



### **Ascott Residence Trust**

Acquisition of Student Accommodation Property in Atlanta and Expansion of Investment Strategy

27 January 2021

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# Expansion of Investment Strategy

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# **Expansion of Investment Strategy**



Principal investment strategy of Ascott REIT will be expanded to include investments primarily in real estate and real estate related assets which are income producing and which are used, or predominantly used, as serviced residences, rental housing properties, **student accommodation** and other hospitality assets in any country in the world, and such change in investment strategy shall be effected on 27 February 2021, being the 30 days from the date of this announcement.

# Overview of Acquisition

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# First Foray into Purpose-built Student Accommodation

Quality, freehold property in the heart of Atlanta



Signature West Midtown		
Location	800 Marietta Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia, USA	
Purchase consideration <sup>1</sup>	US\$95.0 million (S\$126.3 million)	
Total acquisition cost (including transaction costs)	US\$97.9 million (S\$130.2 million)	
Land tenure	Freehold	
Net rentable area	215,895 square feet (sq ft)	
Building height / units / beds	Mid-rise building with 183 units and 525 beds	
Unit mix	Studio: 29 / (511 sq ft) 1-Bedroom: 14 / (673 sq ft) 2-Bedroom: 38 / (979 sq ft) 3-Bedroom: 11 / (1,296 sq ft) 4-Bedroom: 81 / (1,487 sq ft) 4-Bedroom Townhome: 1 / (1,686 sq ft) 5-Bedroom: 9 / (2,006 sq ft) All units come with ensuite bathrooms	
Key educational institution	Georgia Institute of Technology	
Contract type	Management contract	
Ave. occupancy rate	c.95% <sup>2</sup>	
Ave. length of stay	c.1 year	
EBITDA <sup>3</sup> yield	c.5%	
DPS <sup>4</sup> accretion	4.4%	



Notes: Based on average exchange rate for FY 2020 of 1 USD= 1.3298 SGD

1. The purchase consideration takes into account the agreed property value of the property, which was arrived at on a willing-buyer and willing-seller basis and derived based on the independent valuation of the property by Colliers International at US\$97.5 million (equivalent to approximately \$\$129.7 million).

2. For the full year of 2020

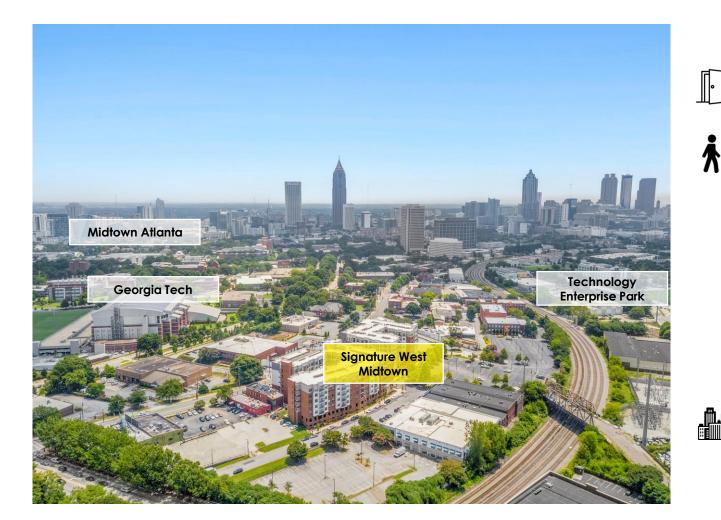
3. Earnings before net interest expense, tax, depreciation and amortisation

4. Distribution per Stapled Security

# **One of Atlanta's Newest Student Accommodation**

Prime location, stone's throw from Georgia Tech





#### Opened in 2019

#### Walking distance to Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), an internationally recognised university

- 5 to 15-minute walk to Georgia Tech's sports hub, lecture halls, and planned 2.2 million sq ft Technology Enterprise Park expansion<sup>1</sup>
- Reputable university ranked 35th in the USA and 2nd in Georgia<sup>2</sup>
- About 40,000 students

#### Convenient access to Midtown and Downtown Atlanta

#### Sources: 1. Atlanta Business Chronicle, "Georgia Tech clears major hurdle for \$750M Technology Enterprise Park expansion", November 2020 2. US News Best Colleges Ranking

# **Market Overview**

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# **Student Accommodation in USA**

