English houses and gardens – defining Englishness

Start date 5th April 2019  End date 7th April 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Caroline Holmes  Course code 1819NRX026

Director of Academic Centres  Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus
zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746204

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Caroline Holmes lectures regularly for the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge; for The Arts Society throughout Britain and in New Zealand, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain; for the Royal Horticultural Society; the Landmark Trust, National Galleries of Scotland, Martin Randall Travel in France, Ciceroni Travel in France and Italy as well as for Clio Voyages' French-speaking clientele in the UK, Road Scholar globally and for several cruise companies. She is author of eleven books. Her RHS Herbs for the Gourmet Gardener was finalist in the 2014 Garden Media Guild Reference Book of the Year Award. Other titles include Impressionists in their Gardens and Follies of Europe - architectural extravaganzas. Design consultancies include Tudor-inspired gardens for a Humanist Renaissance 'journey' around Notre Dame de Calais, 16th-18th-century orchards and gardens with modern operatic borders at High House for the Royal Opera House, and the poisons planting in the Alnwick Garden. She co-presented 'Glorious Gardens' on Anglia TV and has presented several series for BBC Radio 4. Caroline was the recipient of 'The Gertrude B Foster Award for Excellence in Herbal Literature' in 2011 and 'The Elizabeth Crisp Rea Award' in 2017 from the Herb Society of America.
Course programme

Friday
Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00  Dinner
20:30 – 22:00  Session 1  Defining the perfect English country house and garden – the Manor
  Hemingford Grey
22:00  Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30  Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30  Session 2  The English Enlightenment, its houses and landscapes With special reference to the theatricals of William Kent and the formulaic intelligence of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown
10:30  Coffee
11:00 – 12:30  Session 3  The sublime English setting – Stourhead from Bubble to bereavement and bequest
13:00  Lunch
14:00 – 16:00  Free
16:00  Tea
18:00 – 18:30  Free
18:30  Dinner
20:00 – 21:30  Session 5  O to be in England …  Students are invited to bring in prose, poetry or music that evokes Englishness to share with the group and discuss
21:30  Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30  Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30  Session 6  English Country House style – Nancy Lancaster and ‘shabby chic’  With special reference to Kelmarsh Hall and Ditchley Park
10:30  Coffee
11:00 – 12:30  Session 7  International Englishness – Highclere Castle saved by ‘Downton Abbey’  Medieval roots through High Victorian ornament to small screen celebrity
12:45  Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch
Course syllabus

Aims:
- To develop an understanding of whether an 'English' Country House is defined by its garden. Is it a marriage of equals or does one drive the other?
- To explore whether ‘Englishness’ can be defined and used to fund the upkeep of historic houses and their gardens;
- To enhance an appreciation of the varied roles played and achievements of architects, designers and owners.

Content:
We will explore defining Englishness through England’s architecture and gardens, including a critical walk around Madingley Hall. Dating back to 1130, the Manor Hemingford Grey is reputedly the oldest inhabited house in England, the rural English home at one with its billowing, floriferous gardens. We will analyse a more colourful, complex weave to the term English, exploring the creations of noted designers, artists, grandees and homemakers. The classical English house and landscape was effectively defined during the eighteenth century by William Kent and Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. The sober Palladian architecture of Stourhead provides an august house from which to explore its Saxon roots, sublime English setting and family history. A horror of nineteenth industrialisation inspired William Morris in a quest for beauty, utility and the vernacular - the English Arts and Crafts movement. Morris’s Kelmscott Manor being an exemplar. Trained as an artist Gertrude Jekyll crafted her house, buoyant in quintessential flowering English gardens, at Munstead Wood, with architect Edwin Lutyens who evolved ‘Wrennaissance’ architecture. ‘English Country House Style’ was defined and perfected by a Virginian, Nancy (Tree) Lancaster from the 1920’s. The television series Downtown Abbey has reinvented Highclere Castle into an English icon of international proportions.

Presentation of the course:
Use will be made of powerpoint presentations illustrated with contemporary and surviving landscape views, plans, cartoons and portraits. The class is encouraged to engage in debate with their own definitions of Englishness and to choose poetry or prose or music that it evokes. Weather permitting we will walk in Madingley’s own gardens to examine the benefits of the flowering setting that enhances its architecture.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:
- Gain an enhanced appreciation of the evolution of the English house and garden;
- Recognise the work of a selection of key architects and designers;
- Enjoy the cultural significance of house and garden in English history.
Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston, Lucy</td>
<td>Memories incorporating Perverse and Foolish and Memory in a House.</td>
<td>Colt Books Ltd, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jekyll, Gertrude</td>
<td><em>Old West Surrey</em> (1904)</td>
<td><a href="https://archive.org/details/oldwestsurrey00jeky">https://archive.org/details/oldwestsurrey00jeky</a></td>
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Supplementary reading

Highclere Castle [https://www.highclerecastle.co.uk/history-highclere-castle-gardens](https://www.highclerecastle.co.uk/history-highclere-castle-gardens)
Kent, William and Rousham [https://www.ft.com/content/0333f618-adc3-11e3-9ddc-00144feab7de](https://www.ft.com/content/0333f618-adc3-11e3-9ddc-00144feab7de)
Morris, William [http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/w/william-morris/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/w/william-morris/)


**BBC Radio 4 In our time** programmes are available, in order of relevance:

Englishness [http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546r8](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546r8)
The Grand Tour [http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548fs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548fs)
Heritage [http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548j4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548j4)

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.