In 26 years of marriage, Jan and Joe have traveled to 24 countries together. Their deep bond is evident in their home. Jan has made a book of drawings for Joe depicting his many admirable qualities—from "imaginative" to "mechanically minded." She adds a new page each year.

Jan have made several additions to the house, which was built in 1978. In the process, they have converted a tight 800 square feet into an open-concept, light-filled 3,000 square feet. Architect Jim Kellihier of Axiom Architects in Hanover, Massachusetts, designed all the additions. "Jan told me she wanted the house style to be 'New England folkloric,'" Jim says. "The house still has a New England feel, with some separate rooms like the dining room and kitchen, but the rounded doors and archways and the stair tower make it playful."

Jan and Joe spend a couple of months each year traveling to research her books and touring with the BSO. The influence of these trips is evident in the design of their home. Numerous excursions to Scandinavia are reflected in their choice of unstained, honey-colored, varnished pine for all the interior trim. In Frankfurt, Germany, the couple admired the marble borders edging the carpet in the Alte Oper (Old Opera House). That led to their distinctive flooring design—sisal hemp carpet bounded by light maple wood, which is incorporated into much of the house. "The sisal has a soothing feel," Joe says. "It reminded us of the raked gravel we've seen in so many Japanese gardens."