

ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC
Form 424B5
August 04, 2014

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)
[TABLE OF CONTENTS 2](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed pursuant to Rule to 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-189532

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated August 4, 2014

**PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
TO PROSPECTUS DATED AUGUST 5, 2013**

Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.

\$ 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021

We are offering \$ aggregate principal amount of additional 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021 (the "additional notes") under this prospectus supplement. The additional notes offered hereby constitute a further issuance of and are fungible with the \$58,637,625 aggregate principal amount of 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021, \$55,000,000 of which we issued on May 12, 2014 and \$3,637,625 of which we issued on May 29, 2014 (the "initial notes") and form a single series of securities with the initial notes. Unless the context requires otherwise, we collectively refer to the additional notes and the initial notes as the "notes." The additional notes will have terms identical to the initial notes, other than issue date and offering price, and will have the same CUSIP number as, and will be fungible with and vote together with, the initial notes immediately upon issuance.

The notes will mature on May 15, 2021. We will pay interest on the notes quarterly in arrears on February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th of each year, commencing on August 15, 2014. Prior to May 15, 2017, the notes will not be redeemable. On or after May 15, 2017, we may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time at a redemption price in cash equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date. See "Description of Notes Optional Redemption" in this prospectus supplement. Upon a Fundamental Change, we will be required to make an offer to repurchase all outstanding notes at a repurchase price in cash equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the repurchase date. See "Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes" in this prospectus supplement. The notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof.

The initial notes are, and additional notes will be, our senior unsecured obligations. The notes rank senior in right of payment to our existing and future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes; equal

in right of payment to our existing and future unsecured indebtedness that is not so subordinated; effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and structurally junior in right of payment to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries. We are a holding company whose principal assets are the equity interests we hold in our subsidiaries. We will depend upon our subsidiaries to provide us with substantially all of the funds to meet our obligations under the notes.

The initial notes are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "ABRN". We intend to apply to list the additional notes on the NYSE under the same symbol. On August 1, 2014, the last reported sales price of the notes on the NYSE was \$24.78 per note. The additional notes are expected to trade "flat," which means that purchasers will not pay, and sellers will not receive, any accrued and unpaid interest on the notes that is not reflected in the trading price.

We have granted the underwriters the right to purchase up to an additional \$ _____ principal amount of additional notes from us to cover over-allotments, if any, on the same terms and conditions set forth above within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement.

Investing in the notes involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and the risks set forth under the heading "Item 1A. Risk Factors" beginning on page 15 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Note	Total (2)
Public offering price ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	%	\$

(1) Purchasers of additional notes will pay the public offering price stated above plus accrued interest from May 12, 2014 to, but excluding, the date of delivery.

(2) Assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

The additional notes will be ready for delivery on or about August _____, 2014 only in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Deutsche Bank Securities

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
A Stifel Company
Co-Managers

MLV & Co.

JMP Securities

Ladenburg Thalmann

The date of this prospectus supplement is August _____, 2014.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC or the Commission. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. If anyone provides you with additional or different information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the underwriters are making an offer to sell the additional notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of their respective dates and, except as required by law, we are not obligated, and do not intend to, update or revise this document as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement adds, updates and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated by reference. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement differs or varies from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control.

In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless expressly noted or the context indicates otherwise, the words "we," "us," "our," "Arbor," "Company" and similar references mean Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, our operating partnership, and Arbor Realty SR, Inc., its subsidiary, and the words "Arbor Commercial Mortgage" or "our manager" refer to Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information contained in this prospectus supplement is not a complete description of our business or the risks associated with an investment in us. We urge you to review carefully and consider the various disclosures made by us in this prospectus supplement including the documents incorporated by reference herein.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, contain certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Such forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the operating performance of our investments and financing needs. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "potential," "intend," "expect," "seek," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "could," "project," "predict," "continue" or other similar words or expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions, discuss future expectations, describe future plans and strategies, contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition or state other forward-looking information. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, our actual results and performance could differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results in future periods to differ materially from forecasted results. Factors that could have a material adverse effect on our operations and future prospects include, but are not limited to:

changes in economic conditions generally and the real estate market specifically;

adverse changes in the financing markets we access affecting our ability to finance our loan and investment portfolio;

changes in interest rates;

the quality and size of the investment pipeline and the rate at which we can invest our cash;

impairments in the value of the collateral underlying our loans and investments;

legislative/regulatory changes;

the availability and cost of capital for future investments;

competition; and

other risks detailed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any of these forward-looking statements, which reflect our management's views as of the date of the report containing such statements incorporated herein or as of the date of this prospectus supplement with respect to statements that are expressly stated herein. The factors noted above could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We do not intend and we disclaim any duty or obligation to update or revise any industry information or forward-looking statement set forth in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein to reflect new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required by U.S. federal securities laws.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary description of us, our manager and our business highlights selected information about us and our manager contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. This summary does not contain all of the information about us that you should consider before deciding whether to invest in the additional notes. You should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including each of the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference, before making an investment decision.

