Urban Jungle
by Roxane Cerda

Urban jungle got you down? Call up your warrior princess with a wire and shell breastplate necklace. If a call to arms isn’t what you feel like right now, gaze wistfully at the shell beads and daydream about your last tropical vacation (even if said vacation is only imaginary!).

Project Rating: Fling
Cost: $15
Necessary Skills: Wirework (page 55)

Materials
- 18 in of 20 gauge sterling silver wire
- 4 flat, front-drilled mother of pearl button beads
- 1 flat, center-drilled mother of pearl focus bead
- 12 in of black cotton waxed bead cord
- 4 silver-plated 4mm cord tips
- 1 sterling silver head pin, 2 in
- 8 sterling silver jump rings
- 1 silver necklace clasp of your choice (We opted for a magnetic clasp.)
- Wire cutters
- Round nose pliers
- Flat nose pliers
- Bead mat

1. Cut 18 in of wire from your spool and pull it into a more or less straight line.
2. Grip the wire approximately 1 in from the base and, using your hands, create a ¼-in loop.
3. Using a jump ring, add a shell button onto that loop.
4. Move another inch down the wire and, again using your hands, create a ¼-in loop.
5. Using a jump ring, add a shell button onto that loop.
Move another inch down the wire and create a 1-inch loop. Do not add a shell button to this loop, do not pass go, do not collect $100.

Place your focus bead onto your head pin and, using your round nose pliers, create a wrapped loop at the top of the focus bead. Snip the excess wire and fold down. Add your new focus bead dangle to your newly created 1-inch loop.

Move another inch down the wire and, again using your hands, create a 1⁄2-inch loop.

Using a jump ring, add a shell button onto that loop.

Move another inch down the wire and, again using your hands, create a 1⁄4-inch loop.

Using a jump ring, add a shell button onto that loop.

Move about 3⁄4 in down the wire and, this time, make a wire wrapped loop, just as you did when you created the focus bead dangle.

Bend the remaining wire back to meet the other end of the wire. Use approximately 1 in of the remaining wire to create one final wrapped loop that incorporates and secures the beginning end of the wire.

Incorporate and secure both ends of the wire in your loop.

You should now have one central wire piece. Use your hands to mold this piece into the desired shape. Once you have achieved the desired shape, bend the whole piece slightly so that it bends in slightly toward your chest. (It needs to be a bit concave so that it rests naturally when you wear it.)

Mold the central piece into approximately this shape.

Cut 6 in of bead cord and, using your flat nose pliers, add one cord tip to each end. Repeat with the remaining 6 in of bead cord.

Using jump rings, attach one end of each bead cord to one of the wire-wrapped loops at either end of your central piece.
Using jump rings, attach the other end of each bead cord to one side of your necklace clasp. You now have a necklace worthy of the Amazonian goddess that you are.

**Bag Ladies**

You can create a wire focal piece to add to pretty much any piece of jewelry, but why limit yourself to jewelry? If you’re a generally crafty gal, consider creating a wire centerpiece to adorn the flap of a hand-knit or hand-crocheted bag; use the same technique to make wind chimes, or a front piece for napkin rings or a decoration for a candle or candle holder.