

WESBANCO INC
Form 8-K
April 18, 2007

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) April 18, 2007

WesBanco, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

West Virginia (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	0-8467 (Commission File Number)	55-0571723 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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1 Bank Plaza, Wheeling, WV (Address of principal executive offices)	26003 (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(304) 234-9000**

Former name or former address, if changed since last report **Not Applicable**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- “ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- “ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- “ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- “ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

In accordance with general instruction B.2. of Form 8-K, the following information is furnished and shall not be deemed filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

WesBanco, Inc. issued a press release today announcing earnings for the three months ended March 31, 2007. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

In accordance with general instruction B.2. of Form 8-K, the following information is furnished and shall not be deemed filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Representatives of the Registrant are scheduled to make a presentation to its Shareholders at the Annual Shareholders Meeting at 12:00 noon on April 18, 2007 at Glessner Auditorium, Wilson Lodge at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. A copy of presentation materials is being furnished as Exhibit 99.2 to this report.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

d) Exhibits:

99.1 - Press release dated April 18, 2007 announcing earnings for the three months ended March 31, 2007.

99.2 - Presentation materials used by WesBanco, Inc., for meeting on April 18, 2007.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WesBanco, Inc.
(Registrant)

Date: April 18, 2007

/s/ Robert H. Young
Robert H. Young
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

ts issued by the depositary which will evidence the depositary shares. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary receipt will be entitled, in proportion to the fractional interest of a preferred share of a particular class or series represented by the depositary shares evidenced by that depositary receipt, to all the rights and preferences of the class or series of preferred shares represented by those depositary shares (including dividend, voting, conversion, redemption and liquidation rights).

The depositary shares to be issued will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the applicable deposit agreement. Immediately following the issuance and delivery of a class or series of preferred shares by us to the preferred share depositary, we will cause the preferred share depositary to issue, on our behalf, the depositary receipts. The following summary is not complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by the underlying deposit agreement and the depositary receipt which we will file with the SEC at or prior to the time of the sale of the depositary shares.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of a class or series of preferred shares to the record holders of depositary receipts evidencing the related depositary shares in proportion to the number of those depositary receipts owned by those holders, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the depositary.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts entitled thereto, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the depositary, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution, in which case the depositary may, with our approval, sell that property and distribute the net proceeds from that sale to those holders.

Withdrawal of Preferred Shares

Upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the depositary (unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption or converted into excess preferred shares or otherwise), the holders thereof will be entitled to delivery at that office, to or upon that holder's order, of the number of whole or fractional preferred shares of the class or series and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares evidenced by those depositary receipts. Holders of depositary receipts will be entitled to receive whole or fractional preferred shares of the related class or series on the basis of the proportion of preferred shares represented by each depositary share as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, but holders of those preferred shares will not thereafter be entitled to receive depositary shares therefor. If the

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depository receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depository shares in excess of the number of depository shares representing the preferred shares to be withdrawn, the depository will deliver to that holder at the same time a new depository receipt evidencing the excess number of depository shares.

Redemption of Depository Shares

Whenever we redeem preferred shares of a class or series held by the depository, the depository will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depository shares representing preferred shares of the class or series so redeemed, provided we shall have paid in full to the depository the redemption price of the preferred shares to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depository share will be equal to the corresponding proportion of the redemption price and any other amounts per preferred share payable with respect to that class or series. If fewer than all the depository shares are to be redeemed, the depository shares to be redeemed will be selected pro rata (as nearly as may be practicable without creating fractional depository shares) or by any other equitable method determined by us that will not result in the issuance of any excess preferred shares.

From and after the date fixed for redemption, all dividends in respect of the preferred shares of a class or series so called for redemption will cease to accrue, the depository shares so called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depository receipts evidencing the depository shares so called for redemption will cease, except the right to receive any moneys payable upon their redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of those depository receipts were entitled upon their redemption and surrender thereof to the depository.

Voting

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of a class or series of preferred shares deposited with the depository are entitled to vote, the depository will mail the information contained in that notice of meeting to the record holders of the depository receipts evidencing the depository shares which represent that class or series of preferred shares. Each record holder of depository receipts evidencing depository shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for that class or series of preferred shares) will be entitled to instruct the depository as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred shares represented by that holder's depository shares. The depository will vote the amount of that class or series of preferred shares represented by those depository shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all reasonable action which may be deemed necessary by the depository in order to enable the depository to do so. The depository will abstain from voting the amount of that class or series of preferred shares represented by those depository shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depository receipts evidencing those depository shares. The depository shall not be responsible for any failure to carry out any instruction to vote, or for the manner or effect of any vote made, as long as that action or non-action is in good faith and does not result from negligence or willful misconduct of the depository.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each depository receipt will be entitled to the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each preferred share represented by the depository shares evidenced by that depository receipt, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Conversion

The depository shares will not be convertible directly into our common shares or any other of our securities or property, except in connection with exchanges to preserve our status as a REIT. Holders of depository receipts evidencing convertible preferred shares may surrender the depository receipts to the depository with instructions

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directing us to convert the class or series of preferred shares represented by the related depositary shares into whole common shares, other preferred shares or other securities if specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering of the depositary shares. When we receive these instructions, and the payment of any applicable fees, we will convert or exchange the preferred shares using the same procedures as we use for the delivery of preferred shares. If a holder is converting only part of the depositary shares represented by a depositary receipt, new depositary receipts will be issued for any depositary shares that are not converted. We will not issue any fractional common shares upon conversion, and if a conversion would result in a fractional common share being issued, we will pay in cash an amount equal to the value of the fractional interest based upon the closing price of our common shares on the last business day prior to the conversion.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares which represent the preferred shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the preferred shares depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary receipts or that would be materially and adversely inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the related preferred shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the existing holders of at least two-thirds of the applicable depositary shares evidenced by the applicable depositary receipts then outstanding. No amendment shall impair the right, subject to certain exceptions in the deposit agreement, of any holder of depositary receipts to surrender any depositary receipt with instructions to deliver to the holder the related preferred shares and all money and other property, if any, represented thereby, except in order to comply with law. Every holder of an outstanding depositary receipt at the time any such amendment becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold such receipt, to consent and agree to such amendment and to be bound by the deposit agreement as amended thereby.

The deposit agreement may be terminated by us upon not less than 30 days prior written notice to the depositary if (i) such termination is necessary to preserve our status as a REIT or (ii) a majority of each series of preferred shares affected by such termination consents to such termination, whereupon the depositary shall deliver or make available to each holder of depositary receipts, upon surrender of the depositary receipts held by such holder, such number of whole or fractional preferred shares as are represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipts together with any other property held by the preferred shares depositary with respect to such depositary receipts. We have agreed that if the deposit agreement is terminated to preserve our status as a REIT, then we will use our best efforts to list the preferred shares issued upon surrender of the related depositary shares on a national securities exchange. In addition, the deposit agreement will automatically terminate if (i) all outstanding depositary shares shall have been redeemed, (ii) there shall have been a final distribution in respect of the related preferred shares in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and such distribution shall have been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares representing such preferred shares or (iii) each related preferred share shall have been converted into our securities not so represented by depositary shares.

Charges of Preferred Shares Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the deposit agreement. In addition, we will pay the fees and expenses of the depositary in connection with the performance of its duties under the deposit agreement. However, holders of depositary receipts will pay the fees and expenses of the depositary for any duties requested by such holders to be performed which are outside of those expressly provided for in the deposit agreement.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor

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depository. A successor depository must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

Miscellaneous

The depository will forward to holders of depository receipts any reports and communications from the trust which are received by the depository with respect to the related preferred shares.

Neither the depository nor the trust will be liable if it is prevented from or delayed in, by law or any circumstances beyond its control, performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. The obligations of us and the depository under the deposit agreement will be limited to performing their duties thereunder in good faith and without negligence (in the case of any action or inaction in the voting of preferred shares represented by the depository shares), gross negligence or willful misconduct, and we and the depository will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depository receipts, depository shares or preferred shares represented thereby unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depository may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred shares represented thereby for deposit, holders of depository receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give such information, and on documents believed in good faith to be genuine and signed by a proper party.

In the event the preferred shares depository shall receive conflicting claims, requests or instructions from any holders of depository receipts, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand, the depository shall be entitled to act on such claims, requests or instructions received from us.

Restrictions on Ownership

Holders of depository receipts will be subject to the ownership restrictions of our Declaration of Trust. See Description of Common Shares Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We have no outstanding warrants to purchase our common shares or outstanding warrants to purchase our preferred shares. We may issue warrants for the purchase of common shares or preferred shares. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement, which we will enter into with a warrant agent specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the applicable warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of the warrants. The following summary is not complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the warrant agreement and the warrant certificates relating to each series of warrants which will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of the issuance of such series of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants we are offering will describe the specific terms relating to the offering, including some or all of the following:

the title of the warrants,

the offering price,

the exercise price of the warrants,

the aggregate number of common or preferred shares purchasable upon exercise of the warrants and, in the case of warrants for preferred shares, the designation, aggregate number and terms of the class or series of preferred shares purchasable upon exercise of the warrants,

the designation and terms of any class or series of preferred shares with which the warrants are being offered and the number of warrants being offered with such preferred shares,

the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and any related class or series of common shares or preferred shares will be transferable separately,

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which such right shall expire,

any federal income tax considerations, and

any other material terms of the warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

We may from time to time, issue rights to our shareholders for the purchase of common shares, preferred shares or other securities. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement to be entered into between the Company, from time to time, and a bank or trust company, as rights agent, all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of rights. The rights agent will act solely as an agent of ours in connection with the certificates relating to the rights and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights. The rights agreement and the rights certificates relating to each series of rights will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part at or

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prior to the time of the issuance of such series of rights.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the rights to be issued, including the following where applicable:

the date for determining the shareholders entitled to the rights distribution;

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the aggregate number of common shares or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights and the exercise price and any adjustments to such exercise price;

the aggregate number of rights being issued;

the date, if any, on and after which the rights may be transferable separately;

the date on which the right to exercise the rights shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;

any special United States federal income tax consequences; and

any other terms of the rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the distribution, exchange and exercise of the rights.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND

OF OUR DECLARATION OF TRUST AND AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS

The following description of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws is only a summary. For a complete description, we refer you to Maryland law, our Declaration of Trust and our Bylaws. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Our Board of Trustees

Our Declaration of Trust provides that the number of trustees will be nine, which number may be increased or decreased pursuant to the Bylaws. Our Bylaws provide that a majority of the entire board of trustees may establish, increase or decrease the number of trustees serving on our board of trustees. Any vacancy on our board of trustees, other than a vacancy created as a result of the removal of any trustee by the action of the shareholders, shall be filled, at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, by a majority of the trustees.

