What is Site Analysis and Planning?

Worksheet

Site analysis and planning is the process of studying a site's topography, climate, zoning, and access to guide design decisions, often measured through metrics like the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) that control allowable building density.

Questions

1. A site is 1,000 m with 2,500 m total floor area. FAR?

A) 0.4
B) 2.5
C) 1.5
D) 4.0

2. Which is NOT typically part of site analysis?

A) Topography survey
B) Zoning review
C) Interior furniture selection
D) Sun path study

3. A higher FAR generally allows...

A) less building area
B) more building density
C) only single-story buildings
D) no parking

4. Site analysis is best performed...

A) after construction
B) before schematic design begins
C) only for landscaping
D) after occupancy

5. A site is 2,000 m and the proposed building has 3,000 m of total floor area across all levels. Find the FAR.

6. Zoning allows a maximum FAR of 2.0 on a 5,000 m lot. What is the maximum floor area allowed?

7. A 4-story building covers 800 m per floor on a 1,600 m site. What is the FAR?

8. Define: What is site analysis?

9. Define: What does FAR measure?

10. Define: Why analyze sun path early in site planning?

Answer Key

1. B) 2.5 - FAR = 2500/1000 = 2.5.
2. C) Interior furniture selection - Furniture selection is interior design, not site analysis.
3. B) more building density - FAR directly caps how much floor area (density) can be built on a site.
4. B) before schematic design begins - It must inform decisions from the earliest design stage.
5. FAR = Total floor area / Site area = 3000 / 2000 = 1.5
6. Total floor area = FAR Site area = 2.0 5000 = 10,000 m
7. Total floor area = 800 4 = 3,200 m FAR = 3200 / 1600 = 2.0
8. A systematic study of a site's physical, environmental, and regulatory conditions before design begins.
9. Floor Area Ratio - total building floor area divided by site area, used to control density.
10. It informs building orientation, daylighting, and passive solar strategies.