By buying several hundred badly maintained houses and apartments to sell on top owner-occupiers, Rotterdam hoped to revive run down neighbourhoods. It soon became clear that selling newly renovated houses would be a challenge, so the city launched ‘do-it-yourself houses’ in 2004.

**HOW IT WORKS**
- city buys badly maintained houses in disadvantaged areas
- sold at bargain prices to owner-occupiers
- with support of the city team, new owners renovate and live in the properties

**CONDITIONS FOR BUYERS**
- must prove they have the financial means to renovate
- renovation plan must be presented before handover of keys
- owner must live in property for at least the first three years

“This project gave us the chance to build our dream house”

*Rolf Bruggink & Yfji van de Berg, designer and architect*

“They want a nice house, but also a nice neighbourhood and they make it happen!”

*Hamit Karakus, vice mayor of Rotterdam*

**IMPACT ON NEIGHBOURHOODS**
- new residents participate and organise local activities
- attracted residents from outside Rotterdam
- long term process of ‘upgrading’ neighbourhoods

**NUMBERS AND FIGURES**

€16.1 million total cost

450 old apartments turned into 210 new properties