

# Large housing estates in Spain

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RESTATE



## A Neighbourhood in Action for Improvement

Orcasitas in Madrid, is a neighbourhood which is the result of a strong residential movement during the seventies and eighties. At the moment a group of young inhabitants are encouraging residential and political participation and commitment to improve the neighbourhood. They want more attention for Orcasitas: which is a neighbourhood that also forms part of the city of Madrid.

With this poster we want to show that bottom-up participation was able to make a neighbourhood in the past and that it nowadays tries to implicate policymakers in solving problems which have come up after years without public involvement.



Barracks in Orcasitas Photo source: Martin Amorriaga, 1997

Orcasitas was founded at the end of the fifties by immigrants from rural areas who illegally built barracks.



Residents of Orcasitas demonstrating Photo source: Martin Amorriaga, 1997

In the seventies a strong residential movement started in response to an urban plan which proposed a clearance of the area. Residents wanted political attention for their situation and claimed their right to stay and their right to a decent dwelling.



Orcasitas at the moment Photo: Montserrat Pareja Eastaway, February 2003

The claims of residents were conceded. The residents played an important role in the regeneration project which changed Orcasitas from an area with slums into a decent neighbourhood. However, at the moment less visible problems exist.

# ORCASITAS AVANZA CONTIGO

"Activa Orcasitas" is an organisation lead by mainly young residents which has organised a project to encourage residents to get involved in their neighbourhood. The project consists of three steps.

Orcasitas makes progress with you: 3 steps to achieve a better neighbourhood

### STEP 1 - POPULAR VOTE (January 2005)

Residents were asked, during a popular vote, for their opinions concerning the neighbourhood and proposals for improvement.

Like in the past, inhabitants were involved massively. More than 1000 inhabitants joined the popular vote and signed their "Pacto por Orcasitas"; an individual commitment with the neighbourhood.

From the inquiry it became clear that the most important problems are:

1. Dwelling
2. Employment
3. Education



Residents handle in the forms with their opinions and proposals Photo: Teresa Tapada Berteli, January 2005

### STEP 2 - ACTIVE CONFERENCE (March 2005)

Conference where experts and residents in workshops propose solutions to improve Orcasitas. The residents then prioritised the proposed solutions.

At the conference the "Declaration for the Neighbourhoods of Madrid" was signed: *Orcasitas forms part of the city of Madrid and wants to have its' own voice!*



Residents prioritise the proposed solutions during the Active Conference Photo: Activa Orcasitas, March 12th 2005

### STEP 3 - PRESENTATION "PACTO POR ORCASITAS" (April 2005)

"Pacto por Orcasitas" is a document on the strategy for improving the neighbourhood. At the presentation the principal policymakers (central, regional and local government) were present and signed the document to commit themselves, faced with the residents, to improve Orcasitas.



Policymakers committed themselves by signing the "Pacto por Orcasitas" Photo: Activa Orcasitas, April 2th 2005



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