

## *The Great Houses of Yorkshire*

Sunday, September 16 – Saturday, September 22, 2012  
7 Days – 6 Nights

\$5,300 per person, based on double occupancy



By Kind Permission of Castle Howard Estate

Yorkshire may contain more magnificent historic houses than any county in Britain. We will be visiting many of them, including Castle Howard, famous as the starring player in the two filmed versions of *Brideshead Revisited*, as well as the little-visited Sledmere, a jewel-like Neoclassical masterpiece still in the ownership of its original family. Another star is Newby Hall, a glorious Robert Adam house with a core very likely by Christopher Wren, followed by Sion Hill House, an exceptional Edwardian country house by Walter Brierley, known as “the Yorkshire Lutyens.” A tour of Bishopthorpe Palace, the official residence of the Archbishop of York for more than 750 years, is followed the next day by the astounding York Minster, one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in Northern Europe, after which we walk to nearby Fairfax House, one of Britain’s finest townhouses. Scampston Hall, winner of the *Country Life House of the Year Award*, will throw its doors open to us, as will Harewood House, one of England’s great treasure houses, chock-a-block with its original Chippendale furniture and jaw-dropping grand interiors. We will be staying at Middlethorpe Hall in York, one of England’s supreme country house hotels.



## MIDDLETHORPE HALL



Middlethorpe is a 1699 house that has been authentically refurbished as a luxury country house hotel, keeping the elegance and grandeur of the house's heyday. The 24 acres of grounds near the York Racecourse south of town envelop a walled garden, a pond, and exotic tree specimens. Two converted cottages house a spa with a 42-foot pool, a gym, whirlpool, sauna, steam room, solarium, and three treatment rooms.

**Middlethorpe Hall and Spa**  
Bishopthorpe Road  
York, North Yorkshire YO23 2GB  
Telephone – 011-44-1904-641-241  
[www.middlethorpe.com](http://www.middlethorpe.com)



Swimming Pool at Middlethorpe Hall

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# ITINERARY

## *The Great Houses of Yorkshire*

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; T = Cream Tea;  
R = Reception; D = Dinner

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**Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
DEPART U.S.

Depart the United States no later than  
today.

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### **DAY 1**

**Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

R, D

Arrive in York no later than today and transfer to the hotel independently (*at additional cost*). Rail tickets for the two-hour journey from London King's Cross Station to York are available for advance purchase about 12 weeks prior (June 24) from £28.50 Standard Fare and from £65 First Class. To book online, go to [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk). A 10-minute taxi transfer from York Station to Middlethorpe Hall is approximately £7. The nearest major airport is Leeds, about 1.5 hours' drive from the hotel.

Should you arrive in York early and wish recommendations of things to do, please contact Meg.

Check in to **Middlethorpe Hall**, originally an 18<sup>th</sup> century gentleman's home and now a luxury hotel on the outskirts of York. .



By Kind Permission  
of Middlethorpe Hall

The Drawing Room at Middlethorpe Hall

Plan to arrive at Middlethorpe in late afternoon, allowing yourself time to settle into the beautifully-decorated bedrooms before drinks and dinner. Our stay will be made memorable by superb service and outstanding food, with rooms ranging from the Deluxe Double in the Main House (available on a first-come, first-served basis) to the Superior Double in the Courtyard, which lacks the high ceilings, but affords more privacy.

Our program officially begins with a before-dinner slide lecture on the architectural history of York by **Peter Brown**, Director of York Civic Trust. Drinks and dinner will follow in the private Grill Room.



