



EXAC

RESOURCE

GUIDE

**EXACTLI'S STUDY AID & REFERENCE MAP
FOR CANADIAN INTERN ARCHITECTS**

Every resource you need, mapped in one place.

How to use this guide.

This is an EXACTLI-curated reading map. Not every reference is required. It groups the official ExAC reference list, plus supplements from EXACTLI's own library, by likely usefulness for each of the four ExAC sections:

- S1** Programming / Site & Environmental Analysis / Schematic Design / Design Development
- S2** National Building Code (NBC) + National Energy Code (NECB)
- S3** Coordinating Engineering Systems / Cost Management / Sustainable Design Literacy
- S4** Bidding & Contract Negotiations / Construction Phase (Office + Field) / Project Management

Tier 0 — the exam blueprint — read first to understand what is being assessed.

Tier 1 — Primary: Principal references.

Tier 2 — Secondary: remaining ExAC-listed references (Books first, then Standards, Guides & Articles).

Tier 3 — Additional: EXACTLI's supplemental library — useful for depth, not required.

TIER 0 — EXAM BLUEPRINT

The ExAC documents that define and govern the ExAC. Read these first.

REF	SOURCE TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER / EDITION	S1	S2	S3	S4	NOTES
0.1	ExAC Preparation Guide (2026)	Committee for the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC)	ExAC / ROAC, annual update					The exam blueprint. Lists the 13 themes, 38 general objectives, 150 specific objectives, item types, schedule, and the official reference list. Read first, return often.
0.2	ExAC Framework Document	Committee for the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC)	ExAC / ROAC, June 2025					How the exam is built and scored, table of specifications, PDCA cycle, item development, scoring methodology. Useful for understanding what the exam can and can't test.
0.3	Internship in Architecture Program (IAP)	Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada (ROAC)	ROAC, 4th Edition, 2020 (Revised July 1, 2022)					Defines every objective the ExAC tests. Cross-reference your study plan against IAP categories.

EXACTLI's ExAC Resource Guide

EXACTLI's study aid — reference map for Canadian intern architects



TIER 1 — PRIMARY REFERENCES

Principal references.

REF	SOURCE TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER / EDITION	S1	S2	S3	S4	NOTES
1.1	Canadian Handbook of Practice for Architects (CHOP)	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)	RAIC, 3rd Edition, 2020 (EN + FR Combiné)	S1	S2	S3	S4	The master reference. Cited across every theme. Read on demand by chapter, don't memorize cover-to-cover.
1.2	National Building Code of Canada (NBC)	National Research Council of Canada (NRC)	NRC / Institute for Research in Construction, Ottawa, 2020 (no provincial adaptations)	S1	S2	S3	S4	Section 2 backbone. Focus on Parts 3, 4, 5, 6, 9. Know how to navigate before knowing content.
1.3	National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB)	National Research Council of Canada (NRC)	NRC / Institute for Research in Construction, Ottawa, 2020		S2	S3		Section 2 companion to NBC. Tested on prescriptive vs. trade-off paths.
1.4	Building Construction Illustrated	Francis D.K. Ching	John Wiley & Sons, latest edition	S1		S3		Visual decoder for assemblies and detailing. Skim cover-to-cover once; revisit by topic.
1.5	The Architect's Studio Companion: Rules of Thumb for Preliminary Design	Edward Allen and Joseph Iano	John Wiley & Sons, 6th Edition, 2017	S1		S3		Rule-of-thumb sizing for structure, MEP, vertical transportation. Bookmark heavily.
1.6	LEED Core Concepts Guide	U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)	USGBC, current			S3		Plain-language LEED primer — the best starting point for the Sustainable Design Literacy theme.

TIER 2 — SECONDARY REFERENCES
All remaining references listed in Appendix 3 of the ExAC Preparation Guide.
Books