In June 2010, Articles of Amendment setting forth an amendment to our Declaration of Trust for the purpose of declassifying our board of trustees were filed with, and accepted for record by, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland. Our Declaration of Trust, as so amended, provides that at each annual meeting of shareholders commencing with the annual meeting of shareholders held in 2011, the successors to the trustees whose term expires at such annual meeting of shareholders will be elected to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualify. Holders of our common shares have no right to cumulative voting in the election of trustees. Consequently, beginning with the annual meeting at which successors to the trustees whose term expires in 2013 are to be elected, the holders of a majority of our common shares will be able to elect all of our trustees at each annual meeting of shareholders. Additionally, in the event that dividends on our Series D preferred shares are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, the number of trustees then constituting the board will increase by two and the holders of our Series D preferred shares, voting separately as a class with holders of all other series of preferred shares ranking on a parity with the Series D preferred shares and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, will be entitled to vote for the election of a total of two additional trustees for a limited time.

Removal Of Trustees

Our Declaration of Trust provides that, subject to any rights of holders of one or more classes or series of preferred shares to elect and remove one or more trustees, any trustee may be removed at any time, with or without cause, at a meeting of the shareholders, by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than two-thirds of the shares then outstanding and entitled to vote generally in the election of trustees. If any trustee shall be so

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removed, our shareholders may take action to fill the vacancy so created. Our Bylaws provide that an individual so elected as trustee by the shareholders shall hold office for the unexpired term of the trustee whose removal created the vacancy.

Business Combinations

Under Maryland law, business combinations between a Maryland real estate investment trust and an interested shareholder or an affiliate of an interested shareholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. These business combinations include, among other things specified in the statute, a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested shareholder is defined as:

any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the trust's shares; or

an affiliate or associate of the trust who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of the trust.

A person is not an interested shareholder under the statute if the board of trustees approved in advance the transaction by which such person or entity otherwise would have become an interested shareholder. However, in approving a transaction, the board of trustees may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board of trustees.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the Maryland trust and an interested shareholder generally must be recommended by the board of trustees of the trust and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares of the trust; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares of the trust other than shares held by the interested shareholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the trust's common shareholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested shareholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the board of trustees before the time that the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. Pursuant to the statute, our board of trustees has adopted a resolution that any business combination between us and any other person or entity is exempted from the provisions of the statute described in the preceding paragraphs. This resolution, however, may be altered or repealed, in whole or in part, by our board of trustees at any time.

The business combination statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

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Control Share Acquisitions

Maryland law provides that holders of control shares of a Maryland real estate investment trust acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights with respect to the control shares except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror, by officers or by trustees who are employees of the trust are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter. Control shares are voting shares which, if aggregated with all other shares owned by the acquiror or in respect of which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing trustees within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained shareholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel the board of trustees of the trust to call a special meeting of shareholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the meeting. If no request for a meeting is made, the trust may itself present the question at any shareholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then the trust may redeem for fair value any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved. The right of the trust to redeem control shares is subject to certain conditions and limitations. Fair value is determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of shareholders at which the voting rights of the shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a shareholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other shareholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply (i) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the trust is a party to the transaction or (ii) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the declaration of trust or bylaws of the trust.

Our Bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares. This provision of our Bylaws may not be repealed or amended, nor may another provision that is inconsistent with this provision be adopted in either our Bylaws or our Declaration of Trust, except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes cast by our shareholders at a meeting of shareholders duly called and at which a quorum is present.

Merger; Amendment To The Declaration Of Trust

Under Maryland law, a Maryland REIT generally cannot amend its declaration of trust or merge with another entity, unless approved by the affirmative vote of shareholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter. However, a Maryland REIT may provide in its declaration of trust for approval of these matters by a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the

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matter. Our Declaration of Trust does not provide for a lesser percentage of shareholder votes for approval of a merger in which we are not the successor but does provide that most amendments to our Declaration of Trust may be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes entitled to be cast by our shareholders on the matter. However, amendments to provisions of our Declaration of Trust relating to the following: (1) our merger into another entity, (2) our consolidation with one or more other entities into a new entity, (3) the sale, lease, exchange or transfer of all or substantially of our assets, or (4) the termination of our existence must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all votes entitled to be cast by our shareholders on the matter. Under Maryland law, the declaration of trust of a Maryland real estate investment trust may permit the trustees, by a two-thirds vote, to amend the declaration of trust from time to time to qualify as a REIT under the Code or a real estate investment trust under Maryland law governing real estate investment trusts, without the affirmative vote or written consent of the shareholders. Our Declaration of Trust permits such action by our board of trustees.

Transfer of Assets; Consolidation

Our Declaration of Trust provides that, subject to the provisions of any class or series of our shares outstanding, we may merge into another entity or consolidate with another entity or entities or sell or transfer all or substantially all of our property, if such action is approved by our board of trustees and by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our shareholders on the matter.

Termination Of The Trust

Subject to the provisions of any class or series of our shares at the time outstanding, our existence may be terminated at any meeting of our shareholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our shareholders on the matter.

Advance Notice Of Trustee Nominations And New Business

Our Bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of shareholders, nominations of persons for election to the board of trustees and the proposal of business to be considered by our shareholders may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by or at the direction of our board of trustees or (3) by any shareholder who was a shareholder of record both at the time of giving notice and at the time of the annual meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of our Bylaws. With respect to special meetings of shareholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the special meeting. Nominations of persons for election to the board of trustees at a special meeting may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by or at the direction of our board of trustees, or (3) provided that the board of trustees has determined that trustees shall be elected at such special meeting, by any shareholder who was a shareholder of record both at the time of giving of notice and at the time of the special meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice provisions of our Bylaws.

Unsolicited Takeovers.

Under certain provisions of Maryland law relating to unsolicited takeovers, a Maryland real estate investment trust with a class of equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and at least three independent trustees may elect to be subject to certain statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers which, among other things, would automatically classify our board of trustees into three classes with staggered terms of three years each and vest in our board of trustees the exclusive right to determine the number of trustees and the exclusive right by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining trustees, to fill vacancies on the board of trustees, even if the remaining trustees do not constitute a quorum. These statutory provisions also provide that any trustee elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of trustees in which the vacancy occurred, rather than the next annual meeting of trustees as would otherwise be the case, and until his successor is elected and qualified. Finally, these statutory provisions

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provide that a special meeting of shareholders need be called only upon the written request of shareholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the special meeting.

An election to be subject to any or all of the foregoing statutory provisions may be made in our Declaration of Trust or Bylaws, or by resolution of our board of trustees. Any such statutory provision to which we elect to be subject will apply even if other provisions of Maryland law or our Declaration of Trust or Bylaws provide to the contrary.

Through provisions in our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws unrelated to the foregoing statutory provisions, a two-thirds vote is required to remove any trustee from our board of trustees and, unless called by our chairman of the board, our president or one-third of our trustees, the written request of the holders of shares entitled to cast not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting is required to call a special meeting of shareholders. If we made an election to be subject to the statutory provisions described above and our board of trustees were divided into three classes with staggered terms of office of three years each, the classification and staggered terms of office of our trustees would make it more difficult for a third party to gain control of our board of trustees since at least two annual meetings of shareholders, instead of one, generally would be required to effect a change in the majority of our board of trustees. Moreover, if we made an election to be subject to the statutory provisions described above, our board of trustees would have the exclusive right to determine the number of trustees and the exclusive right to fill vacancies on the board of trustees, and any trustee elected to fill a vacancy would hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of trustees in which the vacancy occurred.

We have not elected to become subject to the foregoing statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers. However, we could, by resolutions adopted by our board of trustees and without shareholder approval, elect to become subject to any or all of these statutory provisions.

Anti-Takeover Effect Of Certain Provisions Of Maryland Law, The Declaration Of Trust, And Bylaws

The business combination provisions of Maryland law, if we decide in the future to rescind our election to be exempt therefrom and, if the applicable provision in our Bylaws is rescinded, the control share acquisition provisions of Maryland law, the unsolicited takeover provisions of Maryland law if we elect to become subject thereto, the provisions of our Declaration of Trust on the removal of trustees and the advance notice provisions of our Bylaws, and certain other provisions of our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws, could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common shares or otherwise be in their best interest.

