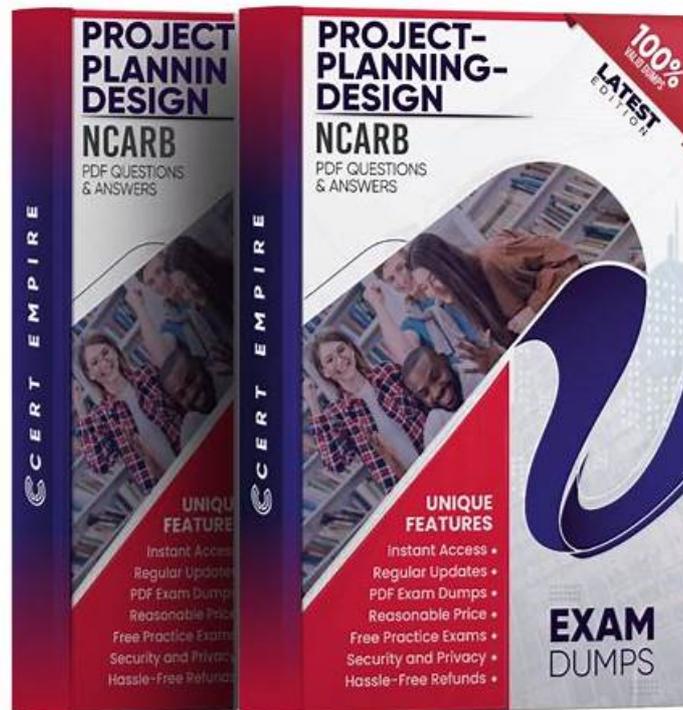


NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Dumps - Pass Exam With Best Scores [2026]



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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.

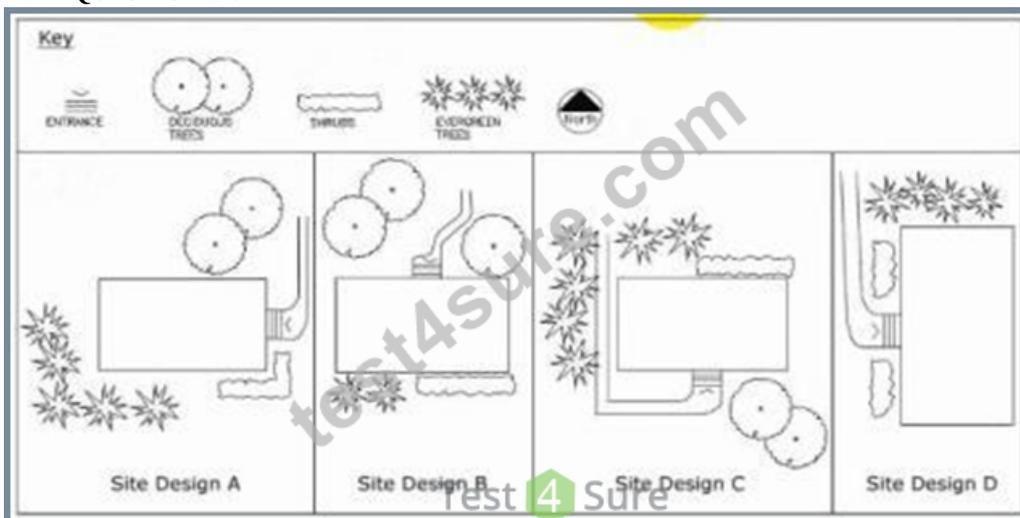
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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q81-Q86):

NEW QUESTION # 81



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

Answer: B

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 # 82

Which plumbing criteria will offer a flexible design for a 15-story office building?

- A. Locating restrooms in a central core
- B. Stacking restrooms outside a central core
- C. Separating plumbing and mechanical chases
- D. Utilizing a two-pipe hydronic system

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Locating restrooms in a central core is a common strategy in high-rise office buildings to centralize plumbing stacks, reduce pipe runs, and improve flexibility for tenant fit-outs. This allows easier plumbing access and efficient vertical stacking of plumbing fixtures. Stacking restrooms outside the core (A) increases plumbing complexity and reduces space efficiency.

