the spaces that humans inhabit. His relationship with Phil and his ability to work on a large scale has given the wood an interactive presence at the hotel and has affirmed a second life for dozens of otherwise wasted trees.

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## **RICHARD HESTIKIND** *Stone*

Bardessono developer Phil Sherburne first came to know Richard Hestikind in the form of a fountain. The fountain, sculpted by Richard and brought to a stone yard of Marenakos Rock Center in Phil's hometown of Seattle Washington, was part of Stonefest 2006 -- an annual event featuring art and sponsoring workshops by the worlds top sculptors. The fountain, the stone, and the two men met and made a serendipitous connection that in no time became a part of the Bardessono vision.

Richard is a large and gentle man with a sunny smile and good-sized rough hands. He has spent his life shaping stone. For the Bardessono, Richard and Phil walked through the stone yard together. They made careful selections and Richard provided an exciting and lasting education for Phil on the huge pieces of rock that would become today's signature courtyard fountains for each of the hotel's four guest room clusters. Today's finished fountains are large in scale -- one incorporates three olive stone grinding wheels, each almost five feet in diameter. The largest sculpture brings otherwise opposing elements, fire and water, together in an impressive display that can be seen from the restaurant. Richard's contribution and the significant presence of earth's most dense and natural material around the hotel, are what has helped to ground it.

## **JOHN WELLS** *Furniture*

John Wells had worked once before with Bardessono developer Phil Sherburne, building furniture out of reclaimed wood for the Willows Lodge (<http://www.willowslodge.com/>) in Washington. The work of John's Seattle-based company, Meyers/Wells which specializes in furniture and cabinetry from salvaged trees, had been so impressive Phil asked him to create bedside tables for each guest room out of steel and reclaimed wood. Like all the carefully chosen pieces in the Bardessono guest rooms, the tables complement the sturdy exterior structure of the hotel with sophistication and natural luster.

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### **CRISTINA SALAS-PORRAS *Tastemaker/Source Specialist***

When Cristina Salas-Porras was introduced to the project, Bardessono was only five months from completion. This was a short time by most standards, but just enough by Cristina's, for her to play a major role in the final critical hospitality and design details. An artisan in her own right, Cristina brought with her an untainted sense of generosity and insight. She has an authentic commitment to the importance of aesthetics and her spirit of hospitality inhabits the experience at Bardessono. Within a few minutes of meeting her Sherburne knew he was determined to have Cristina a part of the Bardessono team.

Prior to her work with Sherburne, Cristina worked with Alice Waters for nine years, facilitating her role beyond the iconic Berkeley restaurant, Chez Panisse, as Water's influence and the sustainability movement gained international momentum. Cristina has a highly developed sense of organization, design, and the acumen to carry off events of enormous proportion. She is teeming with resources and a natural ability to locate talent. She also happens to be fluent in Japanese played a role in the opening of the Park Hyatt in Tokyo, known for its high service standards.

As Bardessono was moving toward completion, it became easier to see the true character of the architecture. With Cristina's fresh eyes, explains Sherburne, "she was able to see the architectural beauty." "Through this beauty, she saw the importance of simplifying the interior design, and the tendency toward excessive branding." The remaining design decisions were put under review, with Cristina acting as guide to a more restrained approach consistent with the vision for the hotel. . In the process, she found a new graphics and branding firm, Tamotsu Yagi Design, to bolster this new direction.

Cristina has discerning tastes, allowing her to create experiences for guests that Phil Sherburne considers central to the hotel. Her affinity for gardens, good art, wine and passionate people helps her understand how to connect guests with these special resources at the Bardessono and within the Napa Valley.

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### **TAMOTSU YAGI DESIGN *Graphics and Branding***

Tamotsu Yagi has had a long and distinguished career in graphic design and branding. Yet, he seems to get along fine without his own brand. The entry to his San Francisco studio office is a non-descript steel door without a name that opens directly onto the street. His website, consisting of almost nothing, intentionally reads, "under construction." (*Please confirm*)

A native of Japan, Yagi first came to California in 1984 to become the in-house art director for Esprit where his graphic designs were enormously influential to the company's success. Seven years later, internationally celebrated and named as one of the youngest inductees to the Alliance Graphique International (AGI), Yagi left Esprit to establish his own independent multi-disciplinary design studio, Tamotsu Yagi Design (TYG).

