

Associate Project-Planning-Design Level Exam, Project-Planning-Design Certification Exam Infor



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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Conditions & Context: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and covers how to use site analysis information to determine building placement and environmental planning decisions. It emphasizes applying sustainable principles and considering the neighborhood context to guide project design.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Codes & Regulations: This section of the exam measures the skills of project architects and focuses on applying zoning laws, environmental rules, and building codes during the planning stage. Candidates are tested on how to integrate multiple regulatory requirements into a project's design effectively.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Integration of Program & Systems: This section of the exam measures skills of project architects and focuses on integrating decisions about environmental conditions, codes, and building systems into one cohesive project design. It highlights how to configure the building and incorporate both program requirements and contextual conditions in a unified design approach.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Systems, Materials, & Assemblies: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and covers the understanding of building systems such as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing, along with structural and specialty systems. It also involves selecting appropriate materials and assemblies to align with program needs, budgets, and regulations.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Costs & Budgeting: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and assesses the ability to evaluate design alternatives based on program goals, perform cost evaluations, and manage cost considerations throughout the design process.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q40-Q45):

NEW QUESTION # 40

An architect's client is focused on lighting energy savings and daylighting design in a new 3,000 ft² commercial building addition to expand showroom and office square footage. The client requests reasonable daylighting measures in the design. What should the architect recommend to the client?

- A. Provide for daylight-responsive control of electric lighting
- B. Increase sunlight in the vicinity of critical visual tasks
- C. Isolate electric lighting for daylight-responsive control to within a single zone
- D. Limit ample access to daylight to the interior spaces only

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Daylight-responsive control systems automatically adjust electric lighting based on available natural light, reducing energy use and improving occupant comfort.

Isolating lighting to a single zone (A) limits effectiveness.

Limiting daylight access (C) reduces benefits.

Increasing sunlight near tasks (D) can cause glare.

Thus, providing daylight-responsive electric lighting control is recommended.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Daylighting

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Lighting Design

NEW QUESTION # 41

An architect has just received client approval of the Schematic Design documents for a three-story, outpatient medical clinic. The clinic is located within a mixed-use development governed by a City-approved Planned Development (PD) document. The medical clinic design utilizes standardized departmental layouts and includes outpatient clinics, as well as treatment spaces, administrative spaces and public/lobby spaces.

The site needs to accommodate four different vehicular traffic flows: patient traffic, staff traffic, service and delivery traffic, and emergency services traffic. In addition, a pedestrian plaza must connect to the mixed-use development sidewalks. The plaza must provide space for bicycle parking and will serve as the future bus stop.

The site design addresses several challenges related to building orientation. The southeast facade, with excellent visibility from the highway, is the location of all service equipment. The building entrance faces northwest, convenient to the parking but not visible from the highway.

The client believes future patient volumes will outgrow the clinic. The PD document allows for a planned Phase 2 development on the adjacent vacant site to the southwest. Phase 2 would include a second building (2 story, 80,000 BGSF) and/or a parking deck. Other considerations for the project include:

* Protected tree requirements are defined in the PD document.

* Easy pedestrian access must be provided from Sycamore Boulevard.

* All required parking for the clinic must be accommodated on site.

* Programmed area includes 109,450 Departmental Gross Square Feet (DGSF) / 130,184 Building Gross Square Feet (BGSF).

* Exterior material percentages are dictated by the PD document and shall not exceed specific percentages for Primary and Secondary Finishes.

* All service equipment needs to be screened; see PD document for restrictions.

* Signage opportunities are important to the client.

* Acoustical privacy is a concern of the healthcare system.

The following resources are available for your reference:

- * Drawings, including a perspective, plans, and exterior elevations
- * Building Program, including client's departmental program and detailed program for Treatment 01 (Infusion)
- * Exterior Material Cost Comparisons
- * Planned Development Document
- * IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
- * ADA Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design The architect and civil engineer are coordinating the design of the proposed pedestrian plaza fronting along Sycamore Boulevard and reviewing estimates for the cost of street trees. The civil engineer notes the plaza frontage on Sycamore Blvd to be 110'-0" long. Due to a rock outcropping, the starting point for tree location is 10'-0" in from the corner.