Photo by  
Curt DiCamillo

Castle Howard

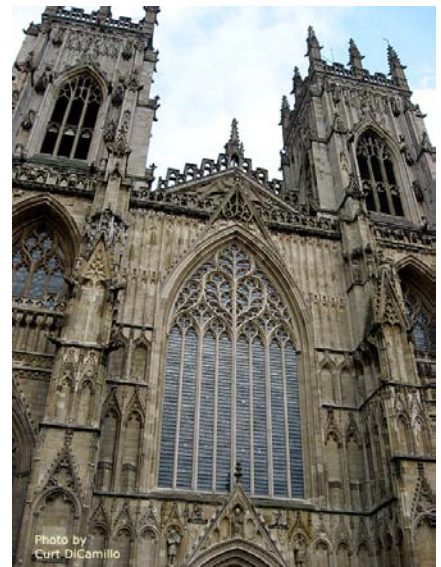


Photo by  
Curt DiCamillo

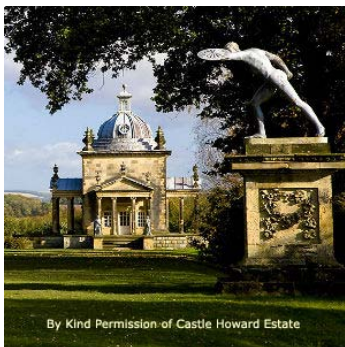
York Minster

## DAY 2

Monday,  
September 17<sup>th</sup>

B, L, D

Our tour begins at one of Yorkshire's most stately and fabled houses, **Castle Howard**. Sir John Vanburgh's great baroque creation is familiar as the spectacular setting for both film adaptations of *Brideshead Revisited*. In addition to important furniture and pictures, Castle Howard has relics of the Grand Tour, which will be a special focus. We will enjoy a before-hours guided tour of the house and time to explore the garden and trek to the Mausoleum (weather permitting). Lunch will follow in the private Grecian Hall at Castle Howard.



Temple of the Four Winds  
Castle Howard

## CASTLE HOWARD



Castle Howard is generally considered to be the finest private residence in Yorkshire and the first great British house of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is particularly noted for its great dome (above), which soars 80 feet and was the first dome in a private house in Britain. Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd called the approach to Castle Howard "probably the most dramatic of all the great houses of England and Wales." The House sits in an Estate of 10,000 acres, of which 1,000 are devoted to gardens and follies, including the Temple of the Four Winds, the building in England which has the most in common with the built architecture of Palladio. The Chapel of 1805, originally planned as a columned Dining Hall, has a ceiling based on the Chapel Royal in St. James's Palace, with stained glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones and manufactured by William Morris. Horace Walpole, writing in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on Castle Howard: "Nobody had informed me at one view I should see a palace, a town, a fortified city, temples on high places, woods worthy of being each a metropolis of the Druids, the noblest lawn in the world fenced by half the horizon, and a mausoleum that would tempt one to be buried alive; in short, I have seen gigantic places before, but never a sublime one."

## SLEDMERE HOUSE



Photo by Curt DiCamillo

Continue on to **Sledmere House**, the elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century house of Sir Tatton Sykes, with fine plasterwork and furniture by Chippendale and Hepplewhite.

Return to the hotel for dinner.

The architectural historian John Cornforth on the interiors of Sledmere: “It is as if a recollection of the Baths of Caracalla and Diocletian have been combined with those of Renaissance galleries of the Palazzo Farnese and Villa Madama looking out over formal gardens, but here terraces and fountains are replaced by the amphitheatre of [Capability] Brown’s landscape.” One of the surprises at Sledmere is the Turkish Room, designed by the Armenian artist David Ohanessian in memory of Sir Mark Sykes, 6<sup>th</sup> Bt., who died at 39 in 1919 from the worldwide flu epidemic. The room is a copy of one of the Sultan’s apartments in the Valideh Mosque in Istanbul (the tiles were made in Damascus under the supervision of Ohanessian). The Roman Catholic Chapel has a fine ceiling painted by Thomas Errington that depicts the four winged creatures of the Evangelists. Sledmere is set within a park of 960 acres designed in 1777 by Capability Brown. The gardens include an 18<sup>th</sup> century walled rose garden and the recently laid-out knot garden (installed by the current baronet, Sir Tatton Sykes).



Photo by Curt DiCamillo

The Chapel

## DAY 3

Tuesday,  
September 18<sup>th</sup>

B, L, R, D

This morning we will visit **Newby Hall**, the seat of Richard Compton, whose family have been here since 1748. The original house, likely designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was altered and added to by Robert Adam in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Newby houses a magnificent collection of Chippendale furniture, Gobelins tapestries, and classical statuary. There will be time for the shop and garden.

Lunch at the **Crab & Lobster** in Asenby, a charming country restaurant.

Continue to **Sion Hill House** for a tour of the House and a walk around the grounds with Michael Malleby, the resident curator. This Edwardian country house by York architect Walter Henry Brierley (1862–1926) houses the Mawer collection of furniture, porcelain, paintings, and clocks. Time to enjoy the immaculate gardens.

## NEWBY HALL



The distinguished architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner: “Robert Adam’s interiors at Newby are amongst the finest of their date anywhere in Europe.” What more can one say?! Adam’s spectacular Sculpture Gallery (containing one of the finest collections of ancient sculpture in private hands) was the inspiration for the classical galleries at the National Gallery of Art’s ground-breaking 1984-85 exhibition *The Treasure Houses of Britain* in Washington, DC. With the River Ure running through them, the gardens, which won the *Christie’s/HHA Garden of the Year Award* in 1987, span 25 acres and contain famous double herbaceous borders and the National Collection of the Genus *Cornus* (dogwoods).



