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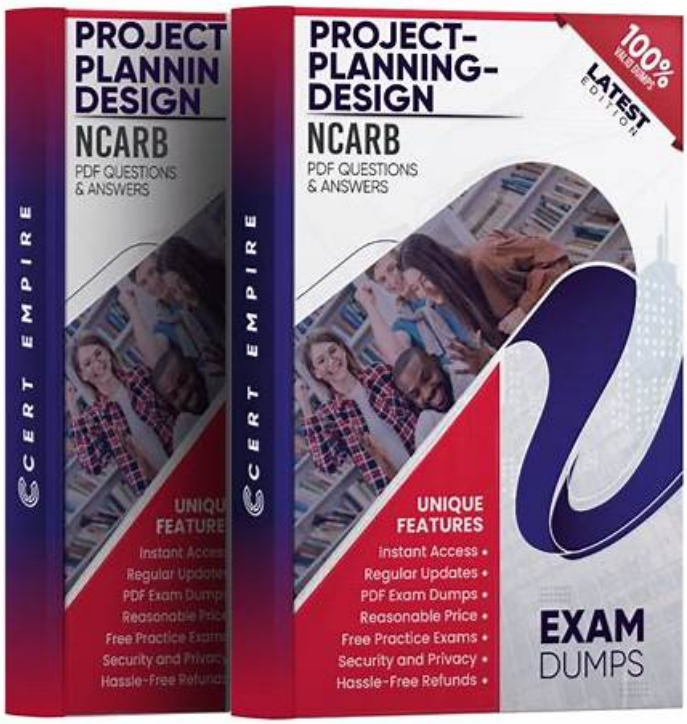

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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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	• 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	• 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 4	• 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 5	• 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q22-Q27):

NEW QUESTION # 22
A one-story residence in a dry climate with cold winter nights is designed with an unconditioned dirt floor crawlspace utilizing underfloor plumbing and HVAC ductwork. The owner is interested in using a concrete slab-on-grade floor instead of the pier-and-beam concrete floor over an open crawlspace as originally designed.
What are the impacts of changing the design to a slab-on-grade floor system? Check the two that apply.

- A. It will limit the types of flooring finishes available.
- B. It will allow for better moisture control.
- C. It will have more steel reinforcing.
- D. It will limit future plumbing flexibility.
- E. It will have warmer floors in the evenings.
- F. It will allow for HVAC ductwork installation.

Answer: D,E

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Changing from a pier-and-beam system with an open crawlspace to a slab-on-grade floor has several impacts:
Warmer floors in the evenings (A): Concrete slab-on-grade floors have high thermal mass, which can absorb heat during the day and release it slowly, resulting in warmer floors at night, particularly beneficial in cold climates.
Limited future plumbing flexibility (C): Plumbing embedded in or beneath slabs is difficult to access or modify after construction, unlike crawlspaces that provide easier access to underfloor plumbing for repairs or modifications.
More steel reinforcing (B): While slabs do require reinforcement, this is often comparable or less than the framing required for pier-and-beam floors, so this is not necessarily an impact.
Flooring finishes (D): Slab floors can accommodate many finishes; thus, limitations are generally minimal.
Better moisture control (E): Slabs require moisture barriers and careful detailing to control moisture; crawlspaces can sometimes be easier to ventilate but may allow moisture intrusion if not properly designed.
HVAC ductwork installation (F): Crawlspaces allow ducts to be located under the floor; slabs typically require ducts to be placed above or within conditioned spaces.
Thus, the most significant impacts are warmer floors and reduced plumbing flexibility.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Foundations and Floors
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Construction Systems

NEW QUESTION # 23
An architect is designing an office building on an infill lot. The client wants to look at site design strategies to prevent erosion and collection of excess surface water resulting from the new construction.

Which one of the following strategies directly addresses the client's requirement?

- A. Install a catchment area
- B. Install pervious paving
- C. Install horizontal overhangs

Answer: B

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Pervious paving allows water to infiltrate through surfaces, reducing runoff and preventing erosion and surface water accumulation on site. It is an effective stormwater management technique suited to infill sites where space is limited.
A catchment area (B) collects water but does not prevent erosion or surface water by itself.
Horizontal overhangs (C) provide shading and weather protection but do not affect surface water runoff.
NCARB PPD guidelines emphasize permeable surfaces as key components of sustainable site design to manage stormwater onsite.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site and Stormwater Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Site Design

NEW QUESTION # 24
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. Presence of sapwood to prevent insect damage
- D. Relatively rapid on-site erection times
- E. Susceptibility to rot
- F. Fire resistance

Answer: A,D,E,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 # 25
A multistory warehouse is to be converted into a high-tech office building. The owners propose a variety of services and flexibility to tenants, including cable/internet, fiber optic communications, dish/satellite, and security systems.
In order to accommodate this broad array of electronic and communications services, the architect should recommend which of the following electrical and communications distribution systems?

- A. Flat cable wiring system
- B. Poke-through system
- C. Raised access floor system
- D. Cellular deck system

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
A raised access floor system provides a flexible, accessible space beneath the finished floor for routing power, data, telecommunications, and security cables. It facilitates easy reconfiguration and tenant fit-out modifications without major disruption.
Poke-through systems (A) provide limited point access for power/data and are less flexible for extensive rewiring.
Cellular deck systems (B) are structural components, not distribution systems.
Flat cable wiring (D) is a wiring method but does not provide the physical infrastructure for flexibility.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Electrical and Communications Systems The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Data and Power Distribution

NEW QUESTION # 26
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 When the addition is completed, the school will be fully sprinkled per NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems requirements, with a continuous 24-foot wide fire access lane provided around the building perimeter.
Through a code analysis, the combination of construction type, occupancy, and building area present a compliance problem.

- A. Check frontage area increase
- B. Reduce building area
- C. Add firewall to design

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When a building's size and occupancy cause non-compliance with allowable building area or frontage requirements, the architect should first check frontage area increase provisions allowed by the code. The frontage increase can allow a larger building area based on the length of street frontage and fire access, especially when sprinklers and fire lanes are provided.
Adding firewalls (A) is a method to subdivide building area but is typically considered after exploring frontage increases.
Reducing building area (C) is a last resort if other allowances are insufficient.
Therefore, the architect should first verify if frontage area increases resolve the compliance issue.
References:
IBC Chapter 5 - Building Area and Height Limits
NFPA 13 - Sprinkler System Requirements
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 27
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