Tip, Top, *Terrific*

We asked interior design whiz **Eric Cohler** to give us his top five tips
on snazzing up a space.

1. PLAN YOUR ATTACK: It's essential to begin with a plan when designing an
interior, whether it's a room or an entire house. Without a strategy, one
can't develop a budget or a sense of scale. Try to make changes on paper;
it's far less costly.

2. SPLASH ON THE COLOR: Paint is the least expensive way to change the
face and character of a room. The results are instantaneous and quite dra-
matic. Dorothy Draper was a superb colorist, known for her use of bold
color that gave her rooms timeless verve, dash, and originality.

3. HIT THE WALL(PAPER): Wallpaper is *hot*. These new papers are unlike
anything you may remember, and are being printed in contemporary pat-
terns, textures, and lush colors. Sheila Bridges' fabulous new Harlem Toile
de Jouy paper is a contemporary version of an 18th-century design, and is
available in graphic yellow and black. David Hicks, eat your heart out!

4. MAKE A GRAND GESTURE: Every room needs at least one showstopper—
something in the space that says who you are in a *big* way. It can be a large
contemporary painting, or a collection of framed photographs grouped
together, or a family heirloom you've lacquered in an unexpected color. It's
not about cost, but about making a statement. Billy Baldwin always made
sure of this in every project—he believed in art for art's sake.

5. GET SHADY: A lampshade can make or break a room. Sounds simple, but
it's true. One's eye automatically goes to the shade. So, either keep it simple,
or go for baroque and use an over-the-top style to create interest and drama.
It's not so much the lamp, but the shade that matters. A good-looking shade
will cover a multitude of sins. When in doubt, use a paper or vellum shade—
you can't go wrong. Thomas O'Brien, who's mastered the art of the paper
shade, gets it right every time. [G]