

March course week: wonderful weather, stunning accommodation...



In March Cohorts 17 and 18 were treated to a week in the Tudor country manor, Madingley Hall, just outside Cambridge and home of the Institute of Continuing Education at the University. Temperatures reached 21°C! (Those of you less used to the unique weather of the UK might be surprised to hear that at the time of writing we are in the middle of hail storms.) However there were two complaints about the week; not enough time to relax in the Capability Brown landscaped gardens, and too much good food.

...and a fantastic studio project from Nick Hill

The theme of the week was heritage and conservation, perfectly tailored to the surroundings, and the studio project was the late 15th century Grade 1 listed Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire. The Hall has entertained Tudor and Stuart royalty, and has one of the most important Jacobean interiors in the country. Compulsorily purchased by English Heritage after falling into neglect, £4m worth of essential repairs have been carried out. The 'small' task set the IDBE was to find a

working solution which would cover the further £4m repairs required and to bring the Hall back into use.

Nick Hill, English Heritage Project Director for Apethorpe Hall, ran the studio project. On the first day of the residential week he gave a superb overview of the hall and its history, shown here in the video clips from the courtyard. He also took smaller groups around the hall, answering definitively every question posed.

The visit was a great experience for all the students – both those who have never had the opportunity to experience buildings with such a rich history, and those who have a particular interest in conservation and heritage. Nick was a fantastic studio leader, and as a studio project Apethorpe Hall will be a hard act to follow!



IDBE course recommended for re-accreditation

The IDBE is very pleased to announce that the course has been recommended for re-accreditation as a Masters for further learning with the ICE, IStructE, CIHT and IHE, for intakes from 2012-2016.

Huge thanks to IDBE students **Cham Ariyaratne** and **Chris Poutney**, who gave up their time to talk about their experience of the course to the visiting panel – they obviously said all the right things!

The course has been accredited with the four institutions since 2007, with RICS since 2008, and as a provider of Advanced CPD with the RIBA since 2011. We are currently applying for accreditation from CIBSE.