Our Company

We are a specialized real estate finance company that invests in a diversified portfolio of structured finance assets in the multi-family and commercial real estate markets. We invest primarily in real estate-related bridge and mezzanine loans, including junior participating interests in first mortgages, preferred and direct equity and, in limited cases, discounted mortgage notes and other real estate-related assets, which we refer to collectively as structured finance investments. We also hold investments in mortgage-related securities and real property. Our principal business objective is to maximize the difference between the yield on our investments and the cost of financing these investments to generate cash available for distribution, facilitate capital appreciation and maximize total return to our stockholders.

We are organized to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. A REIT is generally not subject to federal income tax on that portion of its REIT taxable income, or Taxable Income, that is distributed to its stockholders, provided that at least 90% of Taxable Income is distributed and certain other REIT qualification requirements are met. Certain of our assets that produce non-qualifying income are held in taxable REIT subsidiaries. Unlike other subsidiaries of a REIT, the income of a taxable REIT subsidiary is subject to federal and state income taxes.

We conduct substantially all of our operations and investing activities through our operating partnership, Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty SR, Inc., a subsidiary REIT. We serve as the general partner of our operating partnership, and currently own 100% of its partnership interests.

We are externally managed and advised by Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC, a national commercial real estate finance company that specializes in debt and equity financing for multi-family and commercial real estate, pursuant to the terms of a management agreement.

We are a Maryland corporation formed in June 2003. Our principal executive offices are located at 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York 11553. Our telephone number is (516) 506-4200. Our website is located at www.arborrealtytrust.com. The information contained on or accessible through our website is not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Offering

The summary below describes the principal terms of the notes. Certain of the terms and conditions described below are subject to important limitations and exceptions. The "Description of Notes" section of this prospectus supplement contains a more detailed description of the terms and conditions of the notes and defines the capitalized terms used in this section. As used in this section, "we," "our," and "us" refer to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., and not to any of its consolidated subsidiaries.

Issuer	Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation.
Notes Offered	\$ million in aggregate principal amount of additional 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021. We will issue these notes in denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof. These notes are being offered as additional notes under an indenture pursuant to which we issued \$55,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021 on May 12, 2014 and an additional \$3,637,625 aggregate principal amount on May 29, 2014. The additional notes and those previously issued initial notes will be treated as a single series of securities under the indenture governing the notes.
Over-Allotment Option	The underwriters may also purchase from us up to an additional \$ million in aggregate principal amount of additional notes to cover over-allotments, if any, within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement.
Maturity	May 15, 2021 unless earlier repurchased or redeemed.
Interest	7.375% per year. Interest will accrue from May 12, 2014 and will be payable quarterly in arrears on February 15 th , May 15 th , August 15 th and November 15 th of each year, beginning on August 15, 2014.
Optional Redemption	Prior to May 15, 2017, the notes will not be redeemable. On or after May 15, 2017 and prior to the maturity date, we may redeem for cash all or part of the notes, upon not less than 45 nor more than 60 calendar days' notice before the redemption date to the trustee, the paying agent and each holder of notes. The redemption price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date (unless the redemption date falls after a regular record date but on or prior to the immediately succeeding interest payment date, in which case we will pay the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest to the holder of record as of the close of business on such regular record date, and the redemption price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed).

Table of Contents

Repurchase of Notes by Us Upon a Fundamental Change

If a Fundamental Change (as defined in "Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes") occurs at any time, holders will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase for cash any or all of their notes, or any portion of the principal amount thereof that is equal to \$25 or an integral multiple of \$25 in excess thereof. The price we are required to pay is equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the repurchase date (unless the repurchase date falls after a regular record date but on or prior to the interest payment date to which such regular record date relates, in which case we will instead pay the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest to the holder of record on such regular record date, and the repurchase price will be equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased). During any period in which we are not subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act and any notes are outstanding, we will provide to holders and prospective holders of notes, without cost, information that is substantially similar to the information that we would have been required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act if we were subject thereto.