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CERTAIN FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material federal income tax consequences and considerations relating to the acquisition, holding, and disposition of our securities. For purposes of this discussion under the heading Certain Federal Income Tax Considerations, we, our, us, and the

Company refer to Ramco-Gershenson Properties Trust, but excluding all its subsidiaries and affiliated entities, and the Operating Partnership refers to Ramco-Gershenson Properties, L.P. This summary is based upon the Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department (which are referred to in this section as Treasury Regulations), rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any description of the tax consequences summarized below. No advance ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS regarding any matter discussed in this prospectus. This summary is also based upon the assumption that our operation and the operation of each of our subsidiaries and affiliated entities will be in accordance with any applicable organizational documents or partnership or limited liability company operating agreement. This summary is for general information only, and does not purport to discuss all aspects of federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances, or to investors subject to special tax rules, such as:

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

broker-dealers;

regulated investment companies;

holders who receive securities through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

persons holding securities as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security or other integrated investment;

except to the extent discussed below, tax-exempt organizations; and

except to the extent discussed below, foreign investors.

In addition, certain U.S. expatriates, including certain individuals who have lost U.S. citizenship and long-term residents (within the meaning of Section 877(e)(2) of the Code) who have ceased to be lawful permanent residents of the United States, are subject to special rules.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds stock issued by us, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership.

This summary assumes that investors will hold their securities as capital assets, which generally means assets held for investment.

The federal income tax treatment of holders of securities depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. In addition, the tax consequences of holding securities to any particular holder will depend on the holder's particular tax circumstances. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax consequences to you (in light of your particular investment or tax circumstances) of acquiring, holding, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of securities.

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Taxation of the Company

We have elected to be a REIT for federal income tax purposes under Sections 856 through 860 of the Code and applicable provisions of the Treasury Regulations, which set forth the requirements for qualifying as a REIT. Our policy has been and is to operate in such a manner as to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. If we so qualify, then we will generally not be subject to federal income tax on income we distribute to our shareholders. For any year in which we do not meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT, we will be taxed as a corporation. See [Failure to Qualify](#) below.

We have received an opinion from Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, our tax counsel, to the effect that since the commencement of our taxable year which began January 1, 2011, we have been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification as a REIT under the Code, and that our proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT. A copy of this opinion is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. It must be emphasized that the opinion of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, and is conditioned upon representations and covenants made by our management regarding our assets and the past, present, and future conduct of our business operations. While we intend to operate so that we will qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given by Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP or by us that we will so qualify for any particular year. The opinion was expressed as of the date issued and will not cover subsequent periods. Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP will have no obligation to advise us or the holders of our securities of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed, or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS or any court, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge, or a court will not rule contrary to, the conclusions set forth in such opinions.

Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of stock ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code, our compliance with which has not been, and will not be, reviewed by Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. In addition, our ability to qualify as a REIT depends in part upon the operating results, organizational structure and entity classification for federal income tax purposes of certain of our affiliated entities, which may not have been reviewed by Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

Taxation of REITs in General

As indicated above, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under [Requirements for Qualification - General](#). While we intend to operate so that we qualify as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our REIT status, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future.

As a REIT, we will generally be entitled to a deduction for dividends that we pay and therefore will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on our net income that is currently distributed to our shareholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation at the corporate and shareholder levels that results from investment in a corporation or an entity treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. Rather, income generated by a REIT generally is taxed only at the shareholder level upon a distribution of dividends by the REIT. Net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes of a REIT do not pass through to the shareholders of the REIT, subject to special rules for certain items such as capital gains recognized by REITs. See [Federal Income Taxation of Shareholders](#) below.

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As a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be subject to the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference, and, in computing alternative minimum taxable income subject to such tax, deductions for net operating losses carried from any other year(s) would be limited.

If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, such income will be subject to a 100% excise tax. See Prohibited Transactions and Foreclosure Property below.

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as foreclosure property, we may thereby avoid the 100% excise tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).

We will be subject to a 100% penalty tax on any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions, or excess interest. In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of services furnished by a taxable REIT subsidiary (described below) of ours to any of our tenants. Redetermined deductions and excess interest represent amounts that are deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary (described below) of ours for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been charged based on arm's-length negotiations. See Redetermined Rents, Redetermined Deductions, and Excess Interest below.

If we should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test discussed below, due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and we nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT as a result of specified cure provisions, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to (1) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or the amount by which we fail the 95% gross income test (whichever is greater), multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

If we fail to satisfy any of the REIT asset tests (other than a de minimis failure of the 5% and 10% asset tests) described below, due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification as a result of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets that caused us to fail such test.

If we fail to satisfy any requirement of the Code for qualifying as a REIT, other than a failure to satisfy the REIT gross income tests or asset tests, and the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we may retain our REIT qualification but we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income (i.e., REIT taxable income excluding capital gain and without regard to the dividends paid deduction) for such year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such sum over the aggregate of amounts actually distributed and retained amounts on which income tax is paid at the corporate level.

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We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet certain record keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of a REIT's shareholders, as described below in Requirements for Qualification General .

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If we acquire any asset from a subchapter C corporation in a transaction in which gain or loss is not recognized, and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of any such asset during the ten-year period (to which we refer in this section as the Recognition Period) beginning on the date on which we acquire the asset, then the excess of (1) the fair market value of the asset as of the beginning of the Recognition Period, over (2) our adjusted basis in such asset as of the beginning of such Recognition Period (to which we refer in this section as Built-in Gain) will generally be (with certain adjustments) subject to tax at the highest corporate income tax rate. Similar rules would apply if within the ten-year period beginning on the first day of a taxable year for which we re-qualify as a REIT after being subject to tax as a corporation under subchapter C of the Code for more than two years we were to dispose of any assets that we held on such first day.

Certain of our subsidiaries are corporations and their earnings are subject to corporate income tax. In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes, and state and local income, property and other taxes on our assets and operations. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not currently contemplated.

Requirements for Qualification General

The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the special Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to certain provisions of the Code;
- (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
- (6) not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly through the application of certain attribution rules, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain tax-exempt entities) during the last half of each taxable year; and
- (7) that meets other tests described below, including tests with respect to the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

The Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. We believe that we have been organized and operated in a manner that has allowed us to satisfy the requirements set forth in (1) through (7) above. In addition, our Declaration of Trust currently includes certain restrictions regarding transfer of our shares of beneficial interest which are intended (among other things) to assist us in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in (5) and (6) above.

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our shares in which the record holders are to disclose the actual owners of such shares (that is, the persons required to include in gross income the dividends we paid). A list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand must be maintained as part of our records. Our failure to comply with these record-keeping requirements could subject us to monetary penalties. A shareholder

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that fails or refuses to comply with the demand is required by Treasury Regulations to submit a statement with its tax return disclosing the actual ownership of the shares and other information.

In addition, a trust may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We satisfy this requirement.

Effect of Subsidiary Entities

Ownership of Partnership Interests. In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership (treating, as a partner of a partnership for this purpose, a member of a limited liability company that is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes), Treasury Regulations provide that the REIT will be deemed to own its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership, and the REIT will be deemed to be entitled to the income of the partnership attributable to such share. The character of the assets and gross income of the partnership (determined at the level of the partnership) are the same in the hands of the REIT for purposes of Section 856 of the Code, including satisfying the gross income and asset tests described below. Accordingly, our proportionate share of the assets, liabilities, and items of income of the Operating Partnership and our other subsidiary partnerships (provided that the subsidiary partnerships are not taxable as corporations for federal income tax purposes) is treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income for purposes of applying the requirements described in this summary (including the gross income and asset tests described below). Commencing with our taxable year beginning January 1, 2005, one exception to the rule described above is that, for purposes of the prohibition against holding securities having a value greater than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer discussed under **Asset Tests** below, a REIT's proportionate share of any securities held by a partnership is not based solely on its capital interest in the partnership but also includes its interest (as a creditor) in certain debt securities of the partnership (excluding straight debt and certain other securities described under **Asset Tests** below). A summary of certain rules governing the federal income taxation of partnerships and their partners is provided below in **Tax Aspects of Investment in the Operating Partnership**.

Disregarded Subsidiaries. If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a qualified REIT subsidiary, that subsidiary is disregarded for federal income tax purposes, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT itself, including for purposes of applying the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs summarized below. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a taxable REIT subsidiary (described below), that is wholly-owned by a REIT, or by other disregarded subsidiaries, or by a combination of the two. Other entities we wholly own, including single member limited liability companies, are also generally disregarded as separate entities for federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of applying the REIT income and asset tests described below. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with our subsidiary partnerships, are sometimes referred to as pass-through subsidiaries. In the event that any of our disregarded subsidiaries ceases to be wholly-owned by us (for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or one of our other disregarded subsidiaries), the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for federal income tax purposes. Instead, it would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% (as measured by either voting power or value) of the securities of any one issuer. See **Income Tests** and **Asset Tests** below.

Taxable Subsidiaries. A REIT may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly-owned, to treat the subsidiary corporation as a taxable REIT subsidiary of the REIT. (A taxable REIT subsidiary is referred to in this section as a TRS.) In addition, a corporation (other than a REIT or qualified REIT subsidiary) is treated as a TRS if a TRS of a REIT owns directly or indirectly securities possessing more than 35% of the total voting power, or having more than 35% of the total value, of the outstanding securities of the corporation. We have made a joint election with Ramco-Gershenson, Inc., to treat Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. as

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a TRS. Moreover, we have interests in several other corporations treated as TRSs. The separate existence of a TRS (such as Ramco-Gershenson, Inc.) or other taxable corporation, unlike a disregarded subsidiary as discussed above, is not ignored for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. is subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, and this may reduce the aggregate cash flow that we and our subsidiaries generate and thus our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

A parent REIT is not treated as holding the assets of a taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any undistributed income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by the subsidiary is an asset in the hands of the parent REIT, and the REIT recognizes, as income, any dividends that it receives from the subsidiary. This treatment can affect the income and asset test calculations that apply to the REIT. Because a parent REIT does not include the assets and undistributed income of taxable subsidiary corporations in determining the parent's compliance with the REIT requirements, these entities may be used by the parent REIT indirectly to undertake activities that the applicable rules might otherwise preclude the parent REIT from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries (for example, activities that give rise to certain categories of income, such as management fees, that do not qualify under the 75% and 95% gross income tests described immediately below).

