

Neighbor



Time out! Saturday

Today's guide to events
and entertainment — Page 8

013406

Families build up, not tear down, to preserve homes



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AVENTURA BUILDERS

Glendale Heights-based Aventura Builders recently won an award for their work on Scott and Jessica Hierbaum's Wheaton home.

BY HARRY HITZEMAN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Scott and Jessica Hierbaum bought a cozy 1,200-square-foot Wheaton home in 1995, they knew it eventually would have to be remodeled.

They didn't know exactly how or the cost until their architect referred them to Aventura Builders.

Seven months after their project began, the Hierbaums were enjoying all the amenities of a modern home, while preserving elements in the 70-year-old home such as the pitched roof and foyer.

Scott Hierbaum said the couple

never considered a "teardown," a suburban trend of replacing an older home with a newer, larger one.

"We didn't feel right destroying something that was attractive, had good craftsmanship and meant something to us," Scott said.

The project, which expanded the house about 2,800-square-feet, recently earned the Glendale Heights-based firm the overall excellence award in entire home remodeling from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

It was the first time Aventura received the award, which is hoping to make a name for its self as an alternative to teardowns.

"There's really not that many companies that work in this niche," said Aventura founder Chris Donatelli. "People are seeing that they don't have to buy something that is completely done to fulfill their needs. That is what we help them achieve."

Most projects for Donatelli's firm consist of one- or two-room additions, and perhaps knocking down some interior walls.

The transformation of the Hierbaum's home on the 1000 block of North Court Street took about seven months.

In December 2002, crews began

See **HOUSE** on PAGE 3



The owners of this home chose a renovation over a teardown on the 1000 block of Scott Street in Wheaton.

House: Some features saved

Continued from Page 1

excavating and the project was substantially complete by May 2003.

Before the renovation, the home had six total rooms, including a kitchen, one full bathroom and two bedrooms.

Now, its features include an eat-in kitchen, 2.5 baths, four bedrooms, a great room and office.

During the renovation, crews

had to remove the roof and totally revamp the plumbing, heating and electrical wiring.

They were able to preserve the home's original hardwood floors and pitched roofline without demolishing the structure, which was home to many memories.

"We were able to retain some of the features we came to know and love," Scott Hierbaum said.