Information Rights

Ranking

The initial notes are, and the additional notes will be, our senior unsecured obligations. The notes rank:

senior in right of payment to our existing and future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes;

equal in right of payment to our existing and any future unsecured indebtedness that is not subordinated;

effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and

structurally junior in right of payment to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

	<p>As of June 30, 2014, our total consolidated indebtedness was \$1.275 billion, all of which was indebtedness of our subsidiaries and approximately \$0.0232 billion of which was guaranteed by us. After giving effect to the issuance of the additional notes (assuming no exercise by the underwriters of their over-allotment option to purchase additional notes), our total consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$ billion. See "Capitalization."</p>
Use of Proceeds	<p>We estimate that the proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million (or \$ million if the underwriters exercise in full their over-allotment option to purchase additional notes), after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the additional notes to make investments relating to our business, to repurchase or pay liabilities and for general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds."</p>
Certain Covenants	<p>The indenture governing the notes does not restrict our or our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, incur liens, sell less than substantially all of our assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, enter into sale-leaseback transactions, enter into agreements that restrict the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us or make investments, issue or repurchase our other securities or secure indebtedness with the assets, stock or equity interests of our subsidiaries.</p> <p>We will not, and will not permit any of our subsidiaries to, incur any Debt, other than Intercompany Debt, including that which is subordinate in right of payment to the notes, if, immediately after giving pro forma effect to the incurrence of such Debt and the application of the proceeds thereof, our Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio would be less than 1.2 to 1.0 or if our Debt to Equity Ratio would be greater than 6.0 to 1.0. For definitions of the terms "Debt," "Intercompany Debt," "Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio" and "Debt to Equity Ratio," see "Description of Notes - Certain Definitions."</p> <p>If we issue senior unsecured debt securities in an aggregate principal amount equal to or greater than \$200.0 million pursuant to an indenture that contains financial covenants that are different than the financial covenants applicable to the notes, we will amend the indenture with respect to the notes, without the consent of holders of the notes, so that the financial covenants applicable to such senior unsecured debt securities replace the financial covenants applicable to notes.</p>

Table of Contents

	<p>Other than as described under "Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes" and " Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale," the indenture governing the notes does not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us or in the event of a decline in our credit rating as the result of a takeover, recapitalization, highly leveraged transaction or similar restructuring involving us that could adversely affect such holders.</p>
Book-entry Form	<p>The additional notes will be issued in book-entry form and will be represented by global certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, and registered in the name of the nominee of DTC. Beneficial interests in any of the additional notes will be shown on, and transfers will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee and any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances.</p>
Listing	<p>The initial notes are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "ABRN". We intend to apply to list the additional notes on the NYSE under the same symbol.</p>
Trading	<p>The additional notes are expected to trade "flat," meaning that purchasers will not pay, and sellers will not receive, any accrued and unpaid interest on the additional notes that is not reflected in the trading price.</p>
Federal Income Tax Considerations	<p>For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations of the holding and disposition of the notes, see "Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus.</p>
Trustee, Registrar and Paying Agent	<p>U.S. Bank National Association.</p>
Risk Factors	<p>See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and on page 15 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in the additional notes.</p>

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the notes involves a high degree of risk. Before making an investment decision, you should read carefully and consider the risk factors in the section titled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and the risk factors described below, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings with the SEC under the Exchange Act. Any of these risks, if they actually occur, could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial may also materially and adversely affect us. In any such case, you could lose all or a portion of your original investment.

Risks Related to the Notes

The effective subordination of the notes may limit our ability to satisfy our obligations under the notes.

The initial notes are, and the additional notes will be, our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured indebtedness. However, the notes are effectively subordinated to all of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness. Consequently, in the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to us, the holders of any secured indebtedness will be entitled to proceed directly against the collateral that secures such secured indebtedness. Therefore, such collateral will not be available for satisfaction of any amounts owed under our unsecured indebtedness, including the notes, until such secured indebtedness is satisfied in full. As of June 30, 2014, we had no secured or unsecured indebtedness outstanding on an unconsolidated basis.

Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to make payments on the notes or to make any funds available for that purpose. Consequently, the notes are effectively subordinated to all liabilities, whether secured or unsecured, and all preferred equity of our subsidiaries. In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to any subsidiary, we, as an equity owner of such subsidiary, and therefore holders of our debt, including the notes, will be subject to the prior claims of such subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors. As of June 30, 2014, the total liabilities (exclusive of related party debt, revenue and other liabilities) of our subsidiaries was \$1.275 billion, of which \$0.0232 billion was guaranteed by us.