World's largest student accommodation market



### World's largest student accommodation market with investment volumes of US\$11 billion<sup>1</sup>

 Strong demand for purpose-built assets that are within walking distance of tier 1 institutions and those with premier sports status

#### Enrolment expected to set new records with population growth

- Largest student population in the developed world
- Undergraduate numbers expected to increase 13% from 2020 to 2026<sup>2</sup>
- About 80% of undergraduates live in off-campus housing<sup>1</sup>

#### 95% of USA student population is domestic<sup>1</sup>

- Established student accommodation properties maintained high occupancy rates despite COVID-19<sup>3</sup>
- Demand expected to remain robust in 2021 as vaccination efforts increase and international travel resumes<sup>4</sup>

Sources:

- 2. Knight Frank, "Global Student Property Report 2019", May 2019
- 3. Real Page, "Student housing pre-lease season ends just below last year's results", September 2020
- 4. Savills, "Spotlight on Student Accommodation", September 2020



<sup>1.</sup> CBRE Research, "United States Student Housing 2019",

# **Atlanta & Higher Education**

Home to 57 colleges and universities

## Atlanta is the largest metro in Southeast USA with one of the fastest-growing populations

• 14% increase in population from 2010 to over 6 million in 2019<sup>1</sup>

#### Healthy jobs growth and business-friendly environment

- Beneficiary of migration of workers from higher-cost coastal cities
- Home to large multinational companies such as Coca Cola, Delta Airlines and United Parcel Service



### Top 10 among USA metros in students enrolled, research spending and degrees earned<sup>2</sup>

- 7th in student enrolment among America's largest urban areas and 6th in annual college graduates
- Among top 7 urban centres in number of degrees awarded

Sources: 1. Curbed Atlanta, "Census: Metro Atlanta packed on 730,000 more residents in nine years", March 2020 2. Discover Atlanta website



# Georgia Tech

Leading advanced science and technology research university



#### Reputable university

- Ranked 35th in the USA and 2nd in Georgia<sup>1</sup>
- Participant of the Atlantic Coast Conference, one of the "Power 5" athletics conferences in the USA National Collegiate Athletics Associations



#### Strong enrolment growth

- 9% growth in enrolment in Fall 2020 vs Fall 2019 despite COVID-19
- 6.7% 10-year compounded annual growth in enrolment



#### Predominantly domestic students

c.80% domestic students



#### Planned 2.2 million sq ft expansion at Technology Enterprise Park<sup>2</sup>

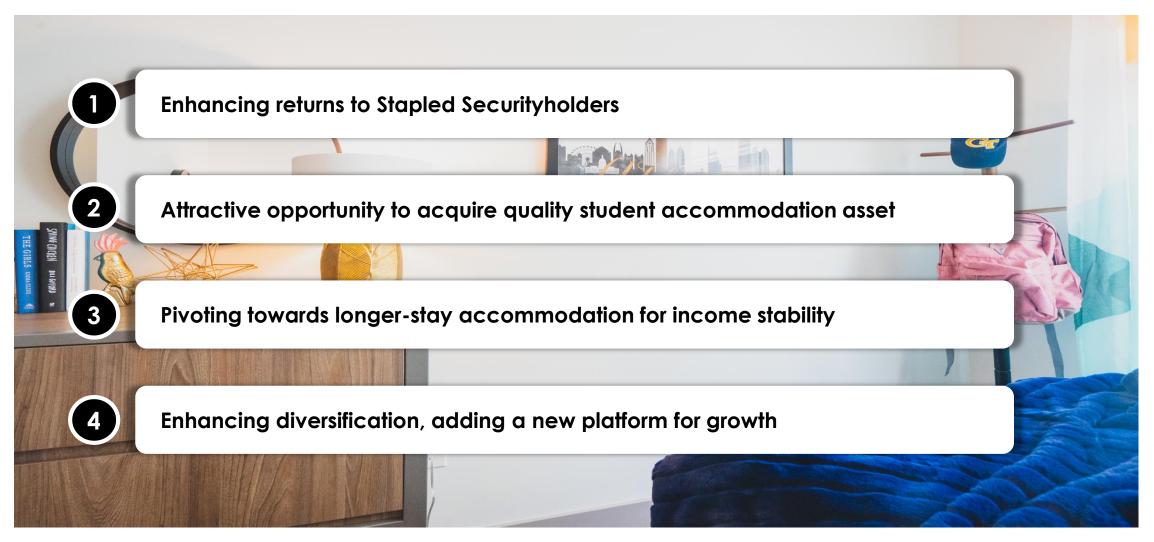
- Poised to be a state-of-the-art biosciences and health innovation district which includes more laboratory and office space for research and entrepreneurship
- 5,000 new jobs expected to be created at full build out in 2029