The Entrance Hall



Sion Hill House

Return to Middlethorpe Hall to rest and freshen up before an evening tour and reception at **Bishopthorpe Palace**, the official residence of the Archbishop of York for more than 750 years. The 13<sup>th</sup> century Palace, which sits on the River Ouse in a wooded, rural setting, was remodeled by Thomas Atkinson between 1763 and 1769. The grounds feature the Stables, the Brewhouse, and the Gatehouse. Dinner will follow (venue to be determined).



Bishopthorpe Palace



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**DAY 4****Wednesday,  
September 19<sup>th</sup>**

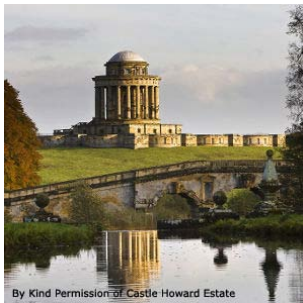
SHROPSHIRE

B, R, D

The morning is free to relax and enjoy the grounds and facilities at Middlethorpe Hall. Lunch is on your own.

This afternoon we head into **York** to explore this medieval city on foot with Peter Brown. We will end at **York Minster** for a tour and the Choral Evensong, sung by the Minster Choir at York Minster.

Continue on to **Fairfax House**, a stunning Georgian house in the center of town displaying an exceptionally fine collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century English furniture. Enjoy an after-hours reception, tour, and dinner at Fairfax House hosted by Director Hannah Phillip.



The Mausoleum  
Castle Howard

**FAIRFAX HOUSE**

Photo by  
Curt DiCamillo

Considered one of the finest townhouses in Britain, Fairfax House was created by Lord Fairfax in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His daughter Anne sold Fairfax House in 1772, after the death of her father. The House served many uses over the subsequent years, falling further and further down the ladder of respectability as time passed. From 1920 until 1966 Fairfax House served as a movie theater and dance hall. After the closure of the theater and dance hall York City Council, owners of the property, was determined to rid itself of the House by public auction. The Council was only dissuaded from this route in 1981 by an offer from the trustees of the late Noel Terry to house his collection of Georgian furniture (described by Christie's as one of the finest private collections of Georgian furniture formed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century) at Fairfax House, contingent upon the completion of a fully restored house. In 1983-84 the York Civic Trust acquired Fairfax House and restored it brilliantly.

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## DAY 5

Thursday,  
September 20<sup>th</sup>

B, L, T

Two lesser known houses still in private hands will make today special. This morning we will visit **Scampston Hall**, a winner of the *Country Life House of the Year Award*, which contains many fine paintings, as well as furniture and porcelain collections. Sir Charles Legard will welcome the group to his family home. There will also be time to wander through the Walled Garden. Lunch will follow at Scampston Hall.

### SCAMPSTON HALL



Scampston was built for Sir William St. Quintin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet, circa 1690, and the Estate has remained in the family ever since. The House was extensively rebuilt in 1801; the current Regency interiors date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century remodeling. The collection includes many paintings by Thomas Gainsborough, who was a close friend of the 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet. There is also a fine collection of Sèvres and porcelain from various English factories, and furniture by Chippendale and Gillows. The Park includes 10 acres of lakes and a large walk-in Rock and Water garden featuring a collection of alpinas. The grounds were designed by Capability Brown, who also designed the recently restored Palladian Bridge.

Then on to **Birdsall House**, a mid-16<sup>th</sup> century house owned by the Willoughby family, for a tour with Lady Cara Willoughby, granddaughter-in-law of the late Lord Middleton. The family have been art and furniture collectors for generations and Birdsall houses specialized collections, including Chippendale furniture and paintings by Romney, Reynolds, Batoni, and Winterhalter. Birdsall has a rich family history with an unbroken line of family portraits from 1580. Enjoy a Cream Tea at Birdsall House.

Return to Middlethorpe Hall for an evening at leisure and dinner on your own. A list of suggested restaurants in town will be provided.





Birdsall House

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## DAY 6

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

B, L, D

Today we will visit two of Yorkshire's most outstanding houses. We will begin at **Harewood House**, seat of the Earls of Harewood and one of Robert Adam's greatest creations. The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl, who died in 2011, was a grandson of King George V and added important works of contemporary art to the collection. Our before-hours tour with Anna Robinson, Head of Collections, will emphasize the rich designs of Adam and the extraordinary Chippendale furniture, considered the finest collection in the world. Lunch will follow in the Courtyard Restaurant.