In addition, certain sections of the Code that are intended to insure that transactions between a parent REIT and its TRS occur at arm's length and on commercially reasonable terms may prevent a TRS from deducting interest on debt funded directly or indirectly by its parent REIT if certain tests regarding the TRS's debt to equity ratio and interest expense are not satisfied.

Income Tests

In order to maintain qualification as a REIT, we must annually satisfy two gross income requirements. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in prohibited transactions, must derive from (1) investments in real property or mortgages on real property, including rents from real property, dividends received from other REITs, interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property (including certain types of mortgage-backed securities), and gains from the sale of real estate assets, or (2) certain kinds of temporary investment of new capital. Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, must derive from some combination of such income from investments in real property and temporary investment of new capital (that is, income that qualifies under the 75% income test described above), as well as other dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property.

From time to time, we enter into transactions, such as interest rate swaps, that hedge our risk with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Any income we derive from hedging transactions entered into prior to July 31, 2008, will be nonqualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Income from hedging transactions that are clearly identified in the manner specified by the Code will not constitute gross income, and will not be counted, for purposes of the 75% gross income test if entered into by us on or after July 31, 2008, and will not constitute gross income, and will not be counted, for purposes of the 95% gross income test if entered into by us on or after January 1, 2005. The term hedging transaction, as used above, generally means any transaction into which we enter in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate changes or fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made by us in order to acquire or carry real estate assets. We intend to structure our hedging activities in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

For purposes of satisfying the 75% and 95% gross income tests, rents from real property generally include rents from interests in real property, charges for services customarily furnished or rendered in connection with the rental of real property (whether or not such charges are separately stated), and rent attributable to personal property which is leased under, or in connection with, a lease of real property. However, the inclusion of these items as rents from real property is subject to the conditions described immediately below.

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Any amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, with respect to any real or personal property cannot be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person from such property. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales. In addition, amounts received or accrued based on income or profits do not include amounts received from a tenant based on the tenant's income from the property if the tenant derives substantially all of its income with respect to such property from leasing or subleasing substantially all of such property, provided that the tenant receives from subtenants only amounts that would be treated as rents from real property if received directly by the REIT.

Amounts received from a tenant generally will not qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income tests if the REIT directly, indirectly, or constructively owns, (1) in the case of a tenant which is a corporation, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote or 10% or more of the total value of shares of all classes of stock of such tenant, or (2) in the case of a tenant which is not a corporation, an interest of 10% or more in the assets or net profits of such tenant. (Such a tenant is referred to in this section as a Related Party Tenant.) Rents that we receive from a Related Party Tenant that is also a TRS of ours, however, will not be excluded from the definition of rents from real property if at least 90% of the space at the property to which the rents relate is leased to third parties, and the rents paid by the TRS are substantially comparable to rents paid by our other tenants for comparable space. Whether rents paid by our TRS are substantially comparable to rents paid by our other tenants is determined at the time the lease with the TRS is entered into, extended, and modified, if such modification increases the rents due under such lease. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, if a lease with a controlled TRS is modified and such modification results in an increase in the rents payable by such TRS, any such increase will not qualify as rents from real property. For purposes of this rule, a controlled TRS is a TRS in which we own stock possessing more than 50% of the voting power or more than 50% of the total value.

If rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to such personal property will not qualify as rents from real property. The determination of whether more than 15% of the rents received by a REIT from a property is attributable to personal property is based upon a comparison of the fair market value of the personal property leased by the tenant to the fair market value of all the property leased by the tenant.

Rents from real property do not include any amount received or accrued directly or indirectly by a REIT for services furnished or rendered to tenants of a property or for managing or operating a property, unless the services furnished or rendered, or management or operation provided, are of a type that a tax-exempt organization can provide to its tenants without causing its rental income to be unrelated business taxable income under the Code (that is, unless they are of a type usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only or are not considered primarily for the tenant's convenience). Services, management, or operations which, if provided by a tax-exempt organization, would give rise to unrelated business taxable income (referred to in this section as Impermissible Tenant Services) will not be treated as provided by the REIT if provided by either an independent contractor (as defined in the Code) who is adequately compensated and from whom the REIT does not derive any income, or by a TRS. If an amount received or accrued by a REIT for providing Impermissible Tenant Services to tenants of a property exceeds 1% of all amounts received or accrued by the REIT with respect to such property in any year, none of such amounts will constitute rents from real property. For purposes of this test, the income received from Impermissible Tenant Services is deemed to be at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the services. If the 1% threshold is not exceeded, only the amounts received for providing Impermissible Tenant Services will not qualify as rents from real property.

Substantially all of our income derives from the Operating Partnership. The Operating Partnership's income derives largely from rent attributable to our properties (which properties are referred to in this section as the

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Properties). The Operating Partnership also derives income from Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. (and, to a lesser extent, our other TRSs) insofar as they pay dividends on shares owned by the Operating Partnership. The Operating Partnership does not, and is not expected to, charge rent that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person (but does charge rent based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales). The Operating Partnership does not, and is not anticipated to, derive rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with real property that exceeds 15% of the total rent.

In addition, we do not believe that we derive (through the Operating Partnership) rent from a Related Party Tenant. However, the determination of whether we own 10% or more (as measured by either voting power or value) of any tenant is made after the application of complex attribution rules under which we will be treated as owning interests in tenants that are owned by our Ten Percent Shareholders. In identifying our Ten Percent Shareholders, each individual or entity will be treated as owning shares held by related individuals and entities. Accordingly, we cannot be absolutely certain whether all Related Party Tenants have been or will be identified. Although rent derived from a Related Party Tenant will not qualify as rents from real property and, therefore, will not be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% gross income test, we believe that the aggregate amount of any such rental income (together with any other nonqualifying income) in any taxable year will not cause us to exceed the limits on nonqualifying income under such gross income tests.

The Operating Partnership provides certain services with respect to the Properties (and expects to provide such services with respect to any newly acquired properties) through Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. Because Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. is a TRS, the provision of such services will not cause the amounts received by us (through our ownership interest in the Operating Partnership) with respect to the Properties to fail to qualify as rents from real property for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

We may (through one or more pass-through subsidiaries) indirectly receive distributions from TRSs or other corporations that are neither REITs nor qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions will be classified as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

In sum, our investment in real properties through the Operating Partnership and the provision of services with respect to those properties through Ramco-Gershenson, Inc., gives and will give rise mostly to rental income qualifying under the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Gains on sales of such properties, or of our interest in such properties or in the Operating Partnership, will generally qualify under the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We anticipate that income on our other investments will not result in our failing the 75% or 95% gross income test for any year.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Code. Commencing with our taxable year beginning January 1, 2005, we may avail ourselves of the relief provisions if: (1) following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income test for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the IRS setting forth each item of our gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury Regulations to be issued; and (2) our failure to meet the test was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect. It is not possible, however, to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. As discussed above in Taxation of REITs in General, even if these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed with respect to the excess nonqualifying gross income.

Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter of our taxable year, we must also satisfy the following four tests relating to the nature of our assets. For purposes of each of these tests, our assets are deemed to include the assets

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of any disregarded subsidiary and our share of the assets of any subsidiary partnership, such as the Operating Partnership.

At least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of real estate assets, cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property, such as land, buildings, leasehold interests in real property, stock of corporations that qualify as REITs, and some kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans.

The aggregate value of all securities of TRSs we hold may not exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

The value of any one issuer's securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our assets. This asset test does not apply to securities of TRSs or to any security that qualifies as a real estate asset.

We may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. This asset test does not apply to securities of TRSs or to any security that qualifies as a real estate asset. In addition, solely for purposes of the 10% value test, certain types of securities, including certain straight debt securities, are disregarded.

No securities issued by a corporation or partnership will qualify as straight debt if we own (or a TRS in which we own a greater than 50% interest, as measured by vote or value owns) other securities of such issuer that represent more than 1% of the total value of all securities of such issuer.

Debt instruments issued by a partnership that do not qualify as straight debt are (1) not subject to the 10% value test to the extent of our interest as a partner in that partnership and (2) completely excluded from the 10% value test if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income (excluding income from prohibited transactions) consists of income qualifying under the 75% gross income test. In addition, the 10% value test does not apply to (1) any loan made to an individual or an estate, (2) certain rental agreements in which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between us and certain persons related to us), (3) any obligation to pay rents from real property, (4) securities issued by governmental entities that are not dependent in whole or in part on the profits of (or payments made by) a non-governmental entity, and (5) any security issued by another REIT.

Commencing with our taxable year which began January 1, 2005, we are deemed to own, for purposes of the 10% value test, the securities held by a partnership based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership (excluding straight debt and the securities described in the last sentence of the preceding paragraph). Thus, our proportionate share is not based solely on our capital interest in the partnership but also includes our interest in certain debt securities issued by the partnership.

After meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our status as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values. If the failure to satisfy the asset tests results from an acquisition of securities or other property during a quarter, the failure can be cured by a disposition of sufficient nonqualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We believe that we maintain adequate records with respect to the nature and value of our assets to enable us to comply with the asset tests and to enable us to take such action within 30 days after the close of any quarter as may be required to cure any noncompliance. There can be no assurance, however, that we will always successfully take such action.

