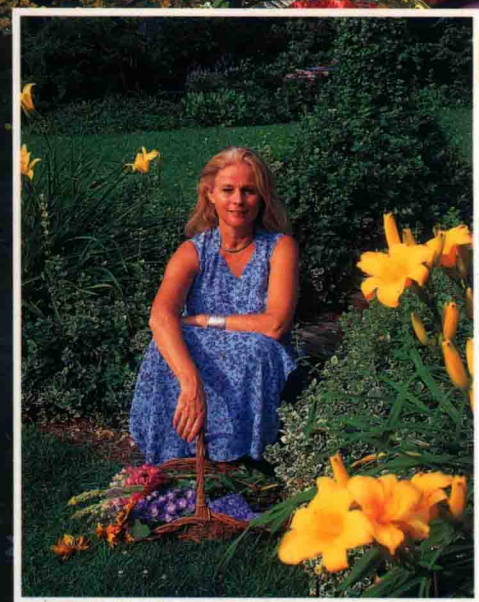
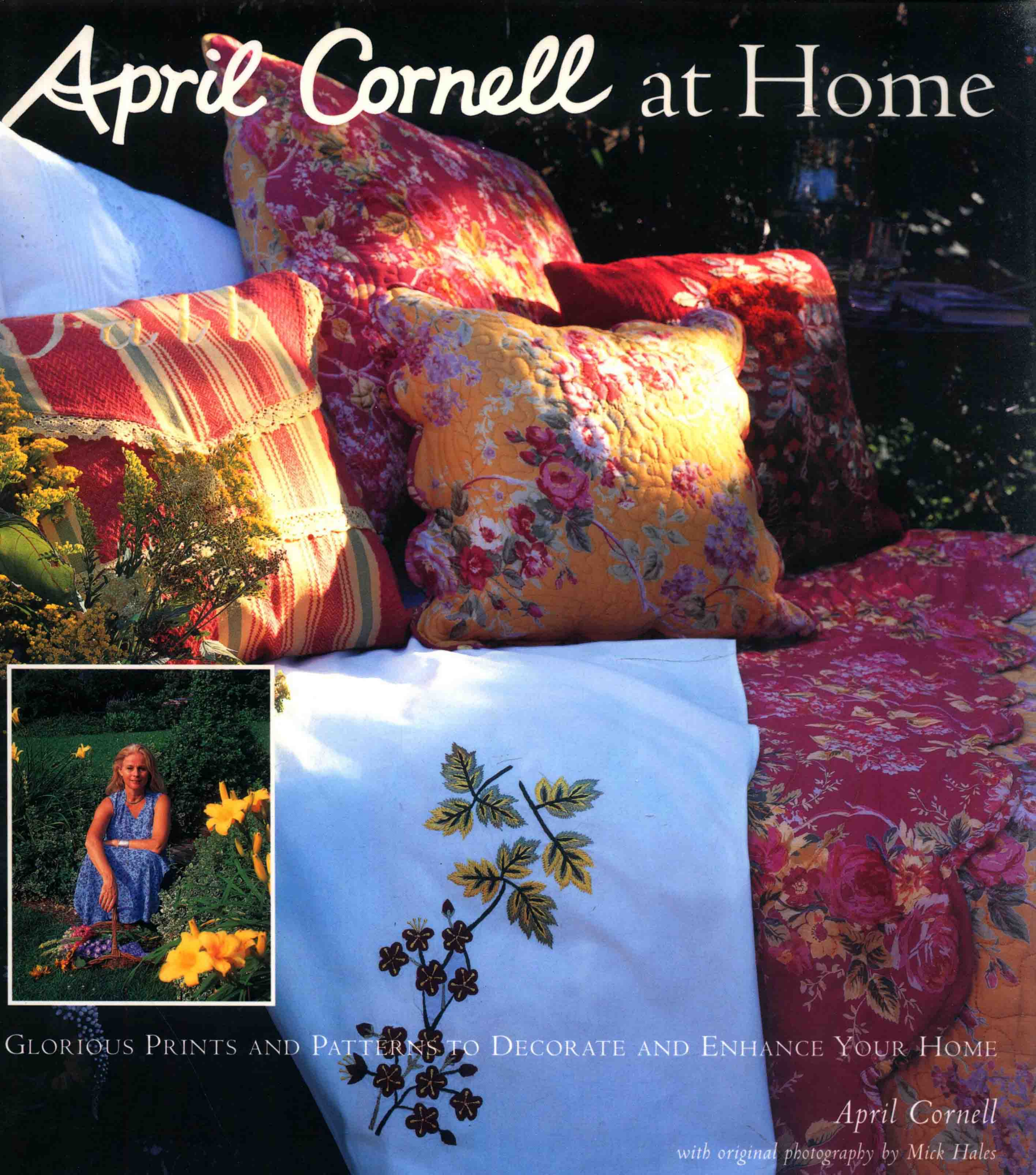


April Cornell at Home



GLORIOUS PRINTS AND PATTERNS TO DECORATE AND ENHANCE YOUR HOME

April Cornell

with original photography by Mick Hales

April Cornell at Home



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AND ENHANCE YOUR HOME

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To Chris

My husband and partner and in-everything collaborator—
who has been my man, my friend and my colleague. I dedicate
this book which is, of course, not mine—but *ours*.

