WHERE FAIRY TALES COME TO LIFE

The house and studio of children’s author Jan Brett are as magical as her books.

BY MEG CADOUX HIRSHBERG
PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN GRUEN

There are two ways to enter the whimsical, animal-filled world of renowned children’s author and illustrator Jan Brett: Turn to page 1 of any of her 32 books, or walk through the front door of her Massachusetts home. Both Jan’s books and her home are filled with exquisite, colorful detail and meaningful mementos from her travels and childhood. Jan and her husband, Joe Hearne, a bassist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, have crafted a home that supports, reflects, and blends their artistic lives.

Although located in a Boston suburb on less than two acres, the house borders conservation land and is visually oriented toward the backyard. The setting is wooded and cozy. Over the past 25 years, Joe and...