

# New year, new home

Start the new year with some empowering activity to reinvigorate your campaign to sell or rent your property

**C**hances are, homes will be creaking at the seams with Christmas acquisitions, so now's the time to trim away the clutter and get your space in better shape. Without any festive lights to lift the short days, a good place to start is cleaning the windows.

Improving the natural light into a property not only lifts your energy, but that of your potential buyer too, and in the same subtle way that dust and dirt suggests unseen neglect, sparklingly clean surfaces suggest good maintenance in more than just the superficials.

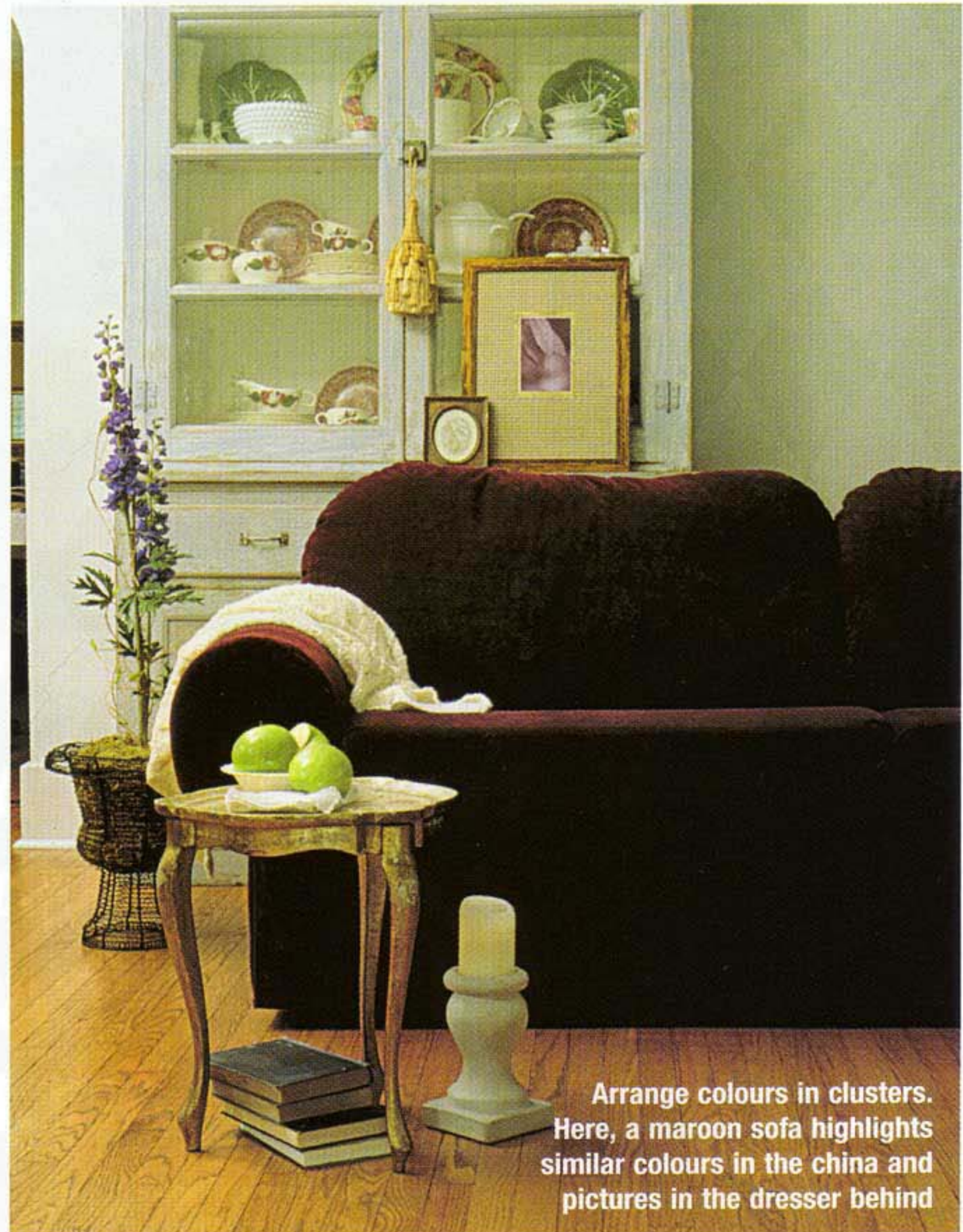
After cleaning, instead of automatically putting everything back on the window-sills as they were, collate groups of objects that have a primary colour in common, but have differing heights, textures and shapes. Arrange these colour clusters in places where there is a colour relationship with one of the larger pieces in the room, a lampshade or rug. Ideally you'll have enough objects to create at least three colour clusters per room. It's okay to have just one object, but it should have a strong enough presence to stand alone. Symmetry of placement calms the eye and creates a sense of containment so is good for larger rooms, whereas asymmetry stimulates the eye and bounces the focus around to open up the space, so works well in smaller rooms.