## HAREWOOD HOUSE



## HAREWOOD HOUSE

The art collection at Harewood is outstanding and includes Italian Renaissance art and paintings by Turner, El Greco, Titian, Tintoretto, Gainsborough, and Reynolds, in addition to excellent examples of Sèvres and Chinese porcelain. There is also a fine collection of 20<sup>th</sup> century art, most notably Jacob Epstein's colossal alabaster statue of Adam. The great Regency silversmith Paul Storr produced a pair of silver-gilt copies of the Warwick Vase as part of a 50-piece desert service commissioned by Edward Lascelles to commemorate his elevation to the peerage as Earl of Harewood. An extraordinary 74-piece creamware dinner service made circa 1790 by the French firm of Stone, Coquerel and Legros d'Anisy that shows transfer printed sepia scenes of churches and houses in Britain, as well as French scenes, was given by Queen Mary to her daughter, the Princess Royal, who was married to the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Harewood. Four of the plates (showing Wentworth Woodhouse, Harewood House, Glamis Castle, and Sandbeck) appeared in the seminal 1985-86 exhibition *The Treasure Houses of Britain* at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

This afternoon we will visit **Temple Newsam House**, a stunning 17<sup>th</sup> century house with superb decorative arts and pictures, for a tour with Curator Emeritus James Lomax.



This evening enjoy drinks, followed by a farewell dinner at Middlethorpe Hall.

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### DAY 7

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

B

The tour officially ends. Independent transfers to the York train station and Leeds Airport can be arranged at an additional cost.





## *The Great Houses of Yorkshire*

September 16 – 22, 2012

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### PROGRAM PRICES

Land-Only Tour Cost           \$5,300 per person, double occupancy

Single Supplement           \$995\*

*\*Based on a Deluxe Room in the Main House; deduct \$300 if you choose a Superior Room in the Courtyard*

**Includes:** Six nights' luxury accommodation; Yorkshire breakfast daily; four lunches; one cream tea; three evening receptions; and five dinners, including pre-dinner drinks; wine/beer and coffee at lunches and dinners; transportation by private deluxe coach; lectures as indicated; donations and entrances to sites indicated; portage at Middlethorpe Hall; tips and taxes for included services; gratuities for the coach driver; Tour Lecturer to provide commentary; Tour Director to manage logistics.

**Excludes:** Round-trip airfare to and from England; airport transfers; train to and from York (if applicable); meals and beverages not otherwise included; items for personal use, including phone, fax and email charges, minibar, and laundry services; passport fees, in any.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

This tour is operated by Travel Muse for The DiCamillo Companion, Ltd.

#### AIR TRAVEL

The tour cost excludes airfare. Travel Muse recommends booking online or through Ann Barrasi at agency affiliate The Travel Collaborative. Ann can be reached at 617-497-8160, or 1-800-370-7400 ext. 60 or [abarassi@tvcoll.com](mailto:abarassi@tvcoll.com). If you wish to travel using frequent flyer miles, you can make arrangements directly with the card members' travel center, or Ann will assist for a fee of \$100 for a mileage-award booking, and \$75 for a mileage-award upgrade. Ann will also assist with any pre- or post-tour arrangements.

#### AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Airport transfers are at additional cost. Information will be provided about independent and pre-arranged transfers closer to the tour.



## HOTEL AND SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Middlethorpe Hall has 29 bedrooms with a choice of Deluxe Rooms in the Main House and Superior Rooms in the Courtyard. All bedrooms have ensuite facilities. The right is reserved to substitute hotels when necessary. Although Travel Muse will endeavor to arrange for congenial travel companions, this cannot be guaranteed and a single supplement will be charged when necessary.

## MEALS

Only those meals indicated are included in the cost of the tour:

**B** = Breakfast; **L** = Lunch; **T** = Cream Tea; **R** = Reception; **D** = Dinner

## ITINERARY

Although Travel Muse and ground operators will make every effort to adhere to the itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to circumstances beyond our control. Should any activities not be available, substitution will be made to the best of our ability and no refund will be made. Any additional costs necessitated by such changes are the responsibility of the tour member. *Please note that there will be significant walking and standing, as well as tight staircases to navigate. The tour is not handicap accessible. Casual dress is recommended, particularly comfortable shoes. And always be prepared for weather.*

## TOUR COSTS

Prices are based on a minimum of 14 paying participants and a currency exchange rate of \$1.70 to the British Pound. At the time of final payment, Travel Muse reserves the right to add any increased amounts arising from changes in foreign exchange rates and taxes and from changes instituted by suppliers or caused by market conditions. All local/government taxes on hotels, meals, and services in the itinerary are included in addition to normal gratuities to porters, waiters, and local guides. Rates are based on group participation, and *there can be no refund for services or portions of the tour not taken. It is also understood and agreed that all excursions are optional and refunds cannot be made to tour members who do not participate or complete the tour, for any reason.*

## PHONE OR EMAIL

For questions, please call Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse in Boston, MA: 617-469-7370, or toll-free at 1-877-716-1776. Or send an e-mail to: [meg@travelmuse.net](mailto:meg@travelmuse.net).

