

# Patriarch Architects — Heritage in Design

Background of Christopher Layton  
Napa Valley Office

***Christopher is a licensed Architect, General Contractor, landscape designer and real estate developer specializing in the restoration of historic buildings, hotel development, timeshare development and recreational community master planning, in San Francisco and southern Marin County.***

I have been designing buildings for as long as I can remember. I come from a heritage of family ownership of agritural land and real estate, where my family owned farms in rural Missouri and restored historic structures in St. Louis. There, I developed a passion for the land and the design of structures placed upon the land. Both parents were Architects, Landscape Architects and Master Planning consultants. I worked in their offices since I was 10 years old. During high school and collage, summers were spent working on construction projects and on land survey crews in St. Louis and later in Yellowstone Park and in San Francisco.

Having graduated from Washington University School of Architecture In 1962 I began my Architectural apprenticeship in Little Rock, AR with Ginocchio, Cromwell where I coordinated various client project portfolios including the Winthrop Rockefeller family residence.

When I arrived in The Bay Area I commenced with Sasaki Walker Landscape Architects. Key projects included the Alcoa Building Plaza, Golden Gateway plaza parks, William Walton Park, Foothill Collage Campus and several community master plans.

My next position was as a Project Architect with Warren Callister, Architects, in an atelier team environment including some of the most talented designers in America. Our projects ranged across the United States, designing fabulous, luxury homes and creating entire new communities such as Heritage Village in Connecticut, a 3,500 unit retirement community, and Rossmoor Leisure World, a 2,000 home development in Walnut Creek, CA., as well as Peachtree City near Atlanta GA .

Following my time at Calister's office, I moved to Columbus, Ohio for a position as Director of Planning and Architecture for Muli-Con, the largest developer and owner of rental housing in America. I created and managed an in-house Landscape and Architectural team to create new communities.

Returning to California, I joined Desmond Muirhead, a Landscape firm designing new golf course recreational communities in partnership with Jack Nicholas — Mission Hills in Palm Springs and Saginaw City, MI.

Around 1970, I opened my Architectural firm, commencing with design and building luxury homes for sale in Strawberry Point in Sausalito and Southern Marin. 639 Front Street is a restored brick warehouse including offices and two condominium residences on the fifth floor, a personal venture into commercial real estate in San Francisco. Consulting projects which followed are: The Vineyards of Saratoga, an 86 unit condominium and the Roger Mairose Residence a 25,000 square foot home sited on a 600 acre planned community near Carmel, CA. Among personally developed real estate ventures Christopher's is a 21 unit hotel in Calistoga.

In 1975 I added my General Contracting License to my Architectural License from the state of California and formed Laycor, a master building company specializing in luxury homes for sale in Southern Marin County, CA. The company started in San Francisco and Southern Marin. In 1981 I purchased a property in Calistoga which evolved into Christopher's Inn, a 21 room luxury inn. We designed, built, owned and operated the hotel for 23 years.

My background in having a personal, hands-on knowledge of every aspect of the building trades, as well as having the privilege to have worked directly with some of the great architects and designers of our time, has allowed me to personally design numerous projects while maintaining the highest standards of excellence in design, construction and attention to detail.

Patriarch is an association with my son, Eric Layton, an outstanding architect, likewise well-schooled in all aspects of design and construction. We also assist realtors is working with their clients in feasibility-consulting to allow their clients make sound decisions in the selection of their homes. The firm serves Southern Marin to Napa Valley. We work with the latest technical design tools including Revit, AutoCAD and Google Sketchup. Green technology is our specialty.

I do not charge for consultation meetings and enjoy helping my clients get the most information possible as they make their choice in selecting a partner to design their project with.

I welcome and encourage your ideas and input.

Christopher Layton