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NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction Cost: This section of the exam measures the skills of Construction Managers and focuses on the financial side of project execution. It evaluates the ability to analyze construction cost estimates to confirm that they align with project design intent and budgetary constraints. Although this is the smallest section, it is critical for ensuring projects remain feasible and economically viable.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction Documentation: This section of the exam measures skills of Project Architects and addresses the creation and management of project documentation. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of documenting building design and site features, preparing detailed architectural drawings, and applying industry standards to produce a coordinated set of construction documents. The section also includes understanding how project changes impact documentation and how to communicate these updates effectively to both the design team and the client.:

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of Building Materials & Systems: This section of the exam measures the skills of Architectural Designers and focuses on the ability to resolve and integrate various building systems into cohesive project goals. It covers analyzing architectural systems and technologies, determining the size of structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and incorporating specialty systems such as acoustics, lighting, security, and communications. It also evaluates the ability to detail how multiple building systems work together and to coordinate across disciplines to achieve a unified design.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes & Regulations: This section of the exam measures skills of Building Code Specialists and examines how codes and regulations apply at a detailed level during documentation. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of compliance with the International Building Code (IBC) as well as other specialty regulations, as well as how to interpret and apply these standards to ensure design and documentation meet legal and safety requirements.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manual & Specifications: This section of the exam measures the skills of Specifications Writers and emphasizes the importance of developing documentation that goes beyond drawings. Candidates must understand how to identify and prioritize elements needed to prepare, maintain, and refine both the project manual and project specifications. It also assesses the ability to align and coordinate these specifications with the construction documents to ensure consistency and accuracy.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q29-Q34):

NEW QUESTION # 29

Which system would most impact the structural loads in a vegetated roof design?

- A. Green roofing assemblies
- B. Fire suppression system
- C. HVAC duct routing
- D. Lightning protection system

Answer: A

Explanation:

Green roofing adds significant dead loads due to soil and water retention layers. Structural engineers must verify load-bearing capacity. This is tied to ARE Objective 3.2 on evaluating integration of building systems.

NEW QUESTION # 30

An architect is designing a school building that features a flat roof with a low parapet wall in a wet climate region. The client wants to minimize maintenance requirements and focus on keeping water from the walls.

What parapet coping detail would be most appropriate for the architect to select for this project?

- A. C
- B. B
- C. A

Answer: A

Explanation:

Understanding the Problem

The question addresses parapet coping design in a wet climate with a focus on:

* Minimizing maintenance

* Preventing water from running down the face of the wall

Parapet copings protect the top of the parapet wall from water penetration and are designed to shed water away from the wall below.

Analysis of the Options

A). Flat Coping

* A flat coping (Option A) has no slope and allows water to pool on the surface.

- * This pooling increases the likelihood of infiltration and material deterioration over time.
- * In wet climates, this is poor practice because standing water leads to freeze-thaw damage, staining, and faster degradation.
- * Maintenance needs are higher.

B). Single-Slope Coping

- * This coping (Option B) has a slope toward one side, which improves drainage.
- * However, if sloped toward the inside of the parapet, it increases roof drainage load and risk of water penetration at roof/wall junction.
- * If sloped toward the outside, water can run down the wall face, which the client specifically wants to avoid.
- * This design might also stain exterior wall finishes over time.

C). Double-Slope (Pitched) Coping with Drip Edges

- * This coping (Option C) is pitched toward both sides, with drip edges to break water runoff before it reaches the wall face.
- * Water is shed away efficiently, and drip grooves prevent capillary action that would pull water back toward the wall.
- * This is best practice in wet climates and greatly reduces maintenance by preventing staining and wall saturation.
- * Recommended by NRCA (National Roofing Contractors Association) and referenced in Architectural Graphic Standards for parapet detailing.

NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Reference:

- * Content Area: Integration of Building Materials & Systems - Building Envelope Detailing
- * Source Materials:
 - * Architectural Graphic Standards - Parapet Cap/Coping Details
 - * Building Construction Illustrated by Francis D.K. Ching - Water Management & Flashing
 - * NRCA Roofing Manual - Best Practices for Roof Edge & Parapet Design
- * Key Principle: Parapet copings in wet climates should always slope to shed water away, incorporate overhangs with drips, and prevent water from cascading down the building face.

NEW QUESTION # 31

A family-owned apple farm in the Upper Midwest is taking advantage of a change in the local zoning code that added a new Agri-Tourism class in the existing farm zone. This allows the Owner to build a new facility on their existing site. The building will be open to the public and include a brewery, distillery, tap room, and market. The architect is ready to submit the drawings to the Owner for the 50% construction documents review.

To accommodate a compressed construction schedule, the Owner will be utilizing a design-build process. The Contractor has submitted the Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) shop drawings to the Architect for review, due to the lead time on this critical path item. Once construction begins, farming operations must be able to continue uninterrupted.