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# TERMS & CONDITIONS

## LIMIT OF LIABILITY

Travel Muse and all its agents act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation, hotels, and other arrangements of this tour, and exercise every care possible. However, we cannot assume liability for accident, illness or injury, delay, loss, damage or expenses incurred, of or by clients and/or tour members and their property, alleged to have occurred as a result of strikes, riots, public disturbances, terrorism, war, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. Travel Muse disclaims any and all responsibility for changes in air, coach, boat and other transport services and for any consequences of such changes. Travel Muse also reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure in which event the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation or liability on its part, though exceptions may be made for unforeseen circumstances such as acts of terrorism in which case refunds will be made based on monies recovered from suppliers. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person or group, without any liability either to such person or group or agent/organizer/client or any other party connected to this service. The right is reserved to substitute accommodations, carriers or any other qualified leader; or to alter the itinerary of the program at any time when deemed appropriate or advisable without penalty or liability. The sole responsibility of any airline used for this tour is limited to that set out in the passenger contract evidenced by the ticket.

## PAYMENTS

Deposits will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. An invoice will be sent to you upon receipt for a partial balance due May 11th, and a final balance due August 3rd, 2012.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

**All cancellations must be made in writing to:**

**Travel Muse, 25 Montclair Avenue, West Roxbury, MA 02132**

### Cancellation Penalty

- Cancellations received prior to May 11<sup>th</sup> \$300 \*
- Cancellations received from May 11<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> \$600 \*
- Cancellations received on or after August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
and up until the day of departure: **Total tour cost \*\***

\* *Cancellation fee covers administrative and operational costs and any penalties assessed by suppliers.*

\*\* *Travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit.*

This tour is operated by Travel Muse for  
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76 Elm Street, No. 310, Boston, MA 02130-2999 USA  
[www.DiCamilloCompanion.com](http://www.DiCamilloCompanion.com)



# The Great Houses of Yorkshire

September 16 – 22, 2012

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## RESERVATION FORM

Please complete this Reservation Form and send it with your deposit of US\$1,000 per person (by check payable to Travel Muse) to: TRAVEL MUSE, 25 Montclair Avenue, West Roxbury, MA 02132 USA.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include preferred titles: Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Lord, Lady)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province/County: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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### ACCOMMODATION

\_\_\_\_ We would like to share a room: \_\_\_\_ Twin beds \_\_\_\_ King bed

\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to have a \_\_\_\_ Non-smoking room \_\_\_\_ Smoking room

### IF SINGLE

\_\_\_\_ I would like to have a single Deluxe Room in the Main House at the supplemental cost of \$995

\_\_\_\_ I would like to have a single Superior Room in the Courtyard at the supplemental cost of \$695

\_\_\_\_ Please assist me in finding a roommate. (*If none can be found, I will pay the single supplement.*)

### DIETARY

Are there any foods you cannot eat? \_\_\_\_\_

### WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I (we) have read the details of this brochure, including the Terms and Conditions, and agree to abide by all stipulations contained therein.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





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### **CURT DICAMILLO**

*a brief biography*

Mr. DiCamillo is an American architectural historian and a recognized authority on the British country house. He has written and lectured extensively in the U.S. and abroad on the subject. Since 1999 Curt has maintained an award-winning database on the web, **The DiCamillo Companion to British & Irish Country Houses** ([www.DiCamilloCompanion.com](http://www.DiCamilloCompanion.com)). The database seeks to document every English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish country house ever built, standing or demolished, together with a history of the families who lived in the houses, the architects who designed them, and the history of the collections and gardens.

In recognition of his work in helping to preserve historic British buildings, Curt has been presented to the late Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales. He is a member of The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, an alumnus of the Royal Collection Studies program and The Attingham Summer School for the Study of Historic Houses and Collections, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*, and is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Since 2004 Curt has served as Executive Director of The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, based in Boston. Previously he worked for 13 years for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and taught on the subject of British historic houses at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. A native of the Philadelphia area, Curt grew up in Central Florida with his sister, the award-winning children's book author Kate DiCamillo.