To my sons, who have spent
their babyhoods in our arms,
on airplanes, trains and cars—in foreign cities
and at home—who have spent their childhoods
cavorting in shops
and hiding in changing rooms.
You have been the most loving of boys,
and are now the most elegant of men.
Thank you for making us live in the everyday,
for our precious time together
and for being with us on our family journey.



Conceived and Produced by
Glitterati Incorporated
225 Central Park West
New York, New York 10024
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Design: lync.

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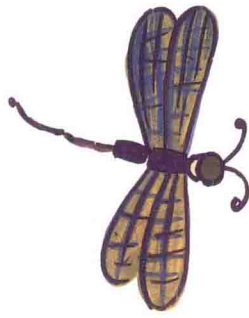
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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

Thank you to our customers for appreciating our style.
This book in words and pictures is truly for you.

Thank you to the following people
who made this book possible:

Marta Hallett and Ima Ebong for bringing us the idea.

Chris Cornell for seeing the potential and suggesting a structure.
Chris long wanted to do a book, and made sure this one happened.

My mother, Florence Janbroers and my mother-in-law, Mary Cornell,
for provoking my memory and for being sounding boards for the text.

Helene Hamel, designer, artist and champion of my vision, for
being a stickler for details and making sure we had the best book possible.

Mick Hales for being the most professional and agreeable
of photographers in the midst of a summer heat wave.

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and hunger on those hot days with practical and cheerful grace.
And, to little Leandra, her constant companion.

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every flower arrangement enhance the setting.

Robin Gronlund for steering the ship and keeping us on schedule.

Beth Robinson for graphics compilation and coordination.

Lisa Mozo for proofing the text.

Harpreet Sindhu and the Delhi team for translating my vision into product.

Thank you everyone.





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Introduction

the way we live now



Almost thirty years ago, Chris and I stood in the early morning air of a spring day in northern Afghanistan, in a town called Serepol. We were at a river bend, on a small bridge with a stream flowing beneath it. I remember there was a threshing mill beside the stream. In the distance, through the haze of the early morning light, we could glimpse villagers walking down a long country road into town. It was a beautiful and ancient sight we would hold on to forever—a memory of place, custom and beauty.

We were in Serepol looking for finely woven kilim carpetbags. About a year earlier we had started our business, Cornell Trading, buying beautiful textiles from the East and carrying them back to Montreal to sell. Well off the beaten path, Afghanistan, at that time, was our personal treasure trove. We loved the rich colors of the carpets, the flowing, floral dresses of the nomadic women and the earthy richness of the people—a composite of beauty and atmosphere.

LEFT: An old apple tree on the left, a flagstone walkway in the center and perennial plants pouring onto the path, create the framework for my flower garden. I have planted a pear tree in anticipation of the eventual demise of my apple tree. In the meantime, we enjoy the fragrant blossoms and abundant apples the old tree offers. Woodpeckers visit it frequently and our squirrels love the harvest.



LEFT: My studio is a summer porch off the dining room that we winterized. Surrounded by big trees, it feels like deep country in downtown Burlington, Vermont.

RIGHT: In my studio the heavy heads of tulips seem to fall right onto my sketchbook. Fabric swatches are hung for design reference and favorite objets d'art line the window frames and fill the desks.