Key project information includes:

- * Brewing and distilling will operate year-round.
- * Brewery will initially include four fermenting tanks. Owner has requested space for at least two additional tanks. Potential expansion will be based on future sales.
- * Distillery will produce 16% alcohol, which is classified as a flammable liquid. Fire separations are required.
- * Tap Room is designed with seating for 300 people, not including exterior patio seating. It will have views to the working orchards and the historic buildings on site.
- * Tap Room is scheduled to be open from August through November. Owner would like options to extend operating dates based on popularity.
- * The Market area will feature local farm products and is not conditioned.
- * Entire building will be fully sprinklered.
- * Selected building materials are low-maintenance, as requested by the Owner, for durability and to reflect the nature of a working farm.
- * Mechanical and electrical systems will be hung from the building structure. These loads are included in PEMB shop drawings.
- * Public water and sewer is not available at the Project Site.
- * Occupancy sensors are included to reduce utility costs and achieve energy conservation requirements.

The following resources are available for your reference:

- * Architectural Drawings, including plans, elevations, sections, and schedules
- * Consultant Drawings, including structural, HVAC, power distribution, and plumbing
- * PEMB Shop Drawings
- * Design and Construction Schedule
- * Specification Excerpts, showing relevant spec sections
- * IBC and ADA Excerpts, showing relevant code and accessibility sections
- * After reviewing the documents, the architect discovers a coordination issue in the corridor.

□ Refer to the exhibit.

Which hardware set should be specified for door number 27?

- A. Hardware set 4.0
- B. Hardware set 2.0
- **C. Hardware set 3.0**
- D. Hardware set 1.0

Answer: C

Explanation:

Hardware Set 3.0 includes: three full-mortise hinges, an entrance/privacy lock, matching core, wall stop, silencers, and a coat hook. That combination is the typical specification for a single-occupant toilet room or similar private room opening off a corridor-privacy latch (not an exit device), door control, and a coat hook inside. Sets 1.0 and 4.0 are push/pull or exit-device packages (for egress/assembly or non-latching doors), and Set 2.0 is a basic push-pull set without a latch-none of which meet the corridor toilet-room function.

PDD refs: Division 08 door hardware scheduling; coordination of door sets with room function and code egress/privacy requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 32

Specifications and details for repointing deteriorated masonry joints in historic soft-brick buildings should result in which one of the following?

- A. Deeper joint profiles
- B. An increased mortar strength over the original mortar
- **C. The duplication of original mortar strength**
- D. A bond between the existing masonry and the new mortar that is stronger than the brick

Answer: C

Explanation:

Understanding the Problem

This question is about historic masonry restoration - specifically, repointing deteriorated mortar joints in soft-brick buildings. Historic bricks, especially those made before the early 20th century, are often much softer and more porous than modern high-fired bricks. The mortar originally used was also softer, usually lime-based, which allowed for thermal movement, moisture permeability, and protection of the brick units.

Why the Correct Answer is "Duplication of Original Mortar Strength"

- * Best practice in preservation (as outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties) is to match the original mortar in strength, composition, permeability, and appearance.
- * A mortar stronger than the original can cause the softer brick to crack or spall under thermal or moisture stresses, because the brick will end up being the weaker link and take the damage.
- * Duplication ensures that the new mortar works compatibly with the old masonry system - allowing for similar vapor transmission and structural flexibility.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:

- * B. Increased mortar strength over the original mortar - This is harmful in historic soft-brick construction. Stronger cement-based mortars can trap moisture in the brick, leading to freeze-thaw damage and spalling.
- * C. A bond stronger than the brick - This would cause the brick to fail first when stress occurs, which is undesirable in preservation work.
- * D. Deeper joint profiles - Deeply raking out joints unnecessarily can damage surrounding brick edges and change the visual proportions; repointing depth should only be enough to remove deteriorated mortar (typically 2-2.5 times the joint width).

NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:

- * Content Area: Integration of Building Materials & Systems - Historic Preservation Techniques
- * Key Resources:
 - * The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
 - * National Park Service Preservation Brief 2: "Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings"
 - * Building Construction Illustrated - Masonry Restoration
- * Key Preservation Principle: "New mortar should match the historic mortar in composition, strength, and vapor permeability."

NEW QUESTION # 33

During drawing review, a discrepancy is found between the drawings and room 101 on the finish schedule.
Click in the cell on the room finish schedule that does not match the drawings.

□

Answer:

Explanation:

Explanation:

Generated image

To identify the discrepancy between the drawings and the Room Finish Schedule for Room 101, compare what's shown in the restroom elevation and plan versus the listed finishes.

Step-by-step comparison:

* Room 101 (Women's Restroom) is shown with:

* Wall finish: Clearly shows tile (CT) on the lower half of the walls in the elevation.

* But in the finish schedule, Room 101 has "PT" (paint) listed under wall finish.

Therefore, the error is in the wall finish cell for Room 101, which should show CT (ceramic tile), not PT (paint).

NEW QUESTION # 34

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