REF	SOURCE TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER / EDITION	S1	S2	S3	S4	NOTES
2.1	The Business of Architecture: Your Guide to a Financially Successful Firm	Kathy Denise Dixon, Timothy A. Kephart, Karl L. Moody	Routledge, 2017				S4	Firm finance, fee structures, profitability, firm operations.
2.2	Mastering the Business of Architecture (extracts)	David Stone	Ontario Association of Architects, Toronto, 2004 — Vol. 2 §2 and Vol. 3A §§1–4				S4	Practice-management cornerstone. ExAC pulls fee, contract, and firm-management items here.
2.3	Fundamentals of Construction Estimating	David Pratt	Cengage / Nelson, 4th Edition			S3		Cost Management theme primer. Quantity take-off, unit pricing, markup.
2.4	An Architect's Guide to Construction	Brian Palmquist	self-published / various editions				S4	Field-side perspective on contract administration. Practical for Construction Phase themes.
2.5	Building Science for Building Enclosures	John F. Straube and Eric F.P. Burnett	Building Science Press, 2005		S2	S3		Canonical building science text. Pairs naturally with NBC envelope provisions and the NRC papers.
2.6	LEED v4 for Building Design and Construction (BD+C)	U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)	USGBC, current			S3		Modern LEED framework. Know credit categories and intents, not point values.
2.7	LEED Canada for New Construction and Major Renovations	Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC)	CaGBC, 2009, Ottawa			S3		Canadian-context LEED — Sustainable Design Literacy theme.
2.8	Architectural Graphic Standards	Ramsey, C. and Sleeper, H.	AIA / John Wiley & Sons, New York, 12th Edition, 2007	S1		S3		Reference of last resort for detail confirmation.
2.9	Canadian Wood-Frame House Construction	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)	CMHC, 3rd Revised Edition, 2013, Ottawa	S1		S3		Residential construction primer. Quick read, high recall.
2.10	Heating, Cooling, Lighting: Design Methods for Architects	Lechner, N.	John Wiley & Sons, New York, 3rd Edition, 2008	S1		S3		Passive-design strategies + MEP integration.
2.11	Elements of Construction Projects	Neufert	Dunod / Le Moniteur, Paris, 11th Edition, 2021	S1		S3		Pan-typology dimensional reference.

Standards, Guides & Articles

REF	SOURCE TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER / EDITION	S1	S2	S3	S4	NOTES
2.12	Alternate Forms of Project Delivery	AAA / APEGGA	Alberta Association of Architects and APEGGA, 2005				S4	DBB / DB / CM / IPD comparison. Short read, high yield.
2.13	Functional Programming	Saly, J.	Alberta Association of Architects, 2010	S1				Primary reference for the Programming theme (Section 1).
2.14	Canadian Standard Form of Contract for Architectural Services — Document 6	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)	RAIC, 2018 (revised 2021)				S4	Owner–Architect contract. Schedule of services, fees, additional-services triggers.
	Canadian Standard Form of Contract between Architect and Engineer or Other Consultant — Document 9	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)	RAIC, 2018 (revised 2021)				S4	Architect–Consultant agreement — mirror of Doc 6.
2.15	CCDC 2 — Stipulated Price Contract	Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC)	CCDC, 2020, Ottawa				S4	Most-tested construction contract. GCs, Substantial Performance, holdback, change-order flow.
2.16	Hanscomb Yardsticks for Costing	RSMeans	Gordian / RSMeans, current			S3		Canadian construction-cost benchmarks.
2.17	BC Energy Step Code — Builder Guide	BC Housing Research Centre	BC Housing, current		S2	S3		Builder-facing step-code companion. Provincial logic transfers nationally.
2.18	Building Envelope Thermal Bridging Guide V1.6	Morrison Hershfield	Morrison Hershfield, current		S2	S3		Canonical Canadian thermal-bridging reference.
2.19	Control of Sound Transmission through Gypsum Board Walls	Warnock, A.C.C. and Quirt, J.D.	NRC Construction Technology Update No. 1, 1997			S3		STC of gypsum assemblies.
	Fire Resistance of Gypsum Board Wall Assemblies	Sultan, M.A. and Lougheed, G.D.	NRC Construction Technology Update No. 2, 1997		S2	S3		Fire-rated assemblies — ratings and listings.
	Why Houses Need Mechanical Ventilation Systems	Haysom, J.C. and Reardon, J.T.	NRC Construction Technology Update No. 14, 1998			S3		Residential ventilation rationale.
	Designing Walls According to the Rainscreen Principle	Brown, W.C., Chown, G.A., Poirier, G.F., Rousseau, M.Z.	NRC Construction Technology Update No. 34, 1999			S3		Rainscreen logic.
	Performance of Thermal Insulation on the Exterior of Basement Walls	Swinton, M.C. et al.	NRC Construction Technology Update No. 36, 1999		S2	S3		Below-grade insulation strategy.
	Ensuring Good Seismic Performance with Platform-Frame Wood Housing	Rainer, J.H. and Karacabeyli, E.	NRC Construction Technology Update No. 45, 2000		S2	S3		Seismic detailing in wood frame.
	Guide for Sound Insulation in Wood Frame Construction	Quirt, J.D., Nightingale, T. and King, F.	NRC, 2006			S3		Wood-frame acoustic isolation.
	Window Performance: An Overview	Rousseau, M.Z.	NRC, 1988			S3		Window performance fundamentals.
2.20	MasterFormat 1995 → 2004 — Table of Contents and Correspondence	National Master Specification (NMS)	Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2005				S4	Spec-section crosswalk.

