

Project-Planning-Design Latest Cram Materials & Project-Planning-Design Exam Test



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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">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 3	<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 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.

2026 Valid Project-Planning-Design: ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Latest Cram Materials

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q49-Q54):

NEW QUESTION # 49

On the site plan, the Phase I building is a 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic. The Phase II building is a boarding kennel for dogs and cats. The cat enclosures will face north for views of the wetlands. Eventually, a landscape architect will design a memorial garden on the northwest area of the site.

The architect needs to locate a service drive for the property and wants to minimize the impact of construction on site vegetation and wildlife.

Click on the property line location on the site plan to indicate the appropriate location for the service drive.



Answer:

Explanation:



Explanation:

east side (Pine Street)

* Locating the service drive along the east side (Pine Street) minimizes disturbance to the wetlands area (northwest part of the site) and existing trees concentrated mostly in the southwest and northwest areas.

* This placement keeps the service drive away from the sensitive wetlands and the planned memorial garden on the northwest, preserving wildlife habitats and mature vegetation.

* It also provides convenient access for service vehicles without crossing or fragmenting critical site features.

* The east side is adjacent to an existing road (Pine Street), making it logical for service access and reducing new disturbance.

This approach aligns with NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design guidance for site design prioritizing environmental

preservation and minimizing construction impact on sensitive natural areas.

NEW QUESTION # 50

To reduce embodied energy in a 500-unit redevelopment, the architect should create a strategy to include which of the following? Check the three that apply.

- A. Decrease the percentage of high-rise units
- B. Increase the percentage of single-story units
- C. Use simple geometric structures
- D. Orient the building to create transitional spaces within the development
- E. Construct buildings and infrastructure from local and low-energy materials where possible
- F. Re-use existing buildings and structures wherever possible

Answer: C,E,F

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Reducing embodied energy involves strategies that minimize new material production and transportation impacts:

Re-using existing buildings (A) avoids new material consumption and demolition waste.

Using local and low-energy materials (C) reduces transportation energy and energy-intensive materials.

Simple geometric structures (F) use fewer materials and minimize complexity, lowering embodied energy.

Orientation and transitional spaces (B) mainly affect operational energy, not embodied energy.

Altering the proportion of high-rise or single-story units (D, E) affects land use and operational efficiency more than embodied energy.

NCARB emphasizes these strategies in sustainable design practices.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Sustainable Design

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

NEW QUESTION # 51

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. Clear glazing window wall system
- C. Exterior shading devices
- D. Single switched lighting controls

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 # 52

When laying out access routes and parking lots for an office building, which of the following strategies can increase the security of the site?

- A. Integrate shipping and receiving in one location
- B. Provide public access to all parking areas
- C. Designate parking areas based on defined user groups
- D. Provide an equal amount of parking spaces on each side of the building

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Designating parking areas for different user groups (e.g., employees, visitors, service vehicles) helps control access, monitor activity, and reduce unauthorized entry, improving site security.

Equal parking on all sides (A) does not affect security.

Integrating shipping and receiving (C) may improve logistics but not necessarily security.

Providing public access to all parking (D) can increase security risks.

NCARB PPD guidelines emphasize zoning and controlled access as key security strategies.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site Security

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

NEW QUESTION # 53

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

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

Answer: C

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

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