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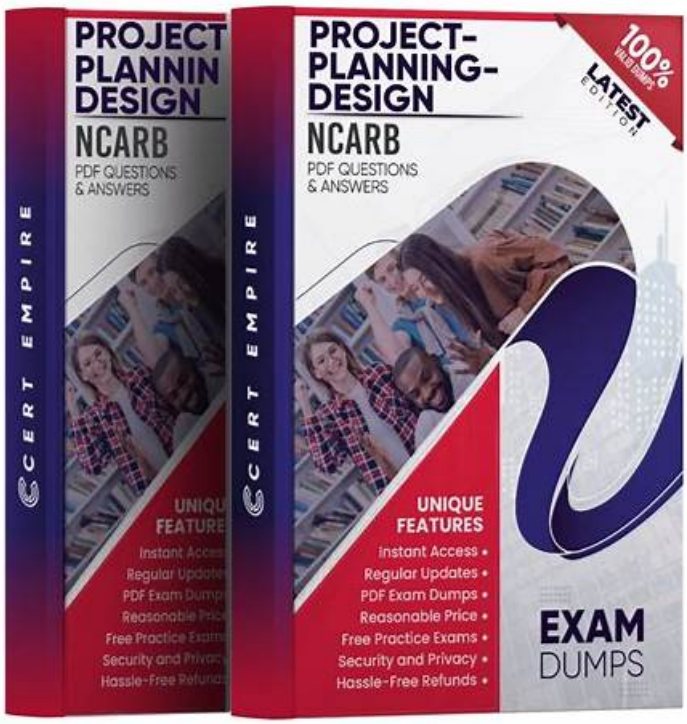

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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q15-Q20):

NEW QUESTION # 15
An architect is commissioned to design a lodge in a location where the water service is insufficient for a sprinkler system. The architect plans to maximize sight lines by using exposed columns and roof structure in the primary assembly space.
Which of the following systems meet these requirements? Check the three that apply.

- A. 12" diameter peeled log columns with glulam beams and 4" wood decking
- B. 6" precast concrete columns, beams, and 8" precast concrete planks
- C. 8" cast-in-place concrete columns and beams and 8" precast planks
- D. 6" diameter steel columns with open web girders and joists
- E. 3" light gauge steel columns with 6" "z" purlins and 28 gauge corrugated metal decking
- F. 6 x 6 cedar columns with 6" light gauge "z" purlins and fire retardant treated plywood decking

Answer: A,D,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When designing in locations with insufficient water service to support sprinkler systems, architects must rely on inherently fire-resistant materials or assemblies that can provide passive fire protection while also meeting the aesthetic and structural needs of the space. This is especially critical in assembly spaces where sight lines are important and exposed structure is desired.
* Option A: Steel columns with open web girders and joists are acceptable because steel does not combust and can be designed for fire resistance either by inherent fireproofing or applied fireproofing.
The open-web design also supports maximizing sight lines by minimizing visual obstruction.
* Option B: Large peeled log columns with glulam beams and wood decking are commonly used in lodge designs. Although wood is combustible, large timber members like glulam beams char on the surface and maintain structural capacity for a predictable duration under fire conditions, which often meets code for exposed timber in assembly spaces without sprinkler systems.
* Option F: Cedar columns with light gauge steel purlins and fire retardant treated plywood decking can be suitable where fire retardant treatment extends the fire resistance of wood members. This is an accepted strategy in areas lacking sprinkler protection, particularly for visual warmth and compatibility with lodge aesthetics.
* Options C and D: Concrete columns and beams are noncombustible but tend to be bulky and can obstruct sight lines.
Additionally, precast planks with concrete may not fit the desired exposed wood or open aesthetic.
* Option E: Light gauge steel columns with corrugated metal decking are lightweight and minimal, but
3" steel columns are structurally insufficient for large assembly spaces and metal decking without proper fireproofing is less common in exposed wood aesthetic projects.
These design choices align with NCARB's Project Planning & Design content regarding material selection for fire resistance, visual

requirements, and assembly occupancy considerations. Specifically, the guidelines recommend using heavy timber, fire-retardant-treated wood, or protected steel systems where sprinkler systems are not feasible to comply with fire and life safety codes while addressing architectural intent.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD Content Outline: Building Systems, Materials, and Assemblies (NCARB) The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations NCARB ARE 5.0 Guidelines: Fire Protection and Material Performance in Assembly Spaces

NEW QUESTION # 16
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. Increase sunlight in the vicinity of critical visual tasks
- B. Limit ample access to daylight to the interior spaces only
- C. Provide for daylight-responsive control of electric lighting
- D. Isolate electric lighting for daylight-responsive control to within a single zone

Answer: C

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 # 17
During design development of a new college laboratory facility, the owner asks the architect to include way- finding signage mounted adjacent to doors. The type of signage requested will project into the corridors of the building.
Which of the following should the architect consider when selecting the signage? Check the three that apply.