Commencing with our taxable year which began January 1, 2005, certain relief provisions may be available to us if we discover a failure to satisfy the asset tests described above after the 30-day cure period. Under these provisions, we will be deemed to have met the 5% and 10% asset tests if the value of our nonqualifying assets (1) does not exceed the lesser of (a) 1% of the total value of our assets at the end of the applicable quarter or

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(b) \$10,000,000 and (2) we dispose of the nonqualifying assets or otherwise satisfy such tests within (a) six months after the last day of the quarter in which the failure to satisfy the asset tests is discovered or (b) the period of time prescribed by Treasury Regulations to be issued. For violations of any asset tests due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and that are, in the case of the 5% and 10% asset tests, in excess of the de minimis exception described in the preceding sentence, we may avoid disqualification as a REIT after the 30-day cure period by taking steps including (1) the disposition of sufficient nonqualifying assets or the taking of other actions that allow us to meet the asset tests within (a) six months after the last day of the quarter in which the failure to satisfy the asset tests is discovered or (b) the period of time prescribed by Treasury Regulations to be issued, (2) paying a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 or (b) the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets, and (3) disclosing certain information to the IRS. Although we believe that we have satisfied the asset tests described above and plan to take steps to ensure that we satisfy such tests for any calendar quarter with respect to which re-testing is to occur, there can be no assurance that we will always be successful or that a reduction in our overall interest in an issuer (including a TRS) will not be required. If we fail to cure any noncompliance with the asset tests in a timely manner and the relief provisions described above are not available, we would cease to qualify as a REIT. See **Failure to Qualify** below.

We believe that our holdings of securities and other assets have complied and will continue to comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements, and we intend to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis. No independent appraisals have been obtained, however, to support our conclusions as to the value of our total assets, or the value of any particular security or securities. Moreover, values of some assets may not be susceptible to a precise determination, and values are subject to change in the future. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that we fail to meet the REIT asset requirements by reason of our interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers or for some other reason.

Annual Distribution Requirement

To qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends (other than capital gain dividends) to our shareholders each year in an amount at least equal to: (1) the sum of (a) 90% of our REIT taxable income (which is our taxable income exclusive of net income from foreclosure property, and with certain other adjustments) but computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain, and (b) 90% of the excess of our net income, if any, from foreclosure property (described below) over the tax imposed on that income; minus (2) the sum of certain items of non-cash income.

These distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if the distributions are declared before we timely file our tax return for the taxable year to which they relate, the distributions are paid on or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration, and we make an election to treat the distributions as relating to the prior taxable year. In order for distributions to be counted for this purpose, and to give rise to a tax deduction by us, they must not be preferential dividends. A dividend is not a preferential dividend if it is pro rata among all outstanding shares within a particular class, and is in accordance with the preferences among different classes of shares as set forth in our organizational documents. In addition, any dividend we declare in October, November, or December of any year and payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the shareholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and with certain adjustments), we will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate rates on the retained portion. We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect to have our shareholders include their proportionate share of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income, and to receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax we paid. Our shareholders would then increase the adjusted basis of their shares by the difference between the designated amounts included in their long-term capital gains and the tax deemed paid with respect to their shares.

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Net operating losses that we are allowed to carry forward from prior tax years may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character, in the hands of the shareholders, of any distributions that are actually made by us, which are generally taxable to the shareholders as dividends to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits. See *Federal Income Taxation of Shareholders* *Federal Income Taxation of Taxable Domestic Shareholders* *Distributions* below.

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of: (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income (i.e. REIT taxable income excluding capital gain and without regard to the dividends paid deduction) for that year; (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for that year; and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such sum over the aggregate of amounts actually distributed and retained amounts on which income tax is paid at the corporate level. We believe that we have made, and intend to continue to make, distributions in such a manner so as not to be subject to the 4% excise tax.

We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirement. In this regard, the partnership agreement of the Operating Partnership provides that we, as general partner, must use our best efforts to cause the Operating Partnership to distribute to its partners amounts sufficient to permit us to meet this distribution requirement. It is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet the 90% distribution requirement, as a result of timing differences between the actual receipt of cash (including distributions from the Operating Partnership) and actual payment of expenses on the one hand, and the inclusion of such income and deduction of such expenses in computing our REIT taxable income on the other hand. To avoid any failure to comply with the 90% distribution requirement, we will closely monitor the relationship between our REIT taxable income and cash flow, and if necessary, will borrow funds (or cause the Operating Partnership or other affiliates to borrow funds) in order to satisfy the distribution requirement.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to cure a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying deficiency dividends to shareholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, we may be able to avoid both losing our REIT status and being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. We will be required to pay interest, however, based upon the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

Failure to Qualify

Commencing with our taxable year which began January 1, 2005, specified cure provisions are available to us in the event that we violate a provision of the Code that would otherwise result in our failure to qualify as a REIT. Except with respect to violations of the REIT income tests and asset tests (for which the cure provisions are described above), and provided the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, these cure provisions impose a \$50,000 penalty for each violation in lieu of a loss of REIT status. If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions do not apply, we will be subject to tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to shareholders in any year in which we fail to qualify will not be deductible by us, nor will they be required to be made. In such event, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to shareholders will be taxable as dividends and, subject to certain limitations in the Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year of termination of our REIT status. It is not possible to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

Table of Contents***Prohibited Transactions***

Net income derived from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% excise tax. The term prohibited transaction includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. The Operating Partnership owns interests in real property that is situated on the periphery of certain of the Properties. We and the Operating Partnership believe that this peripheral property is not held primarily for sale to customers and that the sale of such peripheral property will not be in the ordinary course of the Operating Partnership's business. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset owned by us or our pass-through subsidiaries will be held primarily for sale to customers, and that a sale of any such asset will not be a prohibited transaction subject to the 100% excise tax. Whether property is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of our business depends, however, on the facts and circumstances as they exist from time to time, including those relating to a particular property. As a result, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not recharacterize property we own as property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of our business, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Code that would prevent such treatment. In the event we determine that a property, the ultimate sale of which is expected to result in taxable gain, will be regarded as held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of trade or business, we intend to cause such property to be acquired by or transferred to a TRS so that gain from such sale will be subject to regular corporate income tax as discussed above under **Effect of Subsidiary Entities Taxable Subsidiaries**.

Foreclosure Property

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that is acquired by a REIT as the result of the REIT's having bid in the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default (or default was imminent) on a lease of the property or on a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (2) the loan or lease related to which was acquired by the REIT at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated, and (3) that such REIT makes a proper election to treat as foreclosure property. REITs are subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% excise tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute dealer property (i.e., property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business) in the hands of the selling REIT.

Redetermined Rents, Redetermined Deductions, and Excess Interest

Any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions, or excess interest we generate will be subject to a 100% penalty tax. In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of services furnished by a TRS to any of our tenants, and redetermined deductions and excess interest represent amounts that are deducted by a TRS for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been charged based on arm's length negotiations. Under safe harbor provisions of the Code, rents we receive from tenants of a property will not constitute redetermined rents (by reason of the performance of services by any TRS to such tenants) if:

So much of such amounts as constitutes impermissible tenant service income does not exceed 1% of all amounts received or accrued during the year with respect to the property;

The TRS renders a significant amount of similar services to unrelated parties and the charges for such services are substantially comparable;

Rents paid by tenants leasing at least 25% of the net leasable space in the property who are not receiving services from the TRS are substantially comparable to the rents paid by tenants leasing

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comparable space who are receiving such services from the TRS and the charge for the services is separately stated; or

The TRS's gross income from the service is not less than 150% of the subsidiary's direct cost in furnishing the service.

Tax Aspects of Investment in the Operating Partnership

General

We hold a direct interest in the Operating Partnership and, through the Operating Partnership, hold an indirect interest in certain other partnerships and in limited liability companies classified as partnerships for federal income tax purposes (which, together, are referred to in this section as the Partnerships). In general, partnerships are pass-through entities which are not subject to federal income tax. Rather, partners are allocated their proportionate shares of the items of income, gain, loss, deduction, and credit of a partnership, and are potentially subject to tax thereon, without regard to whether the partners receive a distribution from the partnership. We will include our proportionate share of the foregoing partnership items in computing our REIT taxable income. See Taxation of the Company Income Tests above. Any resultant increase in our REIT taxable income will increase the amount we must distribute to satisfy the REIT distribution requirement (see Taxation of the Company Annual Distribution Requirement above) but will generally not be subject to federal income tax in our hands provided that we distribute such income to our shareholders.

Entity Classification

Our interests in the Partnerships involve special tax considerations, including the possibility of a challenge by the IRS to the status of the Operating Partnership or any other Partnership as a partnership (as opposed to an association taxable as a corporation) for federal income tax purposes. In general, under certain Treasury Regulations which became effective January 1, 1997 (referred to in this section as the Check-the-Box Regulations), an unincorporated entity with at least two members may elect to be classified either as a corporation or as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. If such an entity does not make an election, it generally will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. For such an entity that was in existence prior to January 1, 1997, such as the Operating Partnership and some of the other Partnerships, the entity will have the same classification (unless it elects otherwise) that it claimed under the rules in effect prior to the Check-the-Box Regulations. In addition, the federal income tax classification of an entity that was in existence prior to January 1, 1997 will be respected for all periods prior to January 1, 1997 if (1) the entity had a reasonable basis for its claimed classification, (2) the entity and all members of the entity recognized the federal income tax consequences of any changes in the entity's classification within the 60 months prior to January 1, 1997, and (3) neither the entity nor any member of the entity was notified in writing by a taxing authority on or before May 8, 1996 that the classification of the entity was under examination. We believe that the Operating Partnership and each of the other Partnerships that existed prior to January 1, 1997 reasonably claimed partnership classification under the Treasury Regulations relating to entity classification in effect prior to January 1, 1997, and such classification should be respected for federal income tax purposes. Each of them intends to continue to be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, and none of them intends to elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation under the Check-the-Box Regulations.

