They come in many different shapes, sizes, colors and materials, and yet while we may think of the mop as one of the more humble household cleaning tools, the Mop House is anything but plain. Who would have thought that the graceful paths this common cleaning tool creates as it cleans the floor would become a design inspiration; spinning one particular home in Al-Nuzha, Kuwait, into an international design sensation.

From the most unconventional of places, the

Mop House, designed by Spain and Kuwait-based practice AGi Architects, redirects the paths created by the mop as it charmingly folds across the surface and is translated into the flow of this single-family residence in Kuwait. Those very movement patterns set the stage for the flexible volumes to be organized diagonally across a central axis that twists in an all-encompassing motion to generate flow in various directions.

Visitors are guided from the exterior of the plot along a curved wall towards the center
of the space, arriving at the main entrance of the house. The swimming pool and public living areas of the house step into view upon entering the main door. Apart from underlining the element of privacy for the residents, the pool’s location in between the two volumes also provides relief from the strong rays of the Kuwaiti sun. The very same curved walls form the sweeping and diagonal motions of the mop as they twist upwards, enclosing the upper story as it hangs over the lower floor, creating shade from the glaring sun.

Bordering a glass wall for visual connection across the courtyard, an element of transparency and clarity is instantaneously depicted. This element of transparency is concurrent with the concept of circulation through which the succession of living spaces on the first floor communicate, synchronously relating the interior of the patio to the exterior. The patio, which subtly reveals a side garden, defines this break, or void so to speak, between the loosely interlocking volumes of the house. The resulting open-air courtyard acts as an axis along which
the life of the building takes shape.

Initially planned to house a small family with two young children, the home has been designed to eventually be divided into two units. The structure of the home and the distribution of circulation it poses, along with the positioning of the entrances and the lift, guarantee the privacy for cohabitation within such close proximity that would follow in the prospective future. Today, however, the site can be accessed from either side of the surrounding streets, making way for both a private and public entrance.