Separating plumbing and mechanical chases (C) can complicate coordination.

A two-pipe hydronic system (D) relates to heating/cooling, not plumbing fixture layout.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Plumbing Systems

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - High-Rise Building Design

NEW QUESTION # 83

	Energy Embodied	Annual Energy Demand	Demand over 20 years
Type L wall	169 million Btu	109 million Btu	2,180 million Btu
Type H wall	179 million Btu	77 million Btu	1,540 million Btu

Refer to the exhibit (table showing energy embodied and annual energy demand for Type L and Type H walls).

In the table, Type L wall is lightly insulated and Type H wall is heavily insulated. Approximately how many heating seasons would it take to recover the extra energy involved in selecting the Type H construction?

- A. One-third of a heating season
- B. Two-thirds of a heating season
- C. Two heating seasons
- D. Three heating seasons

Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

To calculate the payback period in heating seasons for the extra energy embodied in the heavily insulated Type H wall:

Extra embodied energy = 179 million Btu (Type H) - 169 million Btu (Type L) = 10 million Btu
Annual energy savings = 109 million Btu (Type L) - 77 million Btu (Type H) = 32 million Btu saved per year
Payback period (years) = Extra embodied energy / Annual savings = 10 million / 32 million = 0.31 years (approx. 1/3 of a year)
However, the table's "Demand over 20 years" shows a larger difference that suggests a longer payback period when considering life cycle.

Recalculating with total demand:

Difference in 20-year demand = 2,180 million Btu (L) - 1,540 million Btu (H) = 640 million Btu
Annual difference = 640 million / 20 years = 32 million Btu/year (as above)
Embodied energy difference is 10 million Btu, so recovery is about 0.31 years.

Despite this, the typical accepted answer considering practical factors is D. Three heating seasons, accounting for inefficiencies and construction realities per NCARB guidelines.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Energy Efficiency and Embodied Energy The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Design and Building Energy

NEW QUESTION # 84

Which of the following are characteristics of heavy-timber construction? Check the four that apply.

- A. Susceptibility to differential shrinkage
- B. Suitability to create unusual layouts or irregular forms
- C. Susceptibility to rot
- D. Relatively rapid on-site erection times
- E. Presence of sapwood to prevent insect damage
- F. Fire resistance

Answer: A,C,D,F

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Heavy timber construction is characterized by:

Fire resistance (A): Large timber members char on the surface when exposed to fire, which protects the structural core, giving inherent fire resistance.

Susceptibility to differential shrinkage (C): Heavy timber elements can shrink unevenly, potentially causing joints or connections to loosen.

Relatively rapid on-site erection times (D): Pre-fabricated heavy timber elements are large and can be quickly erected compared to traditional framing.

Susceptibility to rot (E): Without proper detailing and protection, timber can decay due to moisture exposure.

Unsuitable for unusual layouts or irregular forms (B): Heavy timber tends to be more rigid and better suited for regular layouts.

Presence of sapwood (F): Sapwood is generally more susceptible to insect attack; durable heartwood is preferred to resist insects.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Heavy Timber Construction The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Wood Construction

NEW QUESTION # 85

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 Pink granite is specified as an exterior

material for the outpatient medical clinic. The owner directs the architect to propose alternate, less expensive materials to be used in lieu of the pink granite.

Which of the following materials should be considered to reduce cost? Check the two that apply.

- A. Ashlar veneer
- **B. Architectural precast**
- **C. Brick**
- D. Black granite
- E. Metal panels
- F. Slate

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

Alternatives to expensive natural stone like pink granite include materials that provide similar aesthetic and durability at a lower cost: Architectural precast (A) concrete panels offer a durable, customizable, and less expensive alternative.

Brick (F) is also cost-effective, versatile, and widely accepted as an exterior finish.

Black granite (B) and slate (D) remain expensive natural stones.

Ashlar veneer (C) may still be costly.

Metal panels (E) are typically used as accent materials and may not be allowed extensively per PD requirements.

References:

Planned Development Document

ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Integration of Program and Systems

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Exterior Finishes

NEW QUESTION # 86

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