

NCARB Project-Planning-Design Latest Study Materials, Project-Planning-Design Vce Download



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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"> • 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	<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 4	<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 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.

Tips to Crack NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Easily

Passing the ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) (Project-Planning-Design) exam requires the ability to manage time effectively. In addition to the NCARB Project-Planning-Design exam study materials, practice is essential to prepare for and pass the NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam on the first try. It is critical to do self-assessment and learn time management skills.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q47-Q52):

NEW QUESTION # 47

Which strategy enhances passive solar residential design in the northern hemisphere?

- A. Eliminating insulated glazing along the northern walls
- B. Installing an electric baseboard heating system
- C. Locating deciduous trees along the south side of the house
- D. Reducing heat storage capacity

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Passive solar design in the northern hemisphere relies on maximizing solar gain during the winter while minimizing overheating during summer.

Deciduous trees located on the south side provide shade during the summer (when they have leaves), reducing cooling loads, and allow sunlight to penetrate in the winter after leaf fall, enhancing solar heat gain. This seasonal shading improves comfort and energy efficiency.

Eliminating insulated glazing on the north walls (B) increases heat loss, which is undesirable in cold climates.

Reducing heat storage capacity (C) lowers the building's thermal mass, decreasing its ability to moderate temperature swings, which is counterproductive.

Installing electric baseboard heating (D) is a mechanical solution and does not enhance passive solar design.

Therefore, option A is the best strategy consistent with passive solar principles.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Passive Solar Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Design Strategies

NEW QUESTION # 48

A site has been engineered with a 1:20 grade.

Which of the following sidewalk designs would be the most cost-effective way to get from the top to the bottom and still be in compliance with the accessibility standards?

- A. Switchback ramps at 1:12 with a handrail
- B. Cutting diagonally across the slope at 1:12 with no handrail
- C. At the same grade as the slope with no handrail
- D. Cutting diagonally across the slope at 1:10 with a handrail

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

A 1:20 slope means a 5% grade (1 vertical unit per 20 horizontal units), which is slightly steeper than the ideal maximum slope for accessible ramps.

* Option C: Cutting diagonally across the slope at 1:12 (~8.33%) slope without a handrail is the most cost-effective design that still complies with accessibility standards. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ICC A117.1, the maximum slope for an accessible ramp is 1:12. Handrails are required on ramps with a rise greater than 6 inches (150 mm). If the rise is less than 6 inches, handrails are not required.

Because the diagonal cut reduces the slope to 1:12 and the total rise is likely less than 6 inches given the gentle 1:20 original slope, handrails are not mandatory, making this solution economical and code compliant.

* Option A: Switchback ramps at 1:12 with handrails are compliant but more expensive due to increased construction complexity and space requirements.

* Option B: A 1:10 slope (10%) exceeds the maximum allowed slope for accessible ramps and requires handrails, thus non-compliant.

* Option D: Following the existing 1:20 slope without modification does not provide the maximum accessibility slope and may be acceptable but might not comply with certain stricter local codes for ramps.

Therefore, Option C balances accessibility, cost, and compliance optimally.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Site Accessibility and Grading ADA Standards for Accessible Design (2010) ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standards The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 7: Site Planning and Accessibility

NEW QUESTION # 49

If evaluating on a life-cycle basis, which of the following effects is the major reason for using native or adapted plantings on-site?

- A. Reduction in root adaptation time period
- B. Reduction in transplantation costs
- C. Reduction in irrigation water and fertilizer

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Native or adapted plantings are used primarily to reduce long-term environmental and maintenance costs in sustainable site design. The most significant life-cycle benefit is the reduction in irrigation water and fertilizer requirements because native plants are naturally suited to local climate and soil conditions. They typically require less supplemental watering, fertilizer, and pesticide use, which reduces resource consumption and maintenance efforts over the plantings' lifespan.

Option B (Reduction in root adaptation time period) is a minor factor relative to water and nutrient needs.

Option C (Reduction in transplantation costs) relates more to initial installation cost rather than long-term life-cycle impacts.

Using native or adapted plant species supports sustainable landscape design principles emphasized in the NCARB PPD content, contributing to water conservation, reduced chemical use, and improved ecological performance.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Sustainable Site Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Landscape and Site Planning NCARB Sustainable Design Guidelines

NEW QUESTION # 50

Refer to the exhibit (photo showing diagonal cracks in a wall).

The structural damage evident in the photograph illustrates a classic example of failure due to which of the following?

- A. In-plane shear
- B. Excessive diaphragm flexure
- C. Overturning

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

The diagonal cracking pattern seen in the photo is characteristic of in-plane shear failure in structural walls or diaphragms. In-plane shear occurs when lateral forces (such as seismic or wind loads) act parallel to the plane of the wall, causing it to deform in shear.

This results in diagonal tension cracks typically forming at roughly 45 degrees, as shown in the image.

Overturning (Option A) refers to the rotation of a wall or structural element about its base or a pivot point due to lateral forces.

Overturning typically causes tension cracks at the base or separation at connections rather than diagonal shear cracks.

Excessive diaphragm flexure (Option C) causes bending deformations in horizontal diaphragms such as floors or roofs, usually leading to different cracking patterns, such as horizontal or vertical flexural cracks.

This type of in-plane shear failure is critical to identify for seismic design, as walls or diaphragms must be detailed to resist shear forces to prevent such damage.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Seismic and Lateral Force Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Structural Systems NCARB Seismic Design Guidelines

NEW QUESTION # 51

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

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 # 52

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