

# DESIGN



## I Dream of Knick-Knacks

WORDS BY DIANE YORK

LARA KOPLIN'S GENIE BOTTLES ARE INTRIGUING TROMPE-L'ŒIL OBJETS D'ART

Specializing in floor coverings and wall murals, Lara Koplin has been working in the decorative arts for 15 years. Her work was selected to decorate rooms in the Richmond Designer House for four years in a row.

Her most current efforts are focused on the creation of intricate, 12-to-24"-tall bottles in kaleidoscopic colors (genie bottles if you will). While constructed from paper, cardboard and acetate, crocheted together and finished with patterns copied from stamped tin art, then decorated with beads, sequins and jewels, they have the look of glass decorated with gemstones.

"My imagery comes from the first half of the 20th century—I quite often am

drawn to and find inspiration from patterns that are one era's interpretation of another era...like an art deco interpretation of Chinese design. Some others similar to this are Victorian interpretations of Persian decoration or a 1970's interpretation of art nouveaux etc."

Koplin's own house, which is painted purple, is called the "genie bottle" by her friends because it is filled with surprises—an unending collection of vintage tins, antique cards, gems, sequins, wooden filial, toys, and other objects that catch her fancy.

"I can be captivated by the way the glaze on a piece of pottery looks," she explains. 😊

