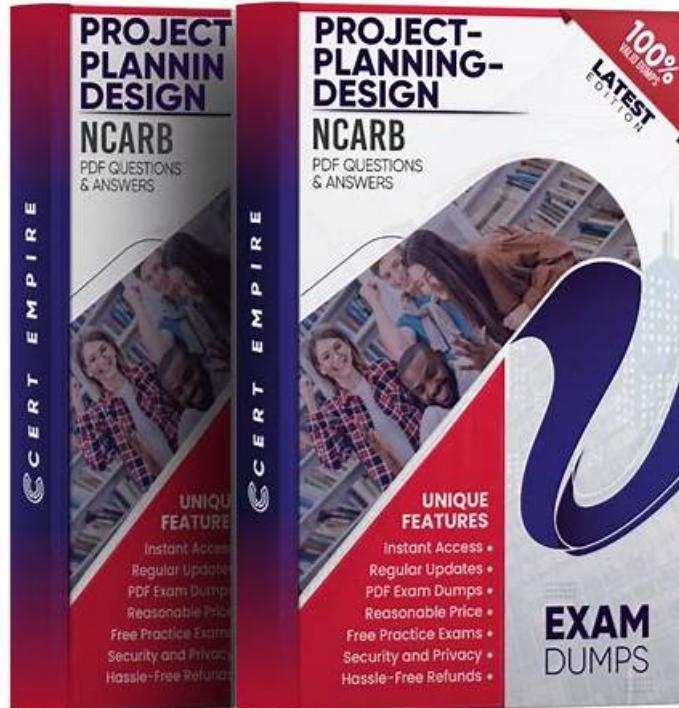


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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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 3	<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 4	<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 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 (Q11-Q16):

NEW QUESTION # 11

Which strategy enhances passive solar residential design in the northern hemisphere?

- A. Reducing heat storage capacity
- B. Eliminating insulated glazing along the northern walls
- C. Installing an electric baseboard heating system
- D. Locating deciduous trees along the south side of the house

Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Passive solar design in the northern hemisphere relies on maximizing solar gain during the winter while minimizing overheating during summer.

Deciduous trees located on the south side provide shade during the summer (when they have leaves), reducing cooling loads, and allow sunlight to penetrate in the winter after leaf fall, enhancing solar heat gain. This seasonal shading improves comfort and energy efficiency.

Eliminating insulated glazing on the north walls (B) increases heat loss, which is undesirable in cold climates.

Reducing heat storage capacity (C) lowers the building's thermal mass, decreasing its ability to moderate temperature swings, which is counterproductive.

Installing electric baseboard heating (D) is a mechanical solution and does not enhance passive solar design.

Therefore, option A is the best strategy consistent with passive solar principles.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Passive Solar Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Design Strategies

NEW QUESTION # 12

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 Refer to the exhibit.

What is the required wall finish for rooms 1201 through 1206 on the first floor?

- A. Wall finishes shall be free of fissures, open joints, or crevices that may retain or permit passage of dirt particles.
- B. Wall finishes shall have sealed seams that are tight and smooth.
- C. Wall finishes shall be smooth, scrubbable, and water-resistant.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Rooms such as medical treatment or healthcare spaces require wall finishes that are smooth, scrubbable, and water-resistant to maintain hygiene and allow for regular cleaning and disinfection.

Tight, sealed seams (A) and absence of fissures (B) are important but part of broader requirements.

The key is surfaces that can withstand cleaning agents and moisture exposure without damage.

This ensures compliance with healthcare facility codes and infection control.

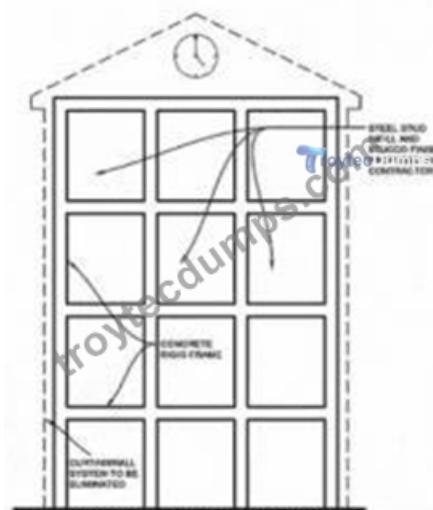
References:

IBC - Healthcare Facilities Chapter

ADA Standards for Accessible Design

ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Healthcare

NEW QUESTION # 13



Refer to the exhibit (concrete rigid frame building with aluminum curtain wall system).

The drawing shows a proposed concrete rigid frame building enclosed in an aluminum curtain wall system.

