

**ABSTRACT****CREATIVE PROJECT:** The Role of Century-Old Design in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**STUDENT:** Austin R. Blomeke**DEGREE:** Master of Landscape Architecture**COLLEGE:** Architecture and Planning**DATE:** May, 2013**PAGES:** 99

This project asserts that components of George Kessler's 1912 Park and Boulevard System Plan for the city of South Bend, Indiana, still retain contemporary viability, especially as it relates to the major north-south boulevard. Using research on historical boulevards and the *City Beautiful Movement*, this project aims to transform Lafayette Boulevard into a contemporary street that is sensitive to local history and the surrounding context, and is a pedestrian-oriented space. The outcomes of this project will add to the understanding of best practices for improving the pedestrian experience along streets and strengthening connections between districts and surrounding neighborhoods.