If the Operating Partnership or any of the other Partnerships were to be treated as an association, it would be taxable as a corporation and therefore subject to an entity-level tax on its income. In such a situation, the character of our assets and items of gross income would change, which would likely preclude us from satisfying the asset tests and possibly the income tests (see Taxation of the Company Income Tests and Taxation of the Company Asset Tests above), and in turn would prevent us from qualifying as a REIT, unless we were eligible for relief under the relief provisions described above. See Taxation of the Company Failure to Qualify above for discussion of the effect of our failure to satisfy the REIT tests for a taxable year. In addition, any change in the status of any of the Partnerships for federal income tax purposes might be treated as a taxable

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event, in which case we could have taxable income that is subject to the REIT distribution requirement without receiving any cash.

Tax Allocations with Respect to the Properties

Pursuant to Section 704(c) of the Code and applicable Treasury Regulations, income, gain, loss, and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership (such as the Properties contributed to the Operating Partnership by the limited partners of the Operating Partnership) must be allocated in such a manner that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss, respectively, associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of such unrealized gain or unrealized loss is equal to the difference between the fair market value of the contributed property at the time of contribution and the adjusted tax basis of such property at the time of contribution (referred to in this section as the Book-Tax Difference). Such allocations are solely for federal income tax purposes and do not affect the book capital accounts or other economic or legal arrangements among the partners. The Operating Partnership was formed with contributions of appreciated property (including the Properties contributed by the limited partners of the Operating Partnership). Consequently, the Operating Partnership's partnership agreement requires allocations to be made in a manner consistent with Section 704(c) of the Code and the applicable Treasury Regulations. If a partner contributes cash to a partnership at a time when the partnership holds appreciated (or depreciated) property, the applicable Treasury Regulations provide for a similar allocation of these items to the other (that is, the pre-existing) partners. These rules may apply to any contribution by us to the Operating Partnership or the other Partnerships of cash proceeds received from offerings of our securities, including any offering of common shares, preferred shares, or warrants contemplated by this prospectus.

In general, the partners that contributed appreciated Properties to the Partnerships will be allocated less depreciation, and increased taxable gain on sale, of such Properties. This will tend to eliminate the Book-Tax Difference. However, the special allocation rules of Section 704(c) and the applicable Treasury Regulations do not always rectify the Book-Tax Difference on an annual basis or with respect to a specific taxable transaction such as a sale. Under the applicable Treasury Regulations, special allocations of income and gain and depreciation deductions must be made on a property-by-property basis. Depreciation deductions resulting from the carryover basis of a contributed property are used to eliminate the Book-Tax Difference by allocating such deductions to the non-contributing partners (for example, to us) up to the amount of their share of book depreciation. Any remaining tax depreciation for the contributed property would be allocated to the partners who contributed the property. The Partnerships have generally elected the traditional method of rectifying the Book-Tax Difference under the applicable Treasury Regulations, pursuant to which if depreciation deductions are less than the non-contributing partners' share of book depreciation, then the non-contributing partners lose the benefit of the tax deductions to the extent of the difference. When the property is sold, the resulting tax gain is used to the extent possible to eliminate any remaining Book-Tax Difference. Under the traditional method, it is possible that the carryover basis of the contributed assets in the hands of a Partnership may cause us to be allocated less depreciation and other deductions than would otherwise be allocated to us. This may cause us to recognize taxable income in excess of cash proceeds, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirement. See *Taxation of the Company Annual Distribution Requirement* above.

With respect to property purchased by (and not contributed to) the Operating Partnership, such property will initially have a tax basis equal to its fair market value, and Section 704(c) of the Code and the applicable Treasury Regulations will not apply unless such property is subsequently revalued for capital accounting purposes under applicable Treasury Regulations.

Sale of the Properties

The Partnerships intend to hold the Properties for investment with a view to long-term appreciation, to engage in the business of acquiring, developing, owning, and operating the Properties and other shopping centers

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and to make such occasional sales of the Properties as are consistent with our investment objectives. Based primarily on such investment objectives, we believe that the Properties should not be considered dealer property (i.e., property held for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business). Whether property is dealer property is a question of fact that depends on the particular facts and circumstances with respect to the particular transaction. No assurance can be given that any property sold by us or any of our Partnerships will not be dealer property, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Code that would prevent such treatment. Our share of any gain realized by the Operating Partnership or any other Partnership on the sale of any dealer property generally will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax. See *Taxation of the Company Prohibited Transactions* above. In the event we determine that a property, the ultimate sale of which is expected to result in taxable gain, will be held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business, we intend to cause such property to be acquired by or transferred to a TRS so that gain from such sale will be subject to regular corporate income tax as discussed above under *Effect of Subsidiary Entities Taxable Subsidiaries*.

Taxation of Ramco-Gershenson, Inc.

A portion of the amounts to be used to fund distributions to our shareholders is expected to come from distributions made by Ramco-Gershenson, Inc., our principal TRS, to the Operating Partnership. In general, Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. pays federal, state and local income taxes on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. Any federal, state or local income taxes that Ramco-Gershenson, Inc., is required to pay will reduce cash flow otherwise available to us to make distributions to holders of our securities.

Federal Income Taxation of Shareholders

Federal Income Taxation of Taxable Domestic Shareholders

Distributions. As a result of our status as a REIT, distributions made to our taxable domestic shareholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits, and not designated as capital gain dividends, will generally be taken into account by them as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. The maximum federal income tax rate applicable to corporations is 35% and that applicable to ordinary income of individuals is currently 35% through 2012.

The maximum individual rate of tax on dividends and long-term capital gains is generally 15% through 2012. Because we are not generally subject to federal income tax on the portion of our REIT taxable income or capital gains distributed to our shareholders, our dividends are generally not eligible for this 15% tax rate on dividends. As a result, our ordinary REIT dividends will continue to be taxed at the higher tax rates applicable to ordinary income. However, the 15% tax rate will generally apply to:

our dividends attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations, such as TRSs;

our dividends attributable to our REIT taxable income in the prior taxable year on which we were subject to corporate level income tax (net of the amount of such tax); and

our dividends attributable to income in the prior taxable year from the sale of appreciated (i.e., Built-in Gain) property acquired by us from C corporations in carryover basis transactions or held by us on the first day of a taxable year for which we first re-qualify as a REIT after being subject to tax as a C corporation for more than two years (net of the amount of corporate tax on such income).

Distributions that are designated as capital gain dividends will be taxed to shareholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that they do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the shareholder has held its shares. A similar treatment will apply to long-term capital gains we retain, to the extent that we elect the application of provisions of the Code that treat shareholders of a REIT as having received, for federal income tax purposes, undistributed capital gains of the REIT, while passing through to shareholders a corresponding credit for taxes paid by the REIT on such retained capital gains. Corporate

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shareholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum federal rates of 15% through 2012 in the case of shareholders who are individuals, and 35% for corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum federal income tax rate for taxpayers who are individuals, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions. Pursuant to Treasury Regulations to be promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department, a portion of our distributions may be subject to the alternative minimum tax to the extent of our items of tax preference, if any, allocated to the shareholders.

Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a shareholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of the shareholder's common or preferred shares in respect of which the distributions were made, but rather, will reduce the adjusted basis of those common or preferred shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a shareholder's shares, they will be included in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend we declare in October, November or December of any year and payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated both as paid by us and received by the shareholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

We may make distributions to shareholders paid in common or preferred shares that are intended to be treated as dividends for federal income tax purposes. In that event, our shareholders would generally have taxable income with respect to such distributions of our common or preferred shares and may have tax liability by reason of such distributions in excess of the cash (if any) that is received by them.

In determining the extent to which a distribution with respect to preferred shares constitutes a dividend for tax purposes, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to distributions with respect to our preferred shares and then to our common shares. In addition, the IRS has taken the position in published guidance that if a REIT has two classes of shares, the amount of any particular type of income (including net capital gain) allocated to each class in any year cannot exceed such class's proportionate share of such income based on the total dividends paid to each class for such year. Consequently, if both common shares and preferred shares are outstanding, particular types of income will be allocated in accordance with the classes' proportionate shares of such income. Thus, net capital gain will be allocated between holders of common shares and holders of preferred shares, if any, in proportion to the total dividends paid to each class during the taxable year, or otherwise as required by applicable law.

Net operating losses and capital losses that we are allowed to carry forward from prior tax years may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See "Taxation of the Company - Annual Distribution Requirement" above. Such losses, however, are not passed through to our shareholders and do not offset income of shareholders from other sources, nor do they affect the character of any distributions that we actually make, which are generally taxable to our shareholders as dividends to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

We will be treated as having sufficient earnings and profits for a year to treat as a dividend any distribution we make for such year up to the amount required to be distributed in order to avoid imposition of the 4% federal excise tax discussed in "Taxation of the Company - Taxation of REITs in General" above. As a result, taxable domestic shareholders may be required to treat certain distributions as taxable dividends even though we may have no overall, accumulated earnings and profits. Moreover, any "deficiency dividend," which is a dividend to our current shareholders that is permitted to relate back to a year for which the IRS determines a deficiency in order to satisfy the distribution requirement for that year, will be treated as a dividend (an ordinary dividend or a capital gain dividend, as the case may be) regardless of our earnings and profits for the year in which we pay the deficiency dividend.