- A. IBC exit width requirements
- B. ADA accessibility requirements
- C. Local zoning ordinance on signage
- D. Manufacturer installation information
- E. International Energy Code
- F. Signage material and finish type

Answer: A,B,D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When signage projects into corridors:
ADA requirements (A) ensure signage is accessible to all, including those with disabilities.
IBC exit width requirements (B) ensure projected signage does not reduce required egress widths.
Manufacturer installation information (F) guides proper, safe mounting and compliance with structural requirements.
Zoning (D) is generally for exterior signage.
Energy code (E) is not related.
Material and finish (C) affect aesthetics but not code compliance.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Accessibility
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Signage Design

NEW QUESTION # 18
An elementary school requires a renovation, selective demolition, and a major addition in order to accommodate a growing student population. An architectural firm has prepared schematic design plans incorporating the school's increased programmatic needs, including an enlarged library, cafeteria, and gymnasium; a secure courtyard; and additional space for administrative offices and classrooms. The main entrance was relocated in order to improve the traffic and pedestrian flow at the beginning and end of the school day, and additional parking was provided to comply with current zoning requirements.
The existing single-story masonry building was built in 1950. Two small additions were built later: the north addition will be kept and repurposed, but the south addition will be demolished. The building contains asbestos and lead in roof soffits, floor tiles, pipe insulation, and window paint. All existing mechanical systems need to be replaced; new systems have not been selected.
Considerations for the renovation include:
*The relocated front entrance must be easily recognizable, highly visible, and secure.
*Interior and exterior materials need to be durable and maintainable in order to withstand frequent student abuse, but also economical due to strict budget limitations.
*Good indoor air quality and increased energy efficiency are priorities for the selection of mechanical equipment.
After completion, the entire school should look uniform, without a distinctive difference between the existing building and new addition.
Building information:
*Construction Type is II-B.
The following resources are available for your reference:
*Existing Plans, including site and floor plans
*Proposed Plans, including site and floor plans
*Cost Analysis
*Zoning Ordinance Excerpts, for off-street parking requirements
*IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
*ADA Standards Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design The project team decides to cover the roof area above the gymnasium and platform with 350 watt, stationary, photovoltaic (PV) panels. Each panel requires 20 square feet, accounting for access aisles and safety clearances. The PV system will be tied to the local power company's electrical grid, and will not have battery storage. The school is located in a region that gets an average of 4 usable hours of sunlight per day.
Which of the following PV system design considerations apply to this project? Check the three that apply.
Refer to the project involving an elementary school renovation and addition with photovoltaic (PV) panels on the gymnasium roof (350-watt panels, 20 sq ft each, ~4 usable sunlight hours/day). The PV system is grid-tied without battery storage.
Which of the following PV system design considerations apply? Check the three that apply.

- A. The PV panels should be mounted toward the student pick-up/drop-off.
- B. The gymnasium and platform structural system must be designed to support the load of the PV system.
- C. The PV system will produce approximately 95.5 kW during peak sun conditions.
- D. The PV system will reduce the need for artificial lighting in the gymnasium and platform areas.
- E. The PV system will provide emergency power for the school if the grid goes down.
- F. The PV system will be made up of approximately 273 panels.

Answer: B,C,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
B: Structural support must accommodate PV panel weight and wind loads.
C: Number of panels is calculated by dividing total roof area by panel area (total panel count # 273).
F: Peak power output = number of panels × wattage per panel (273 × 350 W # 95.5 kW).
A: Grid-tied systems without batteries do not provide power during outages.
D: PV panels generate electricity but do not directly reduce artificial lighting needs.
E: Panels are mounted for optimal solar exposure, not necessarily toward pick-up areas.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Solar Energy
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Renewable Energy

NEW QUESTION # 19
When considering the IBC requirements, an architect can increase the number of options from which to select structural materials for an office building by doing which one of the following?

- A. Limiting the area of the building
- B. Increasing the occupant capacity
- C. Increasing the efficiency ratio
- D. Omitting 2-hour fire ratings

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Limiting the building area within allowable maximums based on occupancy and type increases the range of acceptable structural materials because larger buildings have stricter fire and structural requirements.
Increasing occupant capacity (A) increases code stringency.
Increasing efficiency ratio (B) is not an IBC classification.
Omitting 2-hour fire ratings (D) is not permitted and would reduce material options.
Thus, reducing building area allows more flexibility in structural material choices under IBC.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Building Materials and Fire Ratings The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Codes

NEW QUESTION # 20
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