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NCARB PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A developer hires an architecture firm to design a new apartment building. The firm completes construction documents and a building permit is issued. The firm will provide CA services at a rate of \$200 per hour for the principal and \$150 per hour for the project manager. As the firm starts CA, the owner asks for a not-to-exceed fee based on the following:

-Twenty shop drawings, which the project manager will handle at an average of three hours per review.

-Three site visits, which the principal will handle at an average of four hours per site visit.

The firm includes a 10% allowance for unknowns.

What should the not-to-exceed fee be?

A. \$11,400

B. \$12,540

C. \$13,800

D. \$15,240 - Answers :CORRECT RESPONSE

\$12,540

CALCULATIONS

1. Shop drawing review: \$150 per hour (project manager) x 3 hours per review x 20 shop drawings = \$9,000

2. Site visits: \$200 per hour (principal) x 4 hours per visit x 3 visits = \$2,400

3. \$9,000 (shop drawing review) + \$2,400 (site visits) = \$11,400

4. \$11,400 + 10% (allowance for unknowns) = \$12,540

An architecture firm is updating their rules for the proper dimensioning of their architectural drawings. They want to provide their construction personnel with clear and unambiguous aspects of general dimensioning.

Which of the following rules should the firm use? Check the four that apply.

A. Avoid notes on plans when dimensional control of an element is unnecessary so that the lack of information isn't viewed as an error or omission.

B. Provide actual dimension strings even when there is an opportunity to describe an element with a note such as "align."

C. Provide critical dimensions for things that are important in location or that must have a controlled placement.

D. Dimension corridor partitions from the corridor side of the partition with a clear egress width.

E. Dimension toilet room drywall partitions from the toilet room side of the partition.

F. Avoid the use of fractions smaller than "1/8" anywhere on floor - Answers :B. Provide critical dimensions for things that are important in location or that must have a controlled placement.

This is a general basis for all dimensioning in architectural documentation.

C. Dimension corridor partitions from the corridor side of the partition with a clear egress width.

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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"> • 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.
Topic 3	<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 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 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.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q27-Q32):

NEW QUESTION # 27

Which of the following design elements will affect pedestrian security within a site? Check the four that apply.

- A. Transparency of fences and barriers
- B. Type of landscaping
- C. Parking quantity
- D. Location of adjacent activity
- E. Number of site access points
- F. Impervious pavement

Answer: A,B,D,E

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Pedestrian security depends on the design and management of the site to reduce hiding spots, increase visibility, and encourage natural surveillance:

Type of landscaping (B): Dense, tall, or thorny plants can deter access or obstruct views, while low, transparent landscaping improves visibility and security.

Number of site access points (D): More access points can increase vulnerability unless properly controlled.

Transparency of fences and barriers (E): Transparent or see-through fences improve visibility and reduce concealment areas, enhancing security.

Location of adjacent activity (F): Adjacent active uses or areas with high foot traffic provide natural surveillance, discouraging crime.

Impervious pavement (A) relates to surface permeability and drainage but not directly to security.

Parking quantity (C) impacts traffic and congestion more than pedestrian security.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site Planning and Security The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

NEW QUESTION # 28

Which of the following is the most effective way to reduce noise in mechanical air delivery systems?

- A. Reduce the free area of the supply air grille
- B. Provide exterior duct insulation
- C. Increase the size of the ductwork

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Noise in mechanical air delivery systems is often caused by high air velocity and turbulence within ducts, which generate sound that can be transmitted to occupied spaces.

Increasing the size of the ductwork (A) lowers the air velocity for a given volume of air flow, which reduces turbulence and noise generation inside the duct. Larger ducts allow air to move more quietly and efficiently.

Exterior duct insulation (B) can reduce noise transmission through the duct walls but is less effective at controlling the noise generated by airflow itself inside the duct.

Reducing the free area of the supply air grille (C) increases velocity at the grille, potentially increasing noise at the outlet and causing discomfort.

Therefore, the most effective strategy is increasing duct size to reduce air velocity and noise.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, HVAC and Acoustics

NEW QUESTION # 29

The design of a large, one-story building to be used for the storage of confidential documents is being evaluated for security. The owners wish to have as much storage space as possible.

Which of the following design strategies would be the most economical solution to maximize security?

- A. Minimize building entries and windows
- B. Increase building setbacks
- C. Add visual surveillance cameras

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Minimizing building entries and windows reduces potential unauthorized access points, increasing security while maximizing usable interior storage space. This approach is cost-effective compared to increasing setbacks (which requires more land) or installing surveillance systems (which adds operational costs).

NCARB PPD guidelines recommend minimizing access points and openings for high-security storage buildings.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Security Design

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

NEW QUESTION # 30

Refer to the exhibit (urban commercial site sketch).

□ In the urban commercial site shown in the sketch, which is the most convenient location for a truck entrance and exit from the site?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

When planning truck entrances and exits on an urban commercial site, several key factors are considered: traffic flow, safety, convenience, and minimizing interference with customer parking and pedestrian areas.

* Option C is located on a one-way street that allows trucks to enter or exit smoothly without conflicting with two-way traffic or customer parking. Since the street next to point C is one-way with traffic moving away from the intersection, trucks exiting at C can merge safely and efficiently into traffic.

* Option A is adjacent to customer parking, and a truck entrance here would interfere with customer access and create safety hazards.

* Option B is positioned near a traffic light on a two-way street, which may complicate truck maneuvering and increase congestion at the intersection.

* Option D is on a two-way street and near an intersection, which could disrupt traffic flow and cause potential safety conflicts with turning vehicles and pedestrians.

NCARB's ARE 5.0 PPD content emphasizes locating service and delivery entrances away from customer areas and at points that allow safe, efficient truck access without disrupting primary pedestrian and vehicle circulation.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Project Integration of Program and Systems - Site Planning and Vehicular Circulation
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 7: Site Design and Vehicle Circulation

NCARB PPD Study Guide: Urban Site Planning and Circulation

NEW QUESTION # 31

A new four-story apartment building is being designed on a site that has solid bedrock subsurface conditions.

The client requested the lowest cost of installation, highest energy efficiency, the shortest round trip time, and minimized loss of usable building space.

Which elevator type should the architect recommend?

- A. Gearless traction elevator
- B. Conventional hydraulic elevator
- C. Dual jack hole-less hydraulic elevator
- **D. Machine-roomless elevator**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Given the constraints:

Lowest cost of installation and minimized loss of usable space favor elevators that don't require a separate machine room.

Machine-roomless elevators (D) have compact machinery integrated within the hoistway, reducing space needs and construction costs.

Hydraulic elevators (A, C) require pits and often larger machine rooms, and are less energy efficient and have slower round trip times compared to traction types.

Gearless traction elevators (B) provide excellent speed and efficiency but usually require machine rooms, increasing cost and space.

Thus, machine-roomless elevators balance cost, efficiency, space, and speed best for mid-rise residential buildings.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Vertical Transportation

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Elevators and Conveying Systems

NEW QUESTION # 32

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