EDITOR'S NOTE: We are taking a Thanksgiving Day break for the next few days to meditate on all the great people and good things we are thankful for. We'll be back Monday, December 2.

- Goodyear reports (and we're glad to hear) Detroit's Heidelberg Project "vows to rise from the ashes" of a string of arson fires; "there has been an outpouring of support from around the world, and the number of people coming to visit has tripled" (and a campaign launches to fund solar-powered streetlights).
- Florida warns that the eds-and-meds trend "will not be, by themselves, the ticket to economic growth" for a lot of metro areas (in fact, some will lose).
- Einsweiler lays out the challenges in rewriting a comprehensive zoning code for a city "as physically and demographically diverse as Los Angeles."
- Lubell cheers Gehry's "grand re-entry" to L.A.'s Grand Avenue project: it "could be the long-delayed plans' saving grace;" the towers would be "more straightforward. That's the voice of experience, and the voice of economics."
- Wainwright wonders a new Olympic legacy school and likes (most) of what he sees: its "heroic aura appears to be rubbing off on the students" - but "will it deliver the promised community benefits?"
- Mecanoo tapped to design the Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre, "aimed at attracting a new kind of visitor" to Oldham."
- Medina takes an interesting perspective on all the brouhaha brewing around Hadid's Al Wakrah stadium design: it's "just the latest in on-going discussions about the role of visualization in architecture...the building form was particularly overwrought and as such, bound to turn heads and elicit commentary" (lots of links to that commentary; comments sections worth a look, too).
- Perhaps we're feeling a bit overwrought about all the blowback re: Kanye West's Harvard GSD adventure, but we think it's worth three stories (at least): the AASU co-presidents calls much of the "mockery" racist.
- Cooke calls for Kanye to "keep talking: I am tripping over myself with fear and excitement at the prospect of having such a powerful mouthpiece for a generation of black architects and designers."
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- Capps minces no words as well: architecture schools and design firms "should be doing their damnedest to book Yeezy. If he ever only talks about the forces keeping minorities from helping to design the cities in which they live, he'll still be doing the industry a service."
- The Sustainable Sites Initiative certifies three new projects that includes SITE's first four-star landscape (great presentations).
- Two we couldn't resist (tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day, after all): Eyefuls of Macy's Thanksgiving Parade "extremely creepy" balloons from the 1930s - mostly "weird animals and dead-eyed people" (a must-see!!!) + Murg says "look no further for your Thanksgiving dinner soundtrack, design fans. The globe-trotting bundle of hot-pink charisma has added electro-pop music composer to his resume."
- Weekend diversions: Rajagopal cheers "Venetian Glass by Carlo Scarpa: The Venini Company, 1932-1947" at the Met Museum in Manhattan: "Every single piece of glass on display is breathtaking" (with miles of pix that prove it!).
- Brussat talks at photographer Mottalini's celebration of "Brutalist ruin porn" documenting doomed homes by Paul Rudolph: "Now he has made a book and a gallery showing out of it - they make great ruins - and the sooner the rubble is disposed of the better."
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people that actually make it,” said Héctor Tarrido-Picart, co-president of the African American Student Union (AASU) at Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Keep Talking Kanye: An Architect’s Defense of Kanye West: I am tripping over myself with fear and excitement at the prospect of having such a powerful mouthpiece for a generation of black architects and designers who share his frustration and connect with his message. Why? Because when Kanye West talks, people listen. By Sekou Cooke

Architecture Could Use Some Help From Kanye West: Architecture schools everywhere should be doing their damnedest to book Yeey...Design firms, too...If he only ever talks about the forces keeping minorities from helping to design the cities in which they live, he’ll still be doing the industry a service. But the way he talks about architecture—and the way he works, as an invertebrate collaborator—is reason for architecture firms to solicit more specific input from West himself. By Kriston Capps

SITES Certifies First Four-star Landscape: The Sustainable Sites Initiative announced three new projects have achieved certification under the nation’s most comprehensive rating system for sustainable landscapes...Phipps Center for Sustainable Landscapes, Pittsburgh; Washington Canal Park, Washington, D.C.; Shoemaker Green, Philadelphia...-- The Design Alliance; Andropogon Associates; OLIN; STUDIOS Architecture [link to images, info]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Balloons Used to Be Extremely Creepy: Eighty years ago, the balloons were instead weird animals and dead-eyed people... [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Karim Rashid Sings! Look no further for your Thanksgiving dinner soundtrack, design fans...The globe-trotting bundle of hot-pink charisma has added electro-pop music composer to his resume with “Change the World”... By Stephanie Murg

Mr. Glass: Thought Carlo Scarpa was all about marble and concrete? A new review of the architect-designer's glassware begs to differ...“Venetian Glass by Carlo Scarpa: The Veronese Company, 1932-1947” [at the Metropolitan Museum of Art] showcases some 300 pieces...Every single piece of glass on display is breathtaking...Every technique gets its own vitrine, designed by Annabelle Selidor. By Avinash Rajagopal [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Brutalist "ruin porn": Celebrated by some, at least, and certainly by the photographer Chris Mottalini, who decided he had to snap as many doomed homes by Paul Rudolph as he could. Now he has made a book and a gallery show out of it...they make great ruins - and the sooner the rubble is disposed of the better. By David Brussat [link to images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Charles Gwathmey and Robert Siegel's bold vision for the city is celebrated in two new books: One of the first 'starchitecture' firms had a dramatic impact on NYC skyline...Gwathmey Siegel & Associates was, and is, one of the city's most successful and influential architecture firms of the past half-century. To see its indelible impact...look no further than a pair of new monographs... “Gwathmey Siegel 3: 2002-2012” and “400 Fifth Avenue” By Matt Chaban [images]- NY Daily News

Modern Modular: Lean and Green: After years of transforming New York City lofts and apartments into modern spaces, Resolution 4 Architecture turned its attention to modular design...The homes’ cost per square foot ranges from about $250-$350, with many - documented in their new book... "Modern Modular: The Prefab Houses of Resolution: 4 Architecture" by Joseph Tanney, Robert Luntz, Allison Arief. By J. Michael Welton [images]- Huffington Post

It is always Friday afternoon in Dealey Plaza: An urban setting seared into the national consciousness. By Michael J. Crooble