

THE cheapest, easiest and most dynamic way to tart up a house is to paint it. And now's the time to get

out the roller.

There's been an explosion of colour on the home front — rich colours replacing the subtler tones of the 80s.

If I were a kid in a scungy flat wondering how to jolly up my dismal surroundings, I'd try to persuade the landlord to supply the wherewithal so I could paint the walls of each room in a stunning colour and do skirting boards and so on in shiny white.

According to Sydney interior designer Ann Gyngell, the vibrant use of colour on walls is very much in and a natural progression.

"It's a cyclical thing," she said. "People are getting much more daring about colour because they've been starved of it."

Well, consider...

Not since the 1960s, when burnt orange and Kermit-the-frog green reigned, have bright colours been in.

In the 70s, possibly as a reaction to the primaries, came the beige period.

In the early 80s it was apricot, salmon and rose pink. The grey fad followed, often married with pink, until the post modernist push was adopted by interior designers and decorating magazines —

with gelato colours such as peppermint, pale yellow and soft pink.

Federation style reached its zenith in 1988 with rooms being painted in strong pastels such as mint green, aqua and butter yellow.

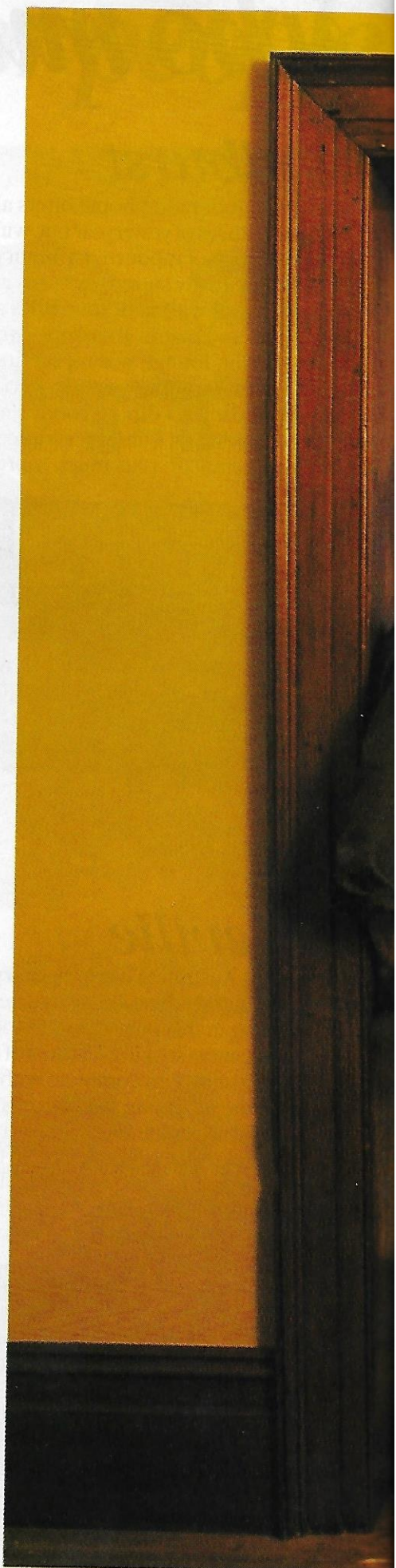
Come 1990, we're being much more daring.

"A room that might have been painted pale apricot a few years ago is being

done in something vibrant like canary, deep jewel green or purply blue or even Indian red," Ann Gyngell said.

"These are not just primary colours, mind you. They're saturated black-based ▶

Colour is the easiest way to brighten up a home. But, with paint and fabrics as with everything else, there are rules





Interior designer George Freedman in his vibrant yellow hall with brilliant blue sitting room beyond