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# Building Design And Construction Systems (BDCS) ARE Mock Exam: ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions And Graphic Vignettes, Solutions And Explanations (Architect Registration Exam)



## Synopsis

A Practical Mock Exam for the Building Design and Construction Systems (BDCS) Division of the ARE! Every July, NCARB begins to draw the Architect Registration Examinations (ARE) questions from a new edition of ARE exam guide and scope. We have incorporated this latest information into our books. To become a licensed architect, you need to have a proper combination of education and/or experience, meeting your Board of Architecture's special requirements, as well as passing all seven divisions of ARE. This book provides ARE exam overview, resources, exam prep and exam taking techniques, tips and guides. It also provides a realistic and complete set of Mock Exam, solutions, explanations for the Building Design and Construction Systems (BDCS) Division of the ARE. This book covers the following subjects:

1. ARE, IDP and Education Requirements
2. ARE Exam Content, Format and Prep strategies
3. Principles: Selection of Systems, Materials, and Methods, Historic Precedent, Human Behavior, and Design Theory
4. Environmental Issues: Sustainable Design Including Hazardous Material Mitigation, Thermal and Moisture Protection, and Adaptive Re-Use
5. Codes & Regulations: Zoning, Specialty and Building Codes, and Other Regulatory Requirements
6. Materials & Technology: Selection of Systems, Materials, and Methods, including Masonry, Metals, Wood, Concrete, Specialties, and Others
7. Project & Practice Management: Cost, Scheduling, Construction Sequencing, and Risk Management
8. Accessibility/Ramp Vignette: Designing a stairway and ramp connecting two levels that abides by the code and accessibility requirements
9. Stair Design Vignette: Designing a stairway connecting multiple levels that abides by the code and accessibility requirements
10. Roof Plan Vignette: Designing a sloped roof for draining the rainwater, locate equipment and accessories
11. Step-By-Step Solutions for 6 Graphic Vignettes Using NCARB Practice Program Software

This book includes 85 challenging questions at the same difficulty level and format as the real exam (multiple-choice, check-all-that-apply, and fill-in-the-blank), and 6 graphic vignettes. It will help you pass the BDCS division of the ARE and become a licensed architect! See posts under the Customer Discussion Section at the lower portion of this book's detailed page for ARE Exam prep strategies, and more information on this book.

Sample text from "Building Design and Construction Systems (BDCS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)": "Since we do have an area of refuge for this vignette, the stair width needs to be at least 56" or 1422 (48" or 1219 CLEAR because of the area of refuge, plus an 8" or 203 allowance for handrails on both sides)... Note: NCARB throws in the 44" (1118) minimum stair width requirement at the beginning of the program, and place the 48" (1219) CLEAR stair width requirement because of the area of refuge at the end of the program. This is to make sure you can coordinate various criteria, and make sure you

are patient enough to read the entire program." ... Note: There is a defect with the gutter command of the NCARB software. Once you place it, it is almost impossible to modify it. There are two ways to solve this problem... ArchiteG®, ARE Mock Exam®, Green Associate Exam Guide®, GA Study®, and GreenExamEducation® are registered trademarks owned by Gang Chen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had failed this exam 4 times prior to getting this book. Each time I missed either the ramp or the stair vignette. I had zero clue as to what I was doing wrong. I read Ballast, Kaplan and random things on the forum but for the life of me couldn't pin point where I was missing it until I read THIS BOOK! Gang did an excellent job breaking down each vignette. (I'm even embarrassed to say I even studied Dorf - the God of vignettes) I remember going through the ramp and reading Gang's book and saying Ohhhh like 4 or 5 times. I read his book several times until I became comfortable with the information. I went in on test day and it was a breeze. I remember walking out of there thinking I couldn't believe I struggled so much before. The tips in here are priceless! I strongly recommend this book, ESPECIALLY if you are struggling with the vignettes like me!!!

I found Gang Chen's book very helpful for studying for the BDCS exam. His practice tests were very close to the actual questions on the exam. The answers and explanations were extremely helpful for discovering where I needed more study. Vignette information was very good. Especially for such an

vignette extensive exam. I must admit I did get very frustrated by getting an answer wrong on his practice exam, because I didn't read the question thoroughly. This book reemphasized something I already knew about my test taking. I need to slow down and thoroughly read the questions and think about what they are asking for. Thanks Gang Chen! I decided to buy your building systems book for my next (and last) exam.

A very well crafted review. I've gotten into the habit of whenever I begin studying for a new ARE Exam, I always start with a Gang Chen review book. The mock multiple choice exam is great for quickly finding out where you are weak/strong, so you can concentrate on bolstering any deficiencies on your own with other publications. The vignette walk-thru's are very good - a lot of good tricks and strategies that will really help save a lot of time on the exams - leaving you more time to come up with a solution that wins a passing score. So far, I'm 5 for 5 on the ARE exams, and Gang Chen has been along for the whole ride.

I took BDCS a second time recently and looked around for the materials that I didn't have the first time, this book was possibly the only thing that I bought over the other materials that I already had. I like how GC books are formatted with the questions that you can attempt and then check with the answers that explain all the given choices and why they were wrong/right. I like how the vignette explanations were detailed and concentrated on how to handle them in a quick fashion as from my 2 attempts I know that it can be a struggle. The stair vignettes in both my attempts were quite complicated compared to the NCARB example. I suggest that you practice all three vignettes a lot and take them really seriously. I have never heard of that many people failing vignettes as in this one. I can't say enough about the detailed explanations that are given in this book on vignettes. The multiple choice questions and answers guide you to a lot of things that you can research before taking this exam. This book is highly recommended.

This book did exactly like the others said. It is immensely helpful with the explanation of the 3 vignettes. There are so many codes to incorporate, but Chen simplifies it into a methodical process. Bought it and just found out I passed. I would recommend.

Terrible book. It's clear the author only wanted to fill pages and has no interest in teaching. Have you seen his bizarre youtube videos of him singing to pop songs? It's creepy and I don't trust him. The answers are unhelpful and the entire thing is bloated with extra text or repeated text. The

answers section doesn't clarify why one answer is correct, it only repeats which are the wrong answers and which are the right answers.

I used this guide and its included recommended readings to pass the BDCS exam on first try. I followed the recommended vignette approach, and had a clear and concise game plan as I went into the testing center. Recommend this book to anyone who is trying to quickly and efficiently pass the ARE. Best of luck!

I have purchased the entire series of this book for the exams. I am using them in conjunction with the Kaplan study material. I found all of the extra information unnecessary and really only use the question and answer section for preparation. This series does a good job with the practice questions focusing on a more code based approach which I have found the Kaplan books lack. Together they seem to give a good balanced approach to studying and have successfully gotten me through the first three exams.

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