

# HIGHGROVE

## take the highroad!

ACID MEMBERS HIGHGROVE WIN SIGNIFICANT HIGH COURT ACTION

**Highgrove Upholstery have won a significant victory in the High Court against Home Design (UK) who were ordered to pay £9000 in damages and legal costs for trying to sell copies of Highgrove's successful range of sofas Carrington and Osprey which Home Design (UK) were publishing in their brochure under the names of Jasmin, Java and Chelsea suites.**

On discovering the copies, Haroon Lorgat of Highgrove immediately contacted IP lawyers Taylors of Blackburn who confirmed that there had been an infringement of copyright in photographs published in the Home Design UK brochure and a design right infringement in the frames used to support the fabric covering on the suites. Included in the Court settlement was an order for undertakings that Home Design UK would destroy all copies of their brochures containing any reference to any of Highgrove's sofas and an undertaking that Home Design (UK) will not produce any further copies of Highgrove's products nor replicate Highgrove publicity at any time in the future, whether in paper or electronic format on Highgrove's website.

Tony Catterall, Head of Intellectual Property Litigation at Taylors said, "I'm delighted that Highgrove Upholstery have been successful in putting a stop to the blatant copying of their furniture designs and brochure illustrations. Unscrupulous manufacturers have, for

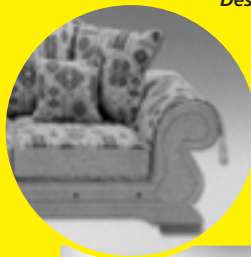


*Pic top r corner: Highgrove's Carrington sofa and pictured here their Osprey suite design.*

*too long, plagiarised the work of reputable designers of sofa suites and this victory should serve as a warning that an investment in the production of original designs is capable of protection."*

Dids Macdonald CEO of ACID added "There is a real need to promote design integrity within the furniture industry by encouraging the commissioning of and paying for design and rewarding the originators. Committed ACID members, such as Highgrove, are determined to stand up and be counted by sending a clear message that it is definitely NOT OK to steal ideas and free ride on another person's design equity".

*Pictured below are Home Designs UK's two suites, Java and Jasmin.*



## A © I D ADVICE

In a recent survey a high percentage of ACID members experience a high amount of copying by competitors within, roughly, the same marketplace. Taking action and publicising a Court settlement not only sends a clear message to the copyist but also alerts the whole industry that companies such as Highgrove will go to great lengths to protect what they believe is their rightful share of a particular market. Being highlighted as the loser in a Court battle does not place that company in a very favourable light and can also do enormous damage. ACID receives great support from publications within each industry sector who place the importance of IP theft as a key priority.

*If you think you've been copied call for advice*