

HISTORIC RENOVATION

Trip to Savannah inspires Realtor to try his hand at renovation



205 BAYLAND

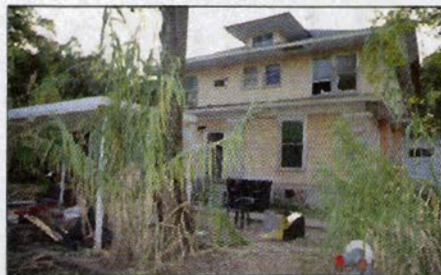
DEALMAKERS

DEVELOPERS/OWNERS: Bill Baldwin and Joe Gonzalez

ARCHITECT: Creole Design

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Allegro Builders

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: KJD Landscape design



Before

Baldwin and Gonzalez bought the property in 2006 from Allegro Builders, which had purchased the structure from St. Jude Assisted Living, a facility for the mentally handicapped. Baldwin, a Realtor, worked as a negotiator for Allegro on the purchase of the property from St. Jude. He quickly moved on the chance to purchase the lots from Allegro after a trip to Savannah, Ga., inspired him to renovate the property.

A state- and nationally-preserved structure, the house was originally the home of famed developer William H. Wilson, who platted Woodland Heights in the 1890s. Built in 1910, the four-bedroom, six-bathroom residence required meticulous atten-



After



Taking advantage of an opportunity to acquire a piece of Houston history, homeowners Bill Baldwin and Joe Gonzalez purchased and renovated the 6,700-square-foot, historically preserved home in the Woodland Heights neighborhood, completing the project in January 2007.

The \$1.5 million renovation, located at 205 Bayland Ave., focused on maintaining consistency with the surrounding homes while staying close to the home's initial design.

The Woodland Heights neighborhood was established in 1907 and is currently bordered on the east by Interstate 45 and on the south by Interstate 10. The neighborhood features a collection of both Victorian-style and bungalow homes.

tion to detail during its restoration. Custom milling of cypress siding throughout the home, authentic replication of the original windows, retaining the original fireplace and maintaining the aesthetic feel of a turn-of-the-century home proved a challenge for the builders. The result, however, was an authentic home that kept its timeless appeal while

blending in with the ever-changing Houston cityscape. The original, century-old windows were donated to Historic Houston, a local preservation group.

In addition to the year-long restoration, the home now boasts a 1,000-square-foot wine cellar and over 2,000 square feet of porch space and a period-inspired kitchen.

Baldwin and Gonzalez say they expect the historic home to stand for another 100 years. ■