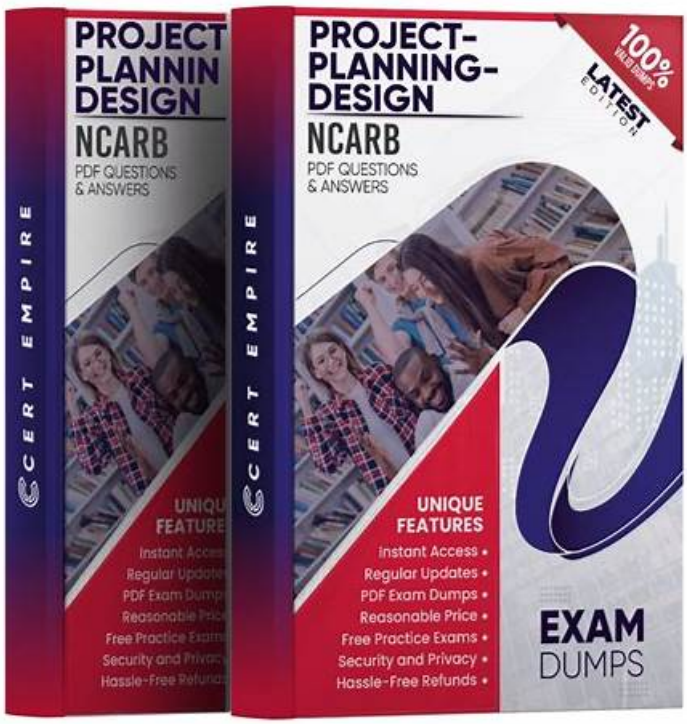
NCARB Project-Planning-Design Real Exam & Prep Project-Planning-Design Guide



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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 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	• 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 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 (Q78-Q83):

NEW QUESTION # 78
A new gallery is being built and requires shading elements to protect the light-sensitive artwork on display.
Which of the following are design criteria relevant to the design of shading components on the west facade of the new gallery?
Check the three that apply.

- A. Annual temperature data
- B. Spacing and depth of vertical louvers
- C. Survey of adjacent building heights
- D. Height of the west gallery wall
- E. Low-E glazing on the west facade
- F. Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of the west glazing

Answer: B,D,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
For shading design on west facades:
Height of the wall (A): Determines the scale and proportion of shading devices.
Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of glazing (C): Influences how much solar radiation passes through windows.
Spacing and depth of vertical louvers (D): Controls shading effectiveness against low-angle afternoon sun.
Low-E glazing (E) helps but is glazing performance, not shading design.
Annual temperature (B) is climatic but less directly relevant.
Adjacent building heights (F) influence shading from surroundings but are secondary.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Solar Control
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Design

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NEW QUESTION # 79
Which of the following is the most appropriate action for the architect to take in preparing a construction cost estimate for an owner after completing the schematic design phase?

- A. Double the contingency allowance for profit if the owner requires the use of a construction manager.

- B. Include a larger contingency percentage for the design development phase than for the construction document phase.
- C. Provide the greatest contingency allowance in the construction administration phase.
- D. Vary the amount of the contingency allowance depending on the funds in the possession of the owner.

Answer: B

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Contingency allowances should be larger during the earlier phases (such as schematic design) due to greater unknowns and potential design changes. As the design progresses and more details are defined, contingency can be reduced.
Varying contingency based on owner funds (B) is inappropriate.
Contingency during construction administration (C) is typically lower.
Doubling contingency for CM use (D) is not standard practice.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Costs and Budgeting
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Cost Estimating

NEW QUESTION # 80
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 system will be made up of approximately 273 panels.
- B. The PV system will provide emergency power for the school if the grid goes down.
- 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 panels should be mounted toward the student pick-up/drop-off.
- F. The gymnasium and platform structural system must be designed to support the load of the PV system.

Answer: A,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 # 81
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 have more steel reinforcing.
- C. It will limit future plumbing flexibility.
- D. It will allow for HVAC ductwork installation.
- E. It will have warmer floors in the evenings.
- F. It will allow for better moisture control.

Answer: C,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 # 82
In order to minimize stratification, in a forced-air heating system, which locations of supply and return grilles should be avoided?

- A. Low supply, high return
- B. High supply, low return
- C. Low supply, low return
- D. High supply, high return

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Stratification refers to the layering of air temperatures within a space, where warmer air rises and cooler air stays near the floor. In forced-air heating systems, minimizing temperature stratification is critical to maintaining occupant comfort and energy efficiency. The

placement of supply and return air grilles plays a significant role in preventing stratification.
* Low supply, low return (Option C) should be avoided because supplying warm air near the floor and simultaneously returning air also near the floor limits effective air mixing. Warm air naturally rises, so if the return grille is also low, cooler air remains trapped above, resulting in poor circulation and uneven temperatures throughout the room. This can cause discomfort, with warmer air accumulating near the ceiling and colder air lingering in the occupied zone.
* High supply, low return (Option B) is often preferred because warm air is supplied from high points, then cools and sinks toward the lower return grille, promoting vertical circulation and mixing, reducing stratification.
* Low supply, high return (Option A) and high supply, high return (Option D) can be less effective depending on system design, but the critical issue is having both supply and return located low, which restricts air movement and stratification mitigation.
According to NCARB PPD content on building systems and HVAC design, proper grille placement is essential to maintain thermal comfort, minimize energy waste, and comply with indoor environmental quality standards. Effective grille placement harnesses natural convection to ensure even temperature distribution, reducing the potential for hot or cold spots and improving occupant satisfaction.
References:
ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design: Building Systems, Materials, and Assemblies - HVAC Principles Black Spectacles ARE PPD Study Materials: Forced Air Heating and Cooling Systems The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Mechanical Systems and Indoor Environmental Quality

NEW QUESTION # 83
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