Between 1970 and 1974, tenants in the massive Stella Wright Homes led the longest rent strike in the history of U.S. public housing. The quality of Newark’s public housing had eroded alarmingly since its celebrated opening in the 1940s. Poor residents had been funneled into isolated and increasingly decrepit buildings. The tenants’ campaign recaptures a missing chapter of public housing's history and refines the concept of the fixer. Tenants decried housing authority mismanagement, but they also planned for their buildings’ restoration, countering negative depictions of public housing as unmitigated social disorganization. As officials traded accusations of blame, tenants pursued self-management. Like other fixers, Stella Wright tenant activists--many of them women--emphasized that reliable housing and employment were inextricably linked. They secured an array of allies and for a time enjoyed widespread support and won several critical legal victories. But as public housing programs shifted toward subsidized private rentals and some complexes were demolished with funding from HOPE VI, tenants’ successes were contained within a shrinking corner of the city’s public housing system. Yet the strikers identified problems that fixer organizations would attempt to solve by staking their hopes on the creation of new institutions, rather than the reformation of the old.