Disposition of Common and Preferred Shares. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals and other non-corporate shareholders upon the sale or disposition of common or preferred shares will be subject to a

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maximum federal income tax rate of 15% through 2012 (applicable to long-term capital gains) if the shares are held for more than 12 months, and will be taxed at rates of up to 35% through 2012 (applicable to short-term capital gains) if the shares are held for 12 months or less. Gains recognized by shareholders that are corporations are subject to federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not classified as long-term capital gains. Capital losses recognized by a shareholder upon the disposition of shares held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, which are generally available first to offset long-term capital gain (which is taxed at capital gain rates) and then short-term capital gain (which is taxed at ordinary income rates) of the shareholder, but not ordinary income of the shareholder (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). Capital losses recognized by a shareholder upon the disposition of shares held for not more than one year are considered short-term capital losses and are generally available first to offset short-term capital gain and then long-term capital gain of the shareholder, but not ordinary income of the shareholder (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares by a shareholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying certain holding period rules, will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions received from us that are required to be treated by the shareholder as long-term capital gain.

If a holder of common or preferred shares recognizes a loss upon a disposition of those shares in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of certain Treasury Regulations involving reportable transactions could apply to require a disclosure filing with the IRS concerning the loss-generating transaction. While these regulations are directed toward tax shelters, they are quite broad, and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. The Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. Prospective shareholders should consult their tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of common or preferred shares, or transactions that might be undertaken directly or indirectly by us. Moreover, prospective shareholders should be aware that we and other participants in the transactions involving us (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

A redemption of preferred shares will be treated under Section 302 of the Code as a dividend subject to tax as such (to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits), unless the redemption satisfies certain tests set forth in Section 302(b) of the Code enabling the redemption to be treated as a sale or exchange of the preferred shares. The redemption will satisfy such test if it (1) is substantially disproportionate with respect to the holder (which will not be the case if only preferred shares are redeemed, since preferred shares generally do not have voting rights), (2) results in a complete termination of the shareholder's stock interest in us, or (3) is not essentially equivalent to a dividend with respect to the shareholder, all within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Code. In determining whether any of these tests have been met, shares considered to be owned by the shareholder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Code, as well as shares actually owned, must generally be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the Code is satisfied with respect to any particular holder of preferred shares will depend upon the facts and circumstances as of the time the determination is made, prospective shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisors to determine such tax treatment.

If a redemption of preferred shares is not treated as a distribution taxable as a dividend to a particular shareholder, it will be treated, as to that shareholder, as a taxable sale or exchange. As a result, such shareholder will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between (1) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received (less any portion thereof attributable to accumulated but unpaid dividends that we are legally obligated to pay at the time of the redemption, which will be taxable as a dividend to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits), and (2) the shareholder's adjusted basis in the preferred shares for tax purposes. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if, at the time of the redemption, the shares were held for more than 12 months.

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If a redemption of preferred shares is treated as a distribution that is taxable as a dividend, the amount of the distribution would be measured by the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received by the shareholder. The shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the redeemed preferred shares will be transferred to the shareholder's remaining shares of our capital stock, if any. If, however, the shareholder has no remaining shares of our capital stock, such basis may, under certain circumstances, be transferred to a related person or it may be lost entirely.

Redemption Premium on Preferred Shares. If the redemption price of preferred shares that are subject to redemption exceeds their issue price (such excess referred to in this section as a redemption premium), in certain situations the entire amount of the redemption premium will be treated as being distributed to the holder of such shares, on an economic accrual basis, over the period from issuance of such shares until the date the shares are first redeemable (such deemed distribution referred to in this section as a constructive distribution). A constructive distribution may occur only if the preferred shares are subject to a redemption premium, and only if (1) we are required to redeem the shares at a specified time, (2) the holder of the shares has the option to require us to redeem the shares, or (3) we have the right to redeem the shares, but only if under applicable regulations, redemption pursuant to that right is more likely than not to occur. See the applicable prospectus supplement for further information regarding the possible tax treatment of redemption premiums with respect to any such preferred shares offered by such prospective supplement.

Passive Activity Loss and Investment Interest Limitations. Taxable dividends that we distribute and gain from the disposition of common or preferred shares will not be treated as passive activity income and, therefore, shareholders subject to the limitation on the use of passive losses will not be able to apply passive losses against such income. Shareholders may elect to treat capital gain dividends, capital gains from the disposition of shares and qualified dividend income as investment income for purposes of computing the limitation on the deductibility of investment interest, but in such case the shareholder will be taxed at ordinary income rates on those amounts. Other distributions made by us, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, will generally be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

Medicare Tax. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, certain domestic shareholders who are individuals, estates or trusts will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax with respect to, *inter alia*, dividends on and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, subject to certain exceptions. Prospective shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the applicability of this tax to any income and gains in respect of an investment in our common or preferred shares.

Convertible Preferred Shares. See the applicable prospectus supplement for a discussion of any additional tax consequences to a domestic shareholder of investing in convertible preferred shares offered by such prospectus supplement.

Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of common and preferred shares applicable to non-U.S. shareholders. A non-U.S. shareholder is any holder of our shares who is a foreign person. For the purposes of this summary, a foreign person is any person other than:

a citizen or resident of the United States,

a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof, or the District of Columbia,

an estate the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source, or

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a trust if (1) a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more United States fiduciaries have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) it has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.

The following summary is based on current law and is for general information only. The summary addresses only selected and not all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation. Prospective non-U.S. shareholders should consult with their own tax advisors to determine the impact of U.S. federal, state, and local income tax and estate tax laws with regard to an investment in our shares, including any reporting requirements.

Ordinary Dividends. The portion of dividends received by non-U.S. shareholders payable out of our earnings and profits that are not attributable to our capital gains and that are not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced by treaty.

In general, non-U.S. shareholders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of common or preferred shares. In cases where the dividend income from a non-U.S. shareholder's investment in common or preferred shares is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. shareholder generally will be subject to U.S. income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as domestic shareholders are taxed with respect to such dividends, and such income generally must be reported on a U.S. federal income tax return filed by or on behalf of the non-U.S. shareholder. Such income may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation.

As described above, we may make distributions paid in common or preferred shares that are intended to be treated as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If we are required to withhold an amount in excess of any cash that is distributed to non-U.S. shareholders along with the common or preferred shares, we may retain and sell some of the common or preferred shares that would otherwise be distributed in order to satisfy any withholding tax imposed on the distribution.

Non-Dividend Distributions. Unless our common or preferred shares constitute a U.S. real property interest (referred to in this section as a *USRPI*), distributions by us that are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. If it cannot be determined at the time at which a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the entire distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. However, the non-U.S. shareholder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our common or preferred shares constitute a *USRPI*, as discussed below under *Dispositions of Common or Preferred Shares*, then distributions by us in excess of the sum of our earnings and profits plus the shareholder's basis in its shares will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (which is referred to in this section as *FIRPTA*) at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a domestic shareholder of the same type (that is, an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the shareholder's share of our earnings and profits.

Capital Gain Dividends. Distributions that are attributable to gains from dispositions of *USRPIs* held by us directly or through pass-through subsidiaries (referred to in this section as *USRPI capital gains*) that are paid with respect to any class of shares which is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States and that are made to a non-U.S. shareholder who does not own more than 5% of the class of shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of distribution will be treated as a regular distribution by us, and these distributions will be treated as ordinary dividend distributions. A distribution of *USRPI capital gains* made by us to non-U.S. shareholders owning more than 5% of the class of shares in respect of which the distribution is made will be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S.

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shareholder and will be subject to U.S. income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. individuals or corporations, as the case may be (subject to alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals), without regard to whether the distribution is designated as a capital gain dividend. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the amount of dividends to the extent the dividends constitute USRPI capital gains. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax (or lower tax treaty rate, if applicable) in the hands of a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation.

Distributions to a non-U.S. shareholder that we properly designate as capital gain dividends, other than those arising from the disposition of a USRPI, generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation unless: (1) the investment in our shares is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. shareholder with respect to such gain, except that a non-U.S. shareholder that is a foreign corporation may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax (or lower tax treaty rate, if applicable), or (2) the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are satisfied, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gains (unless a lower tax treaty rate applies).

Retained Net Capital Gains. Although the law is not clear on the matter, it appears that amounts designated by us as retained capital gains in respect of our shares held by non-U.S. shareholders generally should be treated in the same manner as our actual distributions of capital gain dividends. Under this approach, a non-U.S. shareholder would be able to claim as a credit against its U.S. federal income tax liability, its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on the retained capital gains, and to obtain from the IRS a refund to the extent its proportionate share of the tax paid by us exceeds its actual U.S. federal income tax liability.

Dispositions of Common or Preferred Shares. Unless our common or preferred shares constitute a USRPI, a sale of such shares by a non-U.S. shareholder generally will not be subject to U.S. taxation under FIRPTA. The shares will not constitute a USRPI if we are a domestically-controlled REIT. A domestically-controlled REIT is a REIT less than 50% in value of the shares of which is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. shareholders at all times during a prescribed testing period. We believe that we are, and we expect to continue to be, a domestically-controlled REIT and, therefore, the sale of our common or preferred shares by non-U.S. shareholders is not expected to be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. Because our shares are publicly traded, however, no assurance can be given that we are or will be a domestically-controlled REIT.

In the event that we do not constitute a domestically-controlled REIT, a non-U.S. shareholder's sale of common or preferred shares nonetheless will not constitute a USRPI and accordingly would not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that (1) the shares are of a class that are regularly traded as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations, on an established securities market, and (2) the selling non-U.S. shareholder held 5% or less of such class of shares at all times during a prescribed testing period. In addition, if (1) our preferred shares are not regularly traded on an established securities market, (2) our common shares are regularly traded on an established securities market, and (3) the applicable non-U.S. shareholder has not, at the time it acquires preferred shares, and at certain other times described in the applicable Treasury Regulations, directly or indirectly held preferred shares (and in certain cases other direct or indirect interests in our shares) that had a fair market value in excess of 5% of the fair market value of all of our outstanding common shares, then such non-U.S. shareholder's sale of our preferred shares generally would not be a USRPI and accordingly would not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI. We believe that our common shares are, and expect them to continue to be, regularly traded on an established securities market.

