

## “I’m a real Cath Kidston fan”

*Yvonne keeps through her blog the world informed about her creative endeavours and the wellbeing of her cat, Boo. We got curious and paid her a visit.*

### **Yvonne Eijkenduijn (32) in brief**

**Hometown** Sint-Oedenrode **Type of house** barn conversion from 1924 **Married to** Boris Eijkenduijn (39) freelance sign maker **Pet** Cat Boo

We were only living in Suriname for three weeks when we realized that our move was quite impulsive. It was too hot and our cat Boo didn’t like it much either. Even though our furniture was still on its way to Suriname, we were already on a plane back to The Netherlands. We rented a house in the village while we searched for a place to buy. But we looked for something that was untouched. This may sound weird, but a house like that has always the authentic details we wanted so badly. This house needed a lot of work. It was completely neglected but in return we got the original doors, stained glass, tiled and granite floors.

### **Finding a style**

After living in a rented house for two years that wasn’t our taste and weren’t allowed to change a new world opened up to us; interior!!

We love a mix of kitsch, antiques, Scandinavian, design and English country. The question left was: how are we going to do that? Back then I read in Amy Butler’s *Found Style* book the message find a style that way it’s easier to decorate. The quarter dropped when I entered Cath Kidston’s London shop in 2004: this is it! Since then I’m a fan. People often think that the house is my thing and that Boris doesn’t have a say in it but that’s wrong, we have very similar taste. Sometimes I try something out and then he’ll say: ‘I don’t really see where you’re going’. I reply that he should trust me, things will turn out ok and often they do. He’s always very enthusiastic about all the things I do, it works stimulating. And he’s so handy! All he needs is a quick drawing and he’s off making it.

### **Own blog**

I made my own doll’s clothes at the age of eight. My mother used to be a fashion design teacher. She was always busy crocheting, cross-stitching, sewing and knitting. She used to buy a lot of fabric: two rooms full of fabric, yarn and thread. It drove me mad. I think that’s the reason why I buy so economically these days: I never buy something to ‘just have it’. I can’t find my stuff in The Netherlands. When I try to find mint green towels I can’t find them because it happens to be that mint green isn’t in fashion.

## “On the internet you have the world at your feet”

I never set for something that I don’t want. So I’ll keep searching until I find it and often I end up overseas, via eBay. That’s the world at my feet. You can find me a lot on the internet anyway. Every other day I spent time on my blog [www.yvestown.com](http://www.yvestown.com). I have about 4000 visitors per week mostly from the US, Australia and the UK. I put pictures of the stuff I make online and I hope to inspire people this way. It’s so nice to

get e-mail from someone who tells me they're going to make something they have seen on my blog.

### **Pictures pages 78-79**

1. Inter Antiek made the cabinet. Owner Jan keeps a lot of cabinets in his showroom and you can pick and mix: that high, that deep, that wide and that colour. The cabinet looked very odd on the white walls so we painted the walls in the colour Melody by Histor. The lamp is by Artemide. The address of the shop.
2. This cupboard was an own design and Boris made it. You can tell we love our tea.
3. We found the kitchen on Marktplaats.nl. It was blue. Boris took it apart in it's previous home and installed it in our kitchen. We didn't want to have cupboards because of the big hood and because I wanted to add some colour. The polka dot china is by Laura Ashley.
4. The wallpaper is by Cath Kidston. I really love her designs but her shipping fees are very high. Once in a while I fly low budget to London to stock up. It's cheaper compared to shopping at [www.cathkidston.co.uk](http://www.cathkidston.co.uk)! Coat rack and bench are by Timzowood.
5. The chandelier above the dining room table is antique. I never clean it because it will shine and I like it to look shabby. Bought at 't Heerenhuys. Address of the shop. We stapled oilcloth on the table. The lamp is by Marcel Wanders.

### **Pictures pages 80-81**

1. The bag is by Orla Kiely, the wallpaper is Mono Rose by Cath Kidston and the Cuckoo-Cuckoo clock was an eBay find. The cupboard is painted apple green like the closet in the bedroom.
2. No tiles but wood panelling in the bathroom. Polka dot towel by Cath Kidston.
3. Hung above the bed are Redoute replicas from 1800. Lamp by Ikea.
4. The table next to my bed moved from house to house. It's been a desk, sink and bedside table. Under it there's Boo's basket, but she also loves to sleep on the bed. The chairs are painted in Sugar Pink by Cath Kidston and upholstered with her fabric (Hippy Flowers). Bedding is by Ikea.
5. Covered patio between house and shed. The doors lead to the toilet and the utility room, where Yvonne keeps her sewing machine. Boris cut out the hearts in the doors.

To find out more about Yvonne visit her blog on [www.yvestown.com](http://www.yvestown.com), which she writes in English. On her blog you can find many links to other creative women who keep a blog just like Yvonne. Very inspiring!

Found Style – Vintage ideas for Modern Living by David and Amy Butler, ISBN ....

### **Favourites**

**Quiet moment** when I'm stressed I tell Boris that I'm going to build for a bit. This means I'm going to play the Sims 2 on my computer. I build virtual houses and gardens. Nothing disturbs me and I become calmer.

**Text** *being afraid of colour is like being afraid of being happy.* Someone told me and it's so true.

**Movie** I'm a film freak and I find it hard to just pick one. Well, Sophie's Choice with Meryl Streep.

**Spoiling** I go shopping in Eindhoven when I need something quick and in Den Bosch for if I want to get something pretty.

**Saturday off** to Bek Books in Veghel, a beautiful bookstore.

**Museum** The National Gallery in London. Free entrance!

**Music** The Beautiful South with beautiful lyrics and clean music. Anouk for when I want to scream.

### **Yvonne's address book**

**Food** Japanese and India (the rest of the text are addresses)

**Outside** the "Dieze" near Engelen. Sint-Oedenrode was voted greenest town in 2002 so we are already outside.

**Vacation** the British midlands and the US east coast.

**China** I collect Greydawn by Johnson Brothers via eBay.

**Borcante** Route 53 for some French influence in Gemert

**Fabric** cotton

**Source of inspiration** magazines and books. During the interview when we here the sound of the mailbox Yvonne flares up and shouts: "magazines!"

**Piece of furniture** I love the footstool I upholstered myself.

**On the wall** the surrealist paintings by Boris.