For more advice on interior design for home owners or property presentation for home movers, call Jackie Sears on 01392 670485 or see [www.present2sell.co.uk](http://www.present2sell.co.uk).



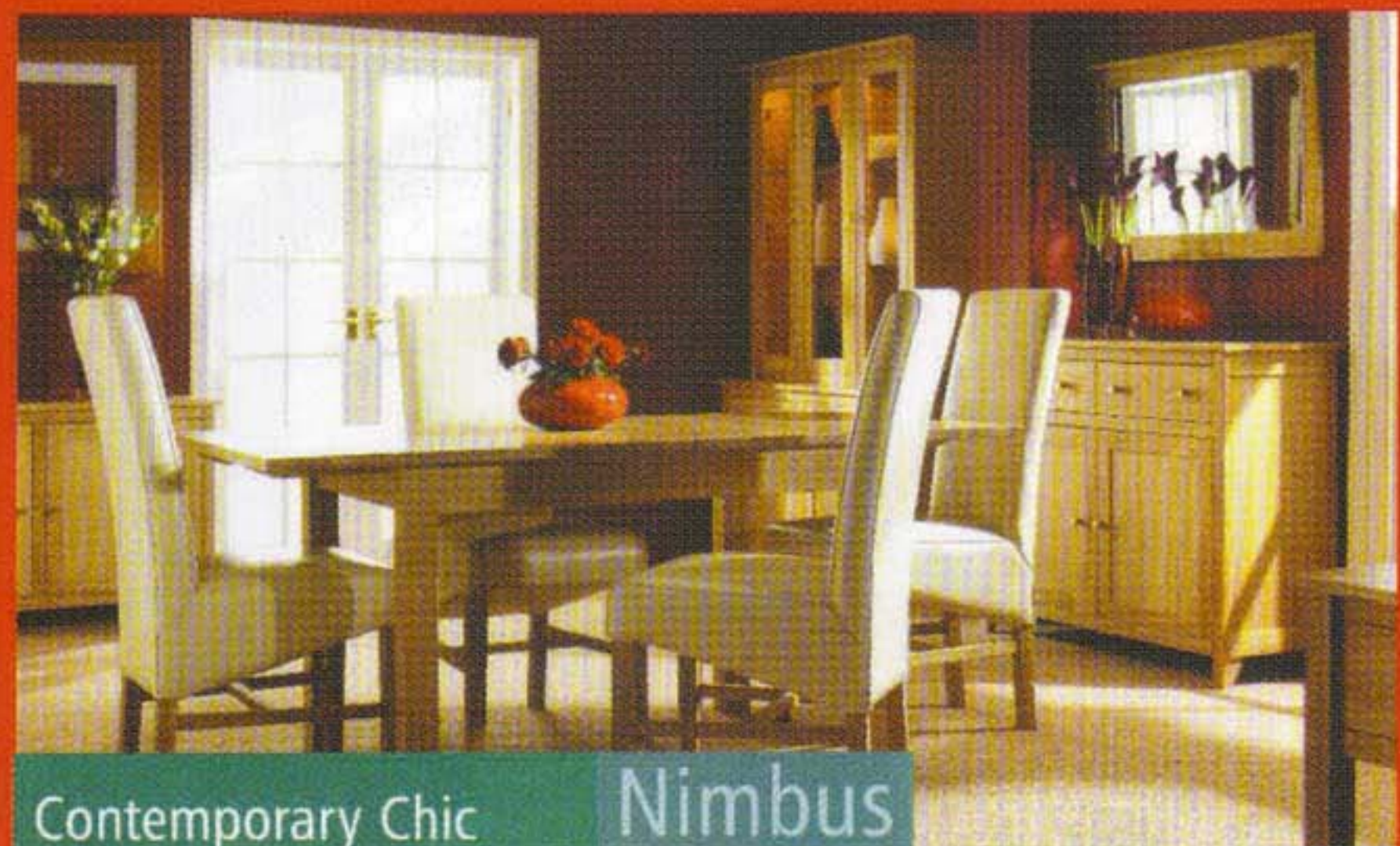
An outstanding modern home in Dartmouth, designed by Robert Seymour and Associates Chartered Architects, which has offices in Totnes and Dartmouth, has won the Royal Institute of British Architects' Arnold Sayers Housing Design Award for Best House in the South West for 2008.

The Riverhouse, a five-bedroom home constructed from a floating barge, not only addresses sustainability and global warming issues but is pioneering in its use of new technologies.



Arrange colours in clusters. Here, a maroon sofa highlights similar colours in the china and pictures in the dresser behind

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