# Rationale and Benefits

### **Rationale and Benefits**

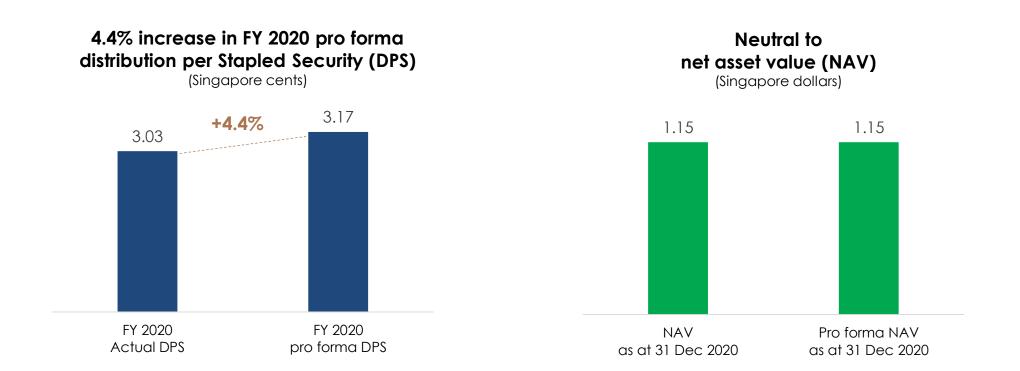








#### Replacing lost income from recent divestments and reinvesting at higher yields



Note: The pro forma DPS and NAV are calculated based on the unaudited consolidated financial statements of ART for FY2020 and 3, 108,047,703 Stapled Securities in issue as at 31 December 2020 and on the following assumptions: (i) ART had completed the Acquisition on 1 January 2020 and (ii) the Acquisition is funded based on a funding structure of 40% debt and 60% divestment proceeds.

# Attractive Opportunity to Acquire Quality Student Accommodation Asset





#### Strong property fundamentals

- New, purpose-built, freehold student accommodation
- Walking distance to Georgia Tech, a "Power 51", Tier 1 university
- Strong enrolment growth and pre-leasing momentum
- Beneficiary of Georgia Tech's 2.2 million sq ft expansion of its Technology Enterprise Park which will drive up economic activities and general rent levels around West Midtown



# Pivoting Towards Longer-stay Accommodation for Income Stability





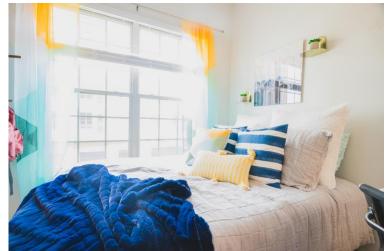
#### Plan to increase asset allocation in longer-stay properties

- Seeking opportunities in longer-stay asset classes such as student accommodation and rental housing
- Post-acquisition, rental housing and student accommodation properties will comprise about 7% of ART's total assets



#### Increasing income stability

- High average occupancy of c.95% despite COVID-19
- Average length of stay of about 1 year
- Predominantly domestic student mix makes the property less dependent on issuance of student visas and international travel restrictions





### Enhancing Diversification, Adding a New Platform for Growth





#### Mitigating near-term headwinds of traditional hospitality asset classes

- Hospitality market conditions are expected to remain challenging in the near term
- Countercyclical asset class as students tend to invest in education during recession in preparation for economic recovery

#### Tapping growth opportunities in the student accommodation market

- Student accommodation has proven to be a resilient asset class even during a pandemic
- Enrolment at reputable universities continues to expand, supported by rising middle class and population growth
- Keen investment demand by institutional investors

#### Post-acquisition...



Serviced Residences

HOTEL	
	Busi

18 Hotels / usiness Hotels



Rental Housing



Student Accommodation

# Transaction Milestones

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### **Transaction Milestones**



Date	Milestone
27 January 2021	Signing of Sale and Purchase Agreement
	1.0% of the purchase consideration paid
End-1Q 2021	Expected completion, subject to conditions precedent
	Remainder of the purchase consideration to be paid, subject to adjustments



# Thank you



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