



**DEPARTEMENT
BILDUNG, KULTUR UND SPORT**
Abteilung Berufsbildung und Mittelschule
Sektion Mittelschule

MITTELSCHULEN AARGAU

AUFNAHMEPRÜFUNG GYMNASIUM

Englisch

Text 2022

1 Welcome to the home of the future

2 The *2009 British Homes Awards* challenged the industry to design a house that can adapt
3 to different life stages. The participants were asked to rethink the construction and
4 design of individual homes, so that they were easily adaptable to less mobile inhabitants,
5 and also to create communities in which ageing occupants¹ could continue to enjoy
6 shared amenities². The top design also had to be attractive to its potential buyers,
7 because the competition was put to the public vote. The winner, gaining 12,000 votes
8 from Mail on Sunday readers, was the strikingly modern SunnySideUp, designed by Kosi
9 Architects. Here are its three main features:

10 1. Upside Down House

11 The architects took as a starting point the accepted norm for a house – rows of houses
12 facing onto streets crammed with cars, with living rooms on the ground floor and
13 bedrooms above. Then they scrapped it. They ended up with the living room, dining
14 room and kitchen on the top floor where they can benefit from the light and views, and
15 maximise energy efficiency. And they put the bedrooms on the ground floor where the
16 garden aspect³ gives inhabitants increased privacy, and a cool temperature is
17 maintained⁴ throughout the day. The two floors are linked by wide, gentle gradient⁵
18 stairs, which are designed to allow for a stair lift to be fitted if necessary as owners age.

19 2. Concealed Parking Spaces

20 But the feature that, according to Warren Rosing, one of the Kosi architects responsible
21 for the design, was particularly popular with the public, is actually the parking. In a
22 SunnySideUp development no one has to look out onto a street full of cars, or worry
23 about their kids being run over, because the terrace zone at the first floor level links all
24 the homes and is a car-free zone. Vehicles are hidden away on the lower floor, leaving
25 safe and pleasant spaces outside the houses for people to meet, and kids to play. A lift
26 takes people directly from garage to living area, so that all occupants, including the
27 elderly and those with heavy shopping, can move comfortably between the floors. The

¹ occupants = Bewohner

² amenities = Annehmlichkeiten

³ aspect = Blickpunkt

⁴ to maintain = beibehalten

⁵ gradient = steigend

28 natural feel of the front area is enhanced⁶ by the planters that are placed outside the
29 kitchens at the front to encourage residents to grow vegetables and flowers where they
30 can be seen. The idea is that not only would they look pretty, but they would be a talking
31 point, encouraging interaction between residents on the terrace area outside.

32 **3. Flexible Spaces**

33 But it's the fact that the space is designed to adapt to the changing needs, including the
34 income of its owners, that makes it a thought-provoking, as well as a winning, design.
35 The lower-floor bedrooms have separate outdoor access so they can be easily let. The
36 idea is that owners can get some extra money to pay for their mortgages⁷ during the first
37 years. And later in the future, those bedrooms can be used as a granny flat, or an office,
38 and can easily be converted into a separate one-bed flat if your kids won't leave home.
39 And if more space is required, as well as the usual loft that can be converted⁸, there is
40 potential for a gallery floor to be inserted⁹ in the living room.

41 **4. Where can you get one?**

42 At the moment the SunnySideUp house is still just a set of drawings. But Warren Rosing
43 says, "We are hoping to have it built." The organisers are in talks with builders, but due
44 to the economic climate it may take longer than we would like."We're sure it will be
45 worth the wait" they say.

621 words

⁶ to enhance = steigern

⁷ mortgages = Hypotheken

⁸ to convert = umbauen

⁹ to insert = einsetzen