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**Clockwise from far left:** Collected vignettes like this one are plentiful at Monique Relander's shoppable home. Anouk Beerents' charming shop in Amsterdam features a bevy of gilded mirrors. Truly unique finds are around every corner at Espace Nord Ouest. An antique clock at Lorforde's Antiques.



into an old friend's home (coffee and tea at the ready), Baert's magnetic personality and collection will welcome you into her eccentric world, where a pair of distressed wooden penguins and a gilded papier-mâché boot holding an umbrella will leave you wondering why you didn't already own such quirky things.

**What you'll find:** Antique garden gnomes, an anatomical model of a worker bee and a menagerie of wooden lay figures somehow seem obvious, filling every nook and cranny of Baert's home. Your resting place for an espresso and a chat, a 14-foot-long table, made out of one solid piece of oak, is where you survey your surroundings and unexpectedly spot two perfectly worn red-leather Cassina chairs and a cheery bird-adorned plaster chandelier by Jacques Darbaud, circa 1990.

## JVR108

*Antwerp, Belgium*

**Reason to go:** Antiquing through Belgium could take a few days, and Philip Ver Hoeye and Frederick Aers' luxury three-bedroom guesthouse in Antwerp is unquestionably an ultrachic place to rest. The best part? Most of the furnishings throughout the fully renovated historical mansion are for sale, as are all the finds next door at their dedicated antiques shop. **What you'll find:** The lovely hosts of JVR108 recently acquired all the contents of Belgium's famous Chateau Rozenhout, which means you can own an iconic piece from one of the great houses of Europe. Other offerings include keenly curated British, Italian, Swedish and Asian antiques that exemplify the couple's exceptional tastes.

## Monique Relander

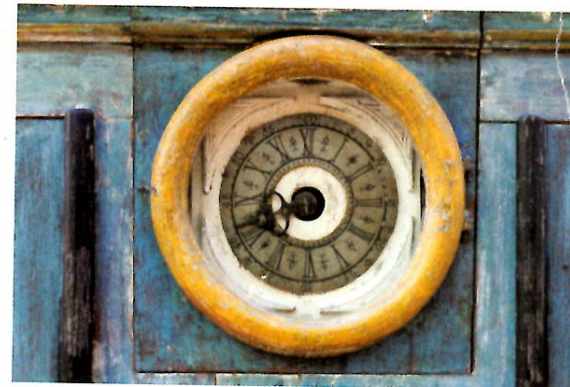
*Schoten, Belgium*

**Reason to go:** From the looks of Monique Relander's home, "edit, edit, edit" is her mantra. An impeccable assortment of antique and vintage furnishings, lighting, tabletop and décor beckon you to roam through every room, taking in the crystal chandeliers, velvet scallop-edged settees, and oil works by Belgian artist Smaël Laurent. **What you'll find:** Newly upholstered midcentury Italian armchairs, Swedish loungers and Louis XV-style caned dining chairs abound. A zebra-hide rug might lead your eye into another room where a marble-topped gueridon table with gilded swan adornments holds a Maison Charles pineapple lamp. A peek into her country kitchen, complete with a bifocals-wearing boar head holding guard above the fireplace, may reveal a medley of vintage fruit-shaped ice buckets.

## Anouk Beerents

*Amsterdam, Netherlands*

**Reason to go:** If you're ever faced with the arduous choice of how to spend an afternoon in Amsterdam, we're about to make it easy for you: Make a point to see Anouk Beerents' inconceivably magical mirror shop. Ornate gilded mirror after mirror hung on movable tracks will leave you intoxicated and enamored, as if you walked through the looking glass itself into a wonderland. **What you'll find:** Beerents specializes in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century French gilded



mirrors, specifically Louis XIV, Régence, Louis XV and Louis XVI, all of which she sources herself. To preserve authenticity, Beerents conservatively restores them with old-world techniques.

## Espace Nord Ouest

*Bondues, France*

**Reason to go:** Two hours north of Paris, Espace Nord Ouest is quickly becoming *the* European source for antiques dealers in the states that focus on decorative eccentricities, as well as major fashion retailers looking to outfit their stores with unique curiosities. **What you'll find:** Seventeen professional dealers over nearly 13,000 square feet offer a downright cool assortment of 17<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>-century pieces, such as industrial and shop furniture, garden décor, architectural salvage, classic French seating and case pieces, and vintage midcentury lighting and furnishings.