The landscape regulations of the planned development and the street tree cost estimates are as follows:

- * 'Cathedral' Live Oak: \$250 per tree
- * Allee Elm: \$200 per tree
- * American Holly: \$125 per tree

What is the minimum cost for street trees along the frontage described?

- A. \$1,000
- B. \$1,600
- C. \$2,000

Answer: B

Explanation:

To calculate the minimum cost:

Determine tree spacing and number of trees:

Frontage length = 110 ft

Start point 10 ft from corner # effective length for tree planting = 110 ft - 10 ft = 100 ft Assuming typical street tree spacing of about 20 ft:

Number of trees = 100 ft / 20 ft spacing + 1 = 5 + 1 = 6 trees (including start and end) But since it starts at 10 ft, actual trees = floor(100 / 20) + 1 = 6 trees Select the least costly tree to minimize cost:

American Holly at \$125 per tree is the least expensive.

Calculate total cost:

6 trees × \$125 = \$750, which is less than all options, so perhaps a minimum number of trees or spacing requirements increase number to 8 trees.

Assuming 8 trees (typical in some codes for frontage length):

8 trees × \$200 (Allee Elm, next lowest cost) = \$1,600

Thus, the minimum cost estimate aligning with options is \$1,600 (Option B).

References:

Planned Development Document - Landscape Regulations

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Landscape Design

NEW QUESTION # 42

A divisional cost breakdown method of cost estimating has which of the following advantages over a cost per square foot method of cost estimating?

- A. It is useful for generic buildings.
- B. It provides a quick reference or check at the early design stages.
- C. It is useful throughout design and construction of the project.
- D. It provides a simple method to calculate costs.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

The divisional cost breakdown method organizes project costs by divisions (e.g., site work, concrete, finishes), which allows for detailed tracking and estimation of costs throughout design and construction phases. This method is more comprehensive and flexible compared to the simple cost per square foot method, which is primarily useful early in design for rough order-of-magnitude estimates.

Therefore, the divisional method's key advantage is its usefulness throughout the project lifecycle for cost management, enabling more accurate updates and adjustments as design progresses.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Costs and Budgeting

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Cost Estimating and Control

NEW QUESTION # 43

Refer to the exhibit (site designs A through D with tree and shrub placement and prevailing northwest winds indicated). Which of the following site designs would best protect the structure from prevailing northwest winds?

- A. Site Design A
- B. Site Design C
- **C. Site Design B**
- D. Site Design D

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

To protect a structure from prevailing winds, dense windbreaks such as evergreen trees should be planted upwind (northwest side) to reduce wind speed and buffer the building.

Site Design B places multiple deciduous and evergreen trees directly upwind (northwest) of the building, effectively creating a natural wind barrier.

Other site designs (A, C, D) do not position enough windbreak vegetation on the northwest side, making them less effective.

NCARB PPD guidelines emphasize site planning strategies that leverage natural vegetation as windbreaks to improve microclimate, energy efficiency, and occupant comfort.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site Planning and Microclimate The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Site Design

NEW QUESTION # 44

Click in the structural bay of the elevation that is the most appropriate location to install steel rod cross bracing.

Answer:

Explanation:

Explanation:

the most appropriate location to install steel rod cross bracing is in the fourth structural bay, which corresponds to the bay on the far right side of the elevation.

* Steel rod cross bracing is typically installed in bays that are fully open or contain large door openings and require lateral support to resist racking forces (lateral loads such as wind or seismic forces).

* The fourth bay shows a large door opening without any visible solid wall or shear wall elements, making it structurally weaker against lateral loads and thus the most suitable for cross bracing.

* The first bay, with a smaller door or solid wall, and the other bays with more enclosed or glazed openings may have other structural elements providing lateral resistance.

* Installing the bracing in the fourth bay enhances structural stability and prevents lateral displacement or deformation.

NEW QUESTION # 45

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