To save money, the contractor proposed to eliminate the curtain wall system and substitute steel stud framing, which is anchored

between the columns and beams and covered with a stucco finish.

What is the most likely result of this substitution?

- A. The stucco will crack due to movement of the frames under lateral loading.
- B. Wind load on the stud framing will transfer directly to the concrete frame and overload it.
- C. The substitution will work and will save construction cost.
- D. Increased dead load of the stucco system will overload the frames.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Curtain wall systems are designed to accommodate building movement, including deflections from wind and seismic loads, and provide an air and moisture barrier without carrying structural loads.

Replacing the curtain wall with a steel stud framing covered with stucco, which is rigid and brittle, will not accommodate differential movement between the frame and cladding. This is likely to cause stucco cracking as the steel framing and concrete frame move differently under lateral loads.

The wind load will not necessarily overload the concrete frame (A), as loads are transferred properly in both systems.

The substitution may save initial cost but will cause durability and maintenance problems (B).

Dead load increase (D) is minimal compared to structural effects of cracking.

NCARB guidelines stress proper cladding systems that can accommodate structural deflections to prevent damage.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Curtain Wall Systems

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Envelope

NEW QUESTION # 14

For a three-story building, which of the following is considered a vertical irregularity with respect to seismic design?

- A. The building has a significant reentrant corner on the front side.
- B. The effective mass of story 2 is two times the mass of story 1.
- C. Interior symmetrically placed shear walls are four times as stiff as perimeter columns.
- D. The effective mass of the roof is one-half the mass of the floor immediately below.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

In seismic design, vertical irregularities are discontinuities or abrupt changes in the building's mass, stiffness, or geometry that can affect seismic response and increase vulnerability during an earthquake. The NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design guidelines describe vertical irregularities as changes occurring along the height of the building.

* Option C describes a mass irregularity where story 2 has twice the effective mass of story 1. According to seismic code provisions (such as those referenced in ASCE 7 and adopted by IBC), a vertical mass irregularity is present if the effective seismic mass in any story is more than 150% (1.5 times) or less than 70% (0.7 times) of the mass of an adjacent story. Here, doubling the mass is a significant vertical irregularity that affects the dynamic behavior and design.

* Option A, the roof mass being half that of the floor below, is a decrease in mass but less than the typical threshold of 30% difference (the ratio is 0.5, which is a 50% difference). This might also be considered, but the mass irregularity is more typically flagged at the 1.5x or 0.7x threshold and tends to be more critical in lower floors, making C the clearer choice.

* Option B describes a reentrant corner, which is a horizontal plan irregularity, not vertical. Reentrant corners affect torsional behavior but are not classified as vertical irregularities.

* Option D refers to stiffness differences between interior shear walls and perimeter columns but, when symmetrically placed, this is not necessarily considered an irregularity. Vertical stiffness irregularities are defined by abrupt stiffness changes in vertical elements, but symmetry mitigates torsional effects.

The presence of vertical mass irregularities significantly influences seismic forces distribution, dynamic response, and the potential for torsional motions. Designers must recognize these irregularities per NCARB guidelines and apply appropriate structural detailing and design modifications to meet life-safety requirements.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Seismic Design Considerations NCARB ARE 5.0 Guidelines, Seismic Design and Irregularities ASCE 7-16, Chapter 12 - Seismic Design Criteria The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 15

Which of the following is considered when using natural light as the primary source of ambient light to improve building quality and reduce energy costs?

- A. Operable windows located on opposite walls
- B. Single switched lighting controls
- **C. Exterior shading devices**
- D. Clear glazing window wall system

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Using natural light as a primary source of ambient lighting is a sustainable strategy to improve indoor environmental quality and reduce energy consumption. However, careful control of daylighting is essential to avoid glare and overheating.

Exterior shading devices (such as louvers, overhangs, and fins) are critical in managing solar heat gain and glare by controlling direct sunlight before it enters the building envelope. They help maintain visual comfort and reduce cooling loads, directly impacting energy costs and occupant comfort.

Operable windows on opposite walls facilitate cross ventilation, which is beneficial for natural ventilation but does not directly control daylighting quality or energy use related to lighting.

Clear glazing window wall systems maximize daylight penetration but can increase solar heat gain if not properly shaded, thus increasing cooling loads.

Single switched lighting controls are a basic electrical feature and do not influence daylighting quality or energy efficiency related to natural light.

NCARB's PPD guidelines emphasize integrating exterior shading as a passive design strategy to optimize daylight use and reduce reliance on mechanical cooling and artificial lighting, improving building performance sustainably.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design - Environmental Conditions and Context The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Design and Daylighting NCARB Guidelines on Daylighting and Energy Efficiency

NEW QUESTION # 16

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