The provisions of the indenture governing the notes restrict, but do not eliminate, our and our subsidiaries' ability to incur additional indebtedness, whether secured or unsecured.

We are a holding company whose principal assets are the equity interests we hold in our subsidiaries. We will depend upon our subsidiaries to provide us with substantially all of the funds to meet our obligations under the notes.

We are a holding company, and we conduct our operations principally through our subsidiaries. We derive substantially all our revenues from our subsidiaries, and substantially all of our operating assets are owned by our subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flow and our ability to service our debt, including the notes, largely depend on the results of operations of our subsidiaries and upon the ability of our subsidiaries to provide us with cash to pay amounts due on our obligations, including the notes. Dividends, loans, or other distributions from our subsidiaries to us also may be subject to contractual and other restrictions, are

Table of Contents

dependent upon results of operations of our subsidiaries, and are subject to other business considerations.

Servicing our debt requires a significant amount of cash, and in the future we may not have sufficient cash flow from our business to pay our substantial debt.

Our ability to make scheduled payments of the principal of, to pay interest on or to refinance our indebtedness, including the notes, depends on our future performance, which is subject to economic, financial, competitive and other factors beyond our control. Our business may not continue to generate cash flow from operations in the future sufficient to service our debt and make necessary capital expenditures. If we are unable to generate such cash flow, we may be required to adopt one or more alternatives, such as selling assets, restructuring debt or obtaining additional equity capital on terms that may be onerous or highly dilutive. Our ability to refinance our indebtedness will depend on the capital markets and our financial condition at such time. We may not be able to engage in any of these activities or engage in these activities on desirable terms, which could result in a default on our debt obligations.

Despite our current debt levels, we may still incur substantially more debt or take other actions which would intensify the risks discussed above.

Despite our current consolidated debt level, we and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional debt in the future, subject to the restrictions contained in the indentures governing the notes and our other debt instruments, some of which may be secured debt. As described under "Description of Notes Financial Covenants," the terms of the indenture governing the notes restrict, but do not eliminate, our and our subsidiaries' ability to incur additional debt, secure existing or future debt, recapitalize our debt or take a number of other actions that could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the notes when due.

We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to repurchase the notes upon a Fundamental Change.

At maturity, the entire principal amount of the notes then outstanding, plus any accrued and unpaid interest, will become due and payable by us. Holders of the notes will also have the right to require us to repurchase the notes upon the occurrence of a Fundamental Change (as defined in "Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes"), in each case, at 101% of their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, as described under "Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Purchase Notes." We may not have enough available cash or be able to obtain financing at the time we are required to make required repurchases of notes surrendered therefor or to meet our other obligations with respect to the notes. In addition, our ability to repurchase the notes or to pay cash upon the maturity of the notes may be limited by law, by regulatory authority, by agreements governing our existing or future indebtedness or by restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us. Our failure to repurchase surrendered notes at a time when such repurchase is required by the indenture governing the notes or to pay any cash payable at maturity of the notes as required by the indenture governing the notes would constitute a default under such indenture and would permit holders of the notes to accelerate our obligations under the notes. Such a default may lead to a default under the agreements governing our other existing or future indebtedness. If the repayment of the related indebtedness were to be accelerated after any applicable notice or grace periods, we may not have sufficient funds to repay such indebtedness and repurchase the notes.

Table of Contents

If we default on our obligations to pay our other indebtedness, we may not be able to make payments on the notes.

If there were a payment event of default under any of the agreements relating to our outstanding indebtedness or an acceleration of such indebtedness, in each case, in respect of indebtedness having an aggregate principal amount of more than \$25 million, the holders of the notes could declare all amounts outstanding under the notes to be immediately due and payable. Our cash flows or assets may not be sufficient to fully repay the notes and our other outstanding indebtedness in the event of any such payment default or any such acceleration.

There are limited covenants and protections in the Indenture.

Except as described below, the indenture does not contain any financial covenants. Accordingly, the indenture does not restrict our or our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, incur liens, sell less than substantially all of our assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, enter into sale-leaseback transactions, enter into agreements that restrict the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us or make investments, issue or repurchase our other securities or secure indebtedness with the assets, stock or equity interests of our subsidiaries.