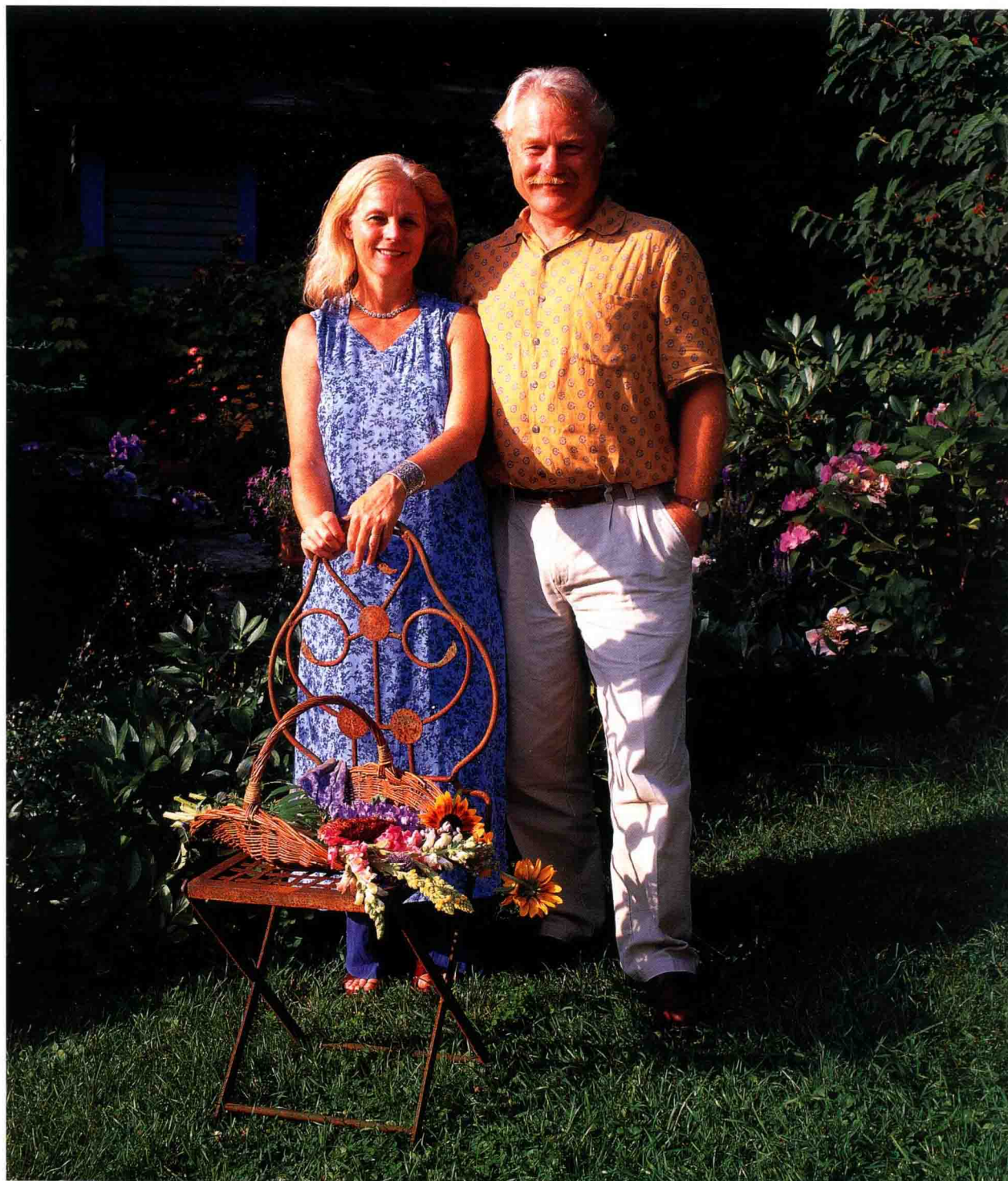
Kabul, the capital, was alive with young travelers just like us; bargaining, buying and trying their hand at business. For those who learn by doing, seeing, touching and tasting, a richer and more intimate basic business schooling would be hard to imagine. This hands-on experience formed the basic principles of our business.

Good product, fair dealing, and value for both the buyer and the seller; without this understanding, it would have been impossible to buy from the many craftsman and dealers in Afghanistan, and unlikely that we could have developed our business into what it is today.

Almost thirty years later, our love affair with textiles and design, travel and people has spawned into a business with headquarters in four countries (Canada, United States, India and China), and one hundred shops across North America. Together, we have developed a visual library of designs with references gleaned from our travels, home, and countries around the world.







LEFT: Long summer days give Chris and I time to appreciate our northern garden. Here we are standing in front of the dried flower garden with the drying shed in the background.

Our collections, ideas, abilities and our venues have grown over time. However, we have kept a constant measure by which we test our efforts and bring everything back to the beginning—to that Serepol morning. Everything must be beautiful. That is the first and basic tenet of my designing: begin with beauty and all other details will follow.

I was recently speaking to a regular customer in our Michigan store. She'd bought lots of our merchandise over the years and was telling me about it. Beside her stood her friend. I turned to her and said, "So, are you a regular customer?" "No," she smiled, "I'm just a beginner!" We all laughed. I was personally very charmed by the statement and continued to think about it for weeks afterwards.

A "beginner"—well, that's wonderful. She wants to start something new; she wants to begin. I liked that idea! But, also, in that self-description, I worried there was a feeling that she needed to acquire knowledge to use our product. I didn't like that. It seemed to me that there was a hint of nervousness, hesitation and indecision about what lay in front of her—decorating! I want my customers to feel comfortable with putting their own look together. I want them to enjoy it. It shouldn't in any way make you feel uptight or ill at ease or inexperienced—it should make you feel good. Think about eating ice cream for the first time—not too much experience required—just the desire to do it.

Chris and I are no longer the flower children of those days. We now have three grown sons, Cameron, Lee and Kelly. We live in Vermont in a big old house, not the small apartment where we started out in Montreal. We have spent our professional lives building a concept, an idea and a business that focuses on design and beautiful products.

In this book, we would like to show you how we put it all together in our own home, how we use nature as a guide, good memories as a reference point to build style and a happy atmosphere to bind it together and make it all worthwhile.