TIER 3 — ADDITIONAL REFERENCES (EXACTLI library)

Supplements from EXACTLI's own library — not on the official ExAC list. Useful for depth, not required.

REF	SOURCE TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER / EDITION	S1	S2	S3	S4	NOTES
3.1	Construction Management JumpStart	Barbara J. Jackson	Sybox / Wiley, 2nd Edition, 2010				S4	CM career-and-process primer. Good orientation for Section 4 themes.
3.2	Project Management: A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling	Harold Kerzner	John Wiley & Sons				S4	PM textbook — heavy but comprehensive.
3.3	Building Physics of the Envelope: Principles of Construction	Knaack, U. and Koenders, E.	Birkhäuser / De Gruyter			S3		Envelope physics — alternative angle to Straube.
3.4	Building Structures: Understanding the Basics	Malcolm Millais	Routledge	S1		S3		Structural intuition for architects.
3.5	Structure for Architects: A Primer	Ramsey Dabby and Ashwani Bedi	Routledge, Desktop Edition	S1		S3		Quick-reference structural primer.
3.6	Moisture Control in Buildings: The Key Factor in Mold Prevention	Trechsel, H.R., Achenbach, P.R., Bomberg, M.T.	ASTM International	S1		S3		Hygrothermal performance deep dive.
3.7	Mechanical and Electrical Systems in Architecture, Engineering and Construction	Dagostino, F.R. and Wujek, J.B.	Pearson	S1		S3		MEP systems overview for architects.
3.8	Fundamentals of Building Construction: Materials and Methods	Edward Allen and Joseph Iano	John Wiley & Sons, 6th or 7th Edition			S3		Companion volume to Studio Companion.
3.9	Architectural Acoustics	Long, M.	Elsevier / Academic Press, Burlington, MA, 2006	S1		S3		Acoustics theory. STC/IIC, reverb, sound isolation.
3.10	Concrete Masonry Handbook for Architects, Engineers, Builders	Farny, J.A., Melander, J.M., Panarese, W.C.	Portland Cement Association, 6th Edition, 2008	S1		S3		Masonry assemblies, sizing, detailing.
3.11	Altus Group Guide — Cost Estimation	Altus Group	Altus Group, current	S1		S3		Canadian cost-consultant perspective.
3.12	Construction Budget: Application Guide to the Uniformat II Standard	Chabot, Y.	Trafford Publishing, 2006			S3		Uniformat II method for budgeting.
3.13	Guide to Green Building Rating Systems	Reeder, L.	John Wiley & Sons, New York, 2010			S3		LEED, Green Globes, Energy Star, NGBS overview.
3.14	WELL Building Standard V2	International WELL Building Institute (IWBI)	IWBI, current			S3		Health-focused rating system.
3.15	Sustainable Development of Buildings in Canada	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)	RAIC, Ottawa, 2001			S3		RAIC's foundational sustainability text.
3.16	Life Cycle Assessment of Buildings (LCA): A Practice Guide	The Carbon Leadership Forum	CLF, current			S3		LCA workflow for architects.
3.17	Zero Carbon Building Design Standard V2	Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC)	CaGBC, current			S3		Canadian net-zero framework.

You've got the map. Now put it to work — you don't have to prep alone.

01 — Download

Build your reference shelf.

Pull the current-year ExAC Preparation Guide from exac.ca, then work down the tiers — Tier 0 and Tier 1 first.

02 — Webinar

Join an EXACTLI webinar.

Three free live sessions a year — kickoff (March), mid-cycle deep dive (July), final sprint (October) — taught by Canadian architects.

03 — Community

Study with people who get it.

The EXACTLI community brings together intern architects across Canada, in English and en français, to prep for November together.

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DISCLAIMER:

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Note. Tier and section assignments in this guide are EXACTLI's interpretation, not the ExAC's. Questions or suggestions for the next edition: info@atelierexactli.com