



**PHIL SHERBURNE, ECO-DEVELOPER  
BARDESSONO, NAPA VALLEY**



Phil Sherburne, a former city planner turned conscientious developer, has been an ambitious leader in responsible design for the past 20 years. Creating and sustaining low-impact projects, enhanced by superior design, have come to define Sherburne's unquestionable influence on a number of public and private spaces.

The son of Oregon organic dairy farmers, Sherburne's approach to development combines a keen sense for both open space and community-centric structures. His formative years in a rural setting and his earth-wise instincts have influenced his skills as a businessman and his principal role as a visionary.

Having graduated Cum Laude from Harvard Law School in 1969, Sherburne chose not to practice law, but to lead a team of federal and city officials in creating a plan to build housing for low income families on 1,500 vacant lots in Chicago. His career began, not in private development, but in public housing. From the start, it has been his nature to challenge convention and the spaces he builds speak for what his conscience has to say. Over the years his projects have changed, representing a wide range of interests and goals, but Sherburne's philosophy has stayed the same: limits, creativity and an environmental consciousness are what shape good design. With design, he has proven, that limits become assets.

Today, this same philosophy has led Phil Sherburne to develop an unusual kind of luxury hotel, the Bardessono, slated to open in February of 2009. Located on the Bardessono family farmstead in California's Napa Valley, the hotel will become an integral part of the six-acre property first established in 1928 and located in the middle of the town of Yountville. Bardessono family heirs, concerned about the impact a commercial development would have on Yountville's rural character, handpicked Sherburne based on prior work, especially his Decatur Island project in the American San Juan Islands, and his character.

For Decatur Northwest, a 600 acre primarily second home community, Sherburne laid out 75 100-foot circular parcels to be purchased and developed for homes. The masterful design incorporated concerns specific to island living -- minimizing visibility of structures from the water, without compromising views and privacy for residents on land. Sherburne has made his home there in a small 1917 farmhouse that he restored. Intent on preserving its natural beauty and controlling environmental impact, he continues to play a significant role in the life of this community. Sherburne also installed a private passenger ferry system from the mainland to avoid a large marina on the property and limited vehicle ownership to golf-carts. Today, only 3 percent of the Decatur Northwest property is developed with the remaining 97 percent, including the beaches and rugged waterfront, held in common by homeowners and preserved forever.



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The Bardessono hotel is similarly marked by Sherburne's careful and intelligent approach. Built in cooperation with today's Bardessono family descendants, the community of Yountville, and Seattle-based architect Ron Mitchell, the hotel represents an artful and contemporary breakthrough in luxury design. While building the Bardessono, Sherburne developed a distinct and understated message: refining one's indulgences and minimizing environmental impact do not require compromise. In fact, Sherburne would argue, they can often resist it.

The 62-room hotel, spa and restaurant are ecologically distinguished in nearly every way. The overall site is designed to feel intimate in scale and each guest room is layered with details. Everything from heating and cooling systems and lighting to water use and native landscapes have been taken into account; along with organic bedding, cleaning supplies, creek-side protection and locally grown food. From in-room spa accommodations to locally sourced stone and fine salvaged woods, Sherburne is making beautiful use of simple materials. His practice is deeply green, and his aesthetic calls for quieter, sophisticated technologies – taking modern day advances behind the scenes in order to promote person-person care.

Phil Sherburne's continuing successes are as much a product of his nurturing devotion to each project, as they are his steady hand in business and investment. Among many projects prior to building the Bardessono, Sherburne led the re-development of Seattle's iconic 280,000-square-foot Pacific Medical Center; he created Willows Lodge, an 86-room hotel located outside Seattle built extensively using recycled materials; and he developed with two partners the Inn of the Spanish Garden, a 23-room luxury hotel in Santa Barbara, California which was designed to fit seamlessly into an historic neighborhood. He continues to be a major owner of both hotels and oversees their management.

While at work on the Bardessono, Phil Sherburne has made a part-time home in the Napa Valley. Separately, he maintains a permanent home in Seattle and on Decatur Island with his wife, Dr. Susan Casabona, and their two children.

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