Of the many ways that Yagi's design's blend with the Bardessono vision, his studio's attentiveness to ecologically responsible business is paramount . It may seem obvious to say, but finding the environment inspiring is often inspiration enough to preserve it. The office motto at TYD, "good design is in the nature of things," says it all.

Trusted Bardessono tastemaker and source specialist, Cristina Sallas-Prorras, brought Yagi in to work



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on the project during the final phases of development. Yagi and his staff put together a palette of colors, finishes and materials that gave off an organic reflection of the Bardessono property. His design work is seen in the hotel's signage, website, and collateral materials. Developer and visionary Phil Sherburne admires Yagi when he says, "his reputation is so strong, business just comes to him." But Sherburne celebrates him in claiming, "Yagi is able to express the essence of things simply and directly, which is one of the most difficult things to do".

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#### **THADDEUS VOGLER *Bar Concept and Design***

Thad Vogler has been bartending for almost 20 years. He has worked in the industry in Paris, Ireland, Tokyo, Guatemala, Cuba, Belize, and of course, San Francisco where he worked on the opening team of seven restaurants. Thad is a native of Santa Cruz, California, and a graduate of Yale University.

He helped design, open and manage the bars at Slanted Door, Coco 500, Presidio Social Club, and the newly remodeled Jardiniere. In addition to being an active bar consultant for top restaurants in San Francisco, Thad works as a regular consultant for Francis Ford Coppola Presents. He also worked at Bourbon and Branch, and participates in the Bourbon and Branch Academy, where he is the resident rum specialist.

Thad was the perfect fit to bring our artisan values to our service in the Lounge. The craft and tradition of making drinks is old, but giving this seasoned activity a place within the food and environmental movements of today was the challenge we have to Thad.

Bardessono is a Napa Valley lounge committed to traditional, excellent drinks. A good bar is run like a good kitchen. Start with simple, traditional recipes, use the best ingredients and make them fresh. There are already plenty of great recipes. We are more interested in execution that we are in innovation.

Our approach is to support small and as often as possible, local craft distillers, especially those committed to quality and education. We de-emphasize products from large-scale industries and produce that comes from industrial agriculture but favor brands that enhance diversity and regionalism. We also support quality above variety. We offer a few brands of each spirits, which ensures that our staff is knowledgeable about the list and can speak intelligently about what they are selling to each customer at the Bardessono.

#### **BLUE BOTTLE COFFEE COMPANY *Artisan Micro-roaster***

Named after Central Europe's first coffee house, The Blue Bottle Coffee Company offers possibly one of the most impractical cups of coffee found in the U.S. today. But at Bardessono, we understand that easy to make does not often mean the best to drink. After considerable comparative testing we have concluded that, in our view, a Blue Bottle cup of coffee could easily be called the best.

Owner James Freeman, once a philosophy major turned classical clarinetist, and self-proclaimed coffee lunatic, took an unusual vow when he opened Blue Bottle: to only sell coffee less than 48 hours out of the roaster to his customers, and to use only the finest organic, and pesticide-free, shade grown beans. Bardessono, being no stranger to unusual vows, endorses this kind of commitment, even when it comes to something as small and yet universally sublime as a single cup of coffee.

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James practices and teaches Artisan Micro-roasting. Though impractical it may be, this artisanal craft for roasting and brewing means whether you are buying a cup of joe from his stand at the local farmer's market, buying beans from the San Francisco Kiosk, or being served a morning cup in your Bardessono guest room, Blue Bottle beans will be of single-origin, roasted in small batches, ground to order and then drip filtered, pressed or pulled, one enlightened cup at a time.

[www.bluebottlecoffee.net](http://www.bluebottlecoffee.net)

JULIE ELLIOTT, *In Fiore*, Hotel Amenity Line and in-Spa Treatment Line

MATT DICK, *Matocreative*, Hotel Shop Buyer and Uniform Concept

STEFANO MASSEI, *Studio Massei*, Hotel Room Olive Tree Photograph

MARTA SALAS-PORRAS, *Definitive Partners*, Interior Design and Interior Art Curator

JOANNE POWELL, *Phyllis Martin-Vegue and Carol Padhan*, Interior Design

PACO PRIETO, *Picassa Studios*, Bar Design, Construction and Furniture

FLORA GRUBB AND KEVIN SMITH, *Flora Grubb, Tilansia* Wall

COLIN FINLAY, Hotel Room Aerial Photographs and Photography Throughout the Property

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