



bookmark: craftivity

The bookshelves in my parents' house still display many of the relics from my early crafting days: a baby chick embroidered on a scrap of cloth, a yarn cat toy with a jingle bell (we didn't have a cat), and numerous wonky rainbow-painted clay ashtrays. The DIY projects in *Craftivity* (Collins) are not merely steps above my early work, but entire staircases. Collected by Tsia Carson, the founder of design Web site supernaturale.com, the 40 ideas are unusually elegant compared with most crafting books (no smoking accessories here), perfect for recycling old material, and frequently very practical. The knit hammock (try using unraveled vintage sweaters!) is ideal for anyone long on stitches and short on shape; the embroidered screen door is so simply sweet that you'll wonder why you never thought of it before; the Chandy, using strung-together old chandelier bits and a lightbulb, is a stroke of genius. There's a distinct hippie thread running through the book, in whimsical ideas such as moss graffiti and coffee tables made from old suitcases. It's a wistful and inspiring read, especially when, like me, the last crafty thing you can remember doing is stapling your dress together before leaving the house in the morning. KW