If gain on the sale of common or preferred shares were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. shareholder would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. shareholder with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals, and the purchaser of the shares could, unless the shares are of a class that are regularly traded (as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations) on an established securities market, be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

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Gain from the sale of common or preferred shares that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. shareholder in two cases: (1) if the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. shareholder and, where a treaty applies, such trade or business is conducted through a permanent establishment in the U.S., then the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. shareholder with respect to such gain, except that the non-U.S. shareholder may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax (or lower tax treaty rate, if applicable) if it is a foreign corporation, or (2) if the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are satisfied, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to tax on the individual's capital gain at a 30% rate (or lower tax treaty rate, if applicable).

Convertible Preferred Shares. See the applicable prospectus supplement for a discussion of any additional tax consequences to a non-U.S. shareholder of investing in convertible preferred shares offered by such prospectus supplement.

Federal Taxation of Tax-Exempt Shareholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. However, they are subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income (which is referred to in this section as UBTI). While many investments in real estate generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt shareholder has not held its common or preferred shares as debt financed property within the meaning of the Code (that is, property the acquisition of which is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt shareholder), and (2) the shares are not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, we believe that distributions from us and income from the sale of our shares should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt shareholder.

Tax-exempt shareholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (9), (17) and (20) of the Code, respectively, are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions from us as UBTI.

A pension trust that owns more than 10% of the value of our shares could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends from us as UBTI if we are a pension-held REIT. We will not be a pension-held REIT unless either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our shares, or (2) a group of pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our shares, collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our shares. We believe that we currently are not a pension-held REIT. Because our shares are publicly traded, however, no assurance can be given that we are not (or will not be) a pension-held REIT.

Tax-exempt shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of an investment in our common or preferred shares.

Federal Income Taxation of Warrants

A holder who receives shares upon the exercise of a warrant should not recognize gain or loss except to the extent of any cash received for fractional shares. Except to the extent of any cash so received, such a holder would have a tax basis in the shares acquired pursuant to a warrant equal to the amount of the purchase price paid for (or, if the warrant is purchased as part of an investment unit, allocated to) the warrant plus the amount paid for the shares pursuant to the warrant. The holding period for the shares acquired pursuant to a warrant would begin on the date of exercise. Upon the subsequent sale of shares acquired pursuant to a warrant or upon a sale of a warrant, the holder thereof would generally recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference

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between the amount realized on the sale and its tax basis in such shares or warrant, as the case may be. The foregoing assumes that warrants will not be held as a hedge, straddle or as a similar offsetting position with respect to our shares and that Section 1092 of the Code will not apply.

Federal Income Taxation of Holders of Debt Securities

Federal Income Taxation of Taxable Domestic Holders of Debt Securities

This section describes the material federal income tax consequences of owning the debt securities that we may offer. It applies to taxable domestic holders who purchase debt securities that are not original issue discount or zero coupon debt securities and that were acquired in an initial offering at the offering price. If you purchase these debt securities at a price other than the offering price, the amortizable bond premium or market discount rules may also apply to you. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding this possibility.

The tax consequences of owning any debt securities that are zero coupon debt securities, original issue discount debt securities, floating rate debt securities or indexed debt securities that we offer will be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

A holder will be taxed on interest on debt securities at ordinary income rates at the time such holder receives the interest or when it accrues, depending on such holder's method of accounting for federal income tax purposes.

A holder's tax basis in the debt security will generally be its cost. A holder will generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale or retirement of a debt security equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale or retirement, excluding any amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, and the tax basis in the debt security.

Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders of Debt Securities

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our debt securities applicable to non-U.S. holders. A non-U.S. holder is any holder of our debt securities who is a foreign person as defined under Federal Income Taxation of Shareholders Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders above.

Interest paid to a non-U.S. holder of debt securities generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes or withholding taxes if the interest is not effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States, provided that the non-U.S. holder:

does not actually or constructively own a 10% or greater interest in us;

is not a controlled foreign corporation with respect to which we are a related person within the meaning of Section 864(d)(4) of the Code;

is not a bank receiving interest described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code; and

provides the appropriate certification as to its foreign status.

A non-U.S. holder can generally meet this certification requirement by providing a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or appropriate substitute form to us, or our paying agent. If a non-U.S. holder holds our debt securities through a financial institution or other agent acting on its behalf, the non-U.S. holder may be required to provide appropriate documentation to its agent. The non-U.S. holder's agent will then generally be required to provide appropriate certification to us or our paying agent, either directly or through other intermediaries. Special certification rules apply to foreign partnerships, estates and trusts, and in certain circumstances certifications as to foreign status of partners, trust owners or beneficiaries may have to be provided to us or our paying agent.

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If a non-U.S. holder does not qualify for an exemption under these rules, interest income from the debt securities may be subject to withholding tax at the rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) at the time it is paid. The payment of interest effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's U.S. trade or business, however, would not be subject to a 30% withholding tax so long as the non-U.S. holder provided us or our agent an adequate certification (currently on IRS Form W-8ECI), but such interest would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis at the rates applicable to U.S. holders generally. In addition, if the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation and the payment of interest is effectively connected with its U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder may also be subject to a 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) branch profits tax. To claim the benefit of a tax treaty, the non-U.S. holder must provide a properly-executed IRS Form W-8BEN before the payment of interest, and it may be required to obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number and provide documentary evidence issued by foreign governmental authorities to prove residence in the foreign country.

A non-U.S. holder of our debt securities will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on any amount which constitutes capital gain upon retirement or other disposition of a debt security, unless any of the following is true: (1) the non-U.S. holder's investment in our debt securities is effectively connected with its conduct of a U.S. trade or business; or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual holding the debt securities as a capital asset and is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year within which sale, redemption or other disposition takes place, and certain other conditions are met.

If the non-U.S. holder has a U.S. trade or business and the investment in our debt securities is effectively connected with that trade or business, the gain on retirement or other disposition of our debt securities would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis at the rate applicable to U.S. holders generally. In addition, foreign corporations may be subject to a 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) branch profits tax if the investment in the debt securities is effectively connected with the foreign corporation's U.S. trade or business.

Other Tax Considerations

Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding Tax

Under certain circumstances, holders of our securities may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 28% through 2012 on payments made with respect to, or cash proceeds of a sale or exchange of, our securities. Backup withholding will apply only if the holder (1) fails to furnish its taxpayer identification number, referred to in this section as a TIN (which, for an individual, would be his or her social security number), (2) furnishes an incorrect TIN, (3) is notified by the IRS that it has failed to properly report payments of interest and dividends, or (4) under certain circumstances, fails to certify, under penalty of perjury, that it has not been notified by the IRS that it is subject to backup withholding for failure to report interest and dividend payments. Backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to certain exempt recipients, such as corporations and tax-exempt organizations. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding their qualification for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such an exemption. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, the amount of any backup withholding with respect to a payment to a holder of our securities will be allowed as a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle such holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions to, or gross proceeds from our redemption of shares or other securities from, any holders who fail to certify their non-foreign status, if applicable.

Additional issues may arise pertaining to information reporting and backup withholding with respect to foreign investors, and foreign investors should consult their tax advisors with respect to any such information reporting and backup withholding requirements. Backup withholding with respect to foreign investors is not an additional tax. Rather, the amount of any backup withholding with respect to a payment to a foreign investor will be allowed as a credit against any U.S. federal income tax liability of such foreign investor. If withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund may be obtained, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

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Additional U.S. Federal Income Tax Withholding Rules

The following new withholding rules are scheduled to become effective generally for payments made after 2012. A U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate will be imposed on dividends and gross proceeds of sale in respect of our shares received by domestic shareholders who own their shares through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries and by certain non-U.S. shareholders if certain disclosure requirements related to U.S. accounts or ownership are not satisfied. If payment of withholding taxes is required, non-U.S. shareholders that are otherwise eligible for an exemption from, or reduction of, U.S. withholding taxes with respect to such dividends and proceeds will be required to seek a refund from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any amounts withheld. Prospective shareholders are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these new withholding rules on their investment in our shares as well as the status of any related federal regulations.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

To the extent that a shareholder receives common shares or preferred shares pursuant to a dividend reinvestment plan, the federal income tax treatment of the shareholder and us will generally be the same as if the distribution had been made in cash. See *Federal Income Taxation of Shareholders* and *Taxation of the Company Annual Distribution Requirement* above.

Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The rules dealing with federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department. Changes to the federal tax laws and interpretations of federal tax laws could adversely affect an investment in our securities.

State and Local Taxes

We are subject to state, local, or other taxation in various state, local, or other jurisdictions, including those in which we transact business or own property. In addition, a holder of our securities may be subject to state, local, or other taxation on our distributions in various state, local, or other jurisdictions, including the jurisdiction in which the holder resides. The tax treatment in such jurisdictions may differ from the federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state, local, and other tax laws on their investment in our securities.

Additional Tax Consequences for Holders of Depositary Shares or Rights

See the applicable prospectus supplement for a discussion of any additional tax consequences for holders of depositary shares or rights offered by such prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, certain legal matters with respect to the validity of any common shares and preferred shares offered, and certain other legal matters relating to Maryland law, will be passed upon for us by Ballard Spahr LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Certain tax matters will be passed upon for us by Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, Detroit, Michigan.

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EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedules as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of Grant Thornton, LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

DISCLOSURE OF SEC POSITION ON INDEMNIFICATION

FOR SECURITIES ACT LIABILITIES

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers, trustees and persons controlling the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.