We will not, and will not permit any of our subsidiaries to, incur any Debt, other than Intercompany Debt, including that which is subordinate in right of payment to the notes, if, immediately after giving pro forma effect to the incurrence of such Debt and the application of the proceeds thereof, our Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio would be less than 1.2x or if our Debt to Equity Ratio would be greater than 6.0x. Accordingly, the indenture governing the notes restricts, but does not eliminate, our and our subsidiaries' ability to incur indebtedness, including indebtedness that would be senior to the notes. The incurrence of additional indebtedness could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the notes when due and payable.

For definitions of the terms "Debt," "Intercompany Debt," "Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio" and "Debt to Equity Ratio," see "Description of Notes - Certain Definitions."

Some significant restructuring transactions may not constitute a Fundamental Change, in which case, we would not be obligated to offer to repurchase the notes.

Upon the occurrence of a Fundamental Change, holders of the notes will have the right to require us to repurchase their notes. However, the right to require us to repurchase the notes upon a Fundamental Change will not afford protection to holders of notes if other transactions occur that are not deemed to be Fundamental Changes. For example, transactions such as leveraged recapitalizations, refinancings, restructurings, or acquisitions initiated by us may not constitute a Fundamental Change requiring us to repurchase the notes. If we are involved in any such transaction, the holders would not have the right to require us to repurchase the notes, even though each of these transactions could increase the amount of our indebtedness, or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure or any credit ratings, thereby adversely affecting the holders of notes and our ability to make payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the notes.

An active trading market may not develop or continue for the notes, which could adversely affect the price of the notes in the secondary market and your ability to resell the notes should you desire to do so.

A liquid trading market may not develop or continue for the notes, you may not be able to sell your notes at a particular time and the price you receive if you sell may not be favorable.

Table of Contents

The initial notes are listed on the NYSE. We intend to apply to list the additional notes on the NYSE; however, we cannot make any assurance as to:

the development of an active trading market;

the liquidity of any trading market that may develop;

the ability of holders to sell their notes on the NYSE or otherwise; or

the price at which the holders would be able to sell their notes.

If a trading market were to develop, the future trading prices of the notes would depend on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, our credit ratings, if any, and the credit rating of the notes published by major rating agencies, if the notes are rated in the future, the market for similar securities and our operating performance and financial condition. If a trading market does develop, there is no assurance that it will continue. If an active public trading market for the notes does not develop or does not continue, the market price and liquidity of the notes is likely to be adversely affected and notes traded after their purchase may trade at a discount from their purchase price.

The additional notes are expected to trade "flat," meaning that purchasers will not pay, and sellers will not receive, any accrued and unpaid interest on the notes that is not reflected in the trading price. Any portion of the trading price of a note that is attributable to accrued and unpaid interest will be treated as a payment of interest for U.S. federal income tax purposes and will not be treated as part of the amount realized for purposes of determining gain or loss on disposition of the notes.

We may be unable to repay the principal amount of the notes at maturity.

At maturity, the entire outstanding principal amount of the notes will become due and payable by us. We may not have sufficient funds or will be able to arrange for necessary financing on acceptable terms to pay the principal amount due. In that case, our failure to repay the notes at maturity would constitute an event of default under the indenture governing the notes.

Redemption may adversely affect your return on the notes.

On or after May 15, 2017, we will have the right to redeem some or all of the notes prior to maturity, as described under "Description of Notes - Optional Redemption." We may redeem the notes at times when prevailing interest rates may be relatively low compared to rates at the time of issuance of the notes. Accordingly, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as that of the notes.

The notes may not be rated or may receive a lower rating than anticipated.

We do not intend to seek a rating on the notes. However, if one or more rating agencies rates the notes and assigns the notes a rating lower than the rating expected by investors, or reduces their rating in the future, the trading price of the notes is likely to decline.

In addition, the trading prices of the notes will be directly affected by market perceptions of our creditworthiness. Consequently, if a credit ratings agency rates any of our or our subsidiaries' debt in the future or downgrades or withdraws any such rating, or puts us or any of our subsidiaries on credit watch, the trading price of the notes is likely to decline.

Table of Contents

An increase in market interest rates could result in a decrease in the value of the notes.

In general, as market interest rates rise, notes bearing interest at a fixed rate decline in value. Consequently, if you purchase the notes, and the market interest rates subsequently increase, the market value of the notes may decline. We cannot predict the future level of market interest rates.

The additional notes will share voting power with the initial notes.

The additional notes will be fungible with \$58,637,625 aggregate principal amount of the initial notes. Upon completion of this offering, the aggregate principal amount of outstanding notes will be \$ (or \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full). Accordingly, the \$ (\$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) aggregate principal amount of additional notes will carry only % (or % if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) of the total voting power of the notes under the indenture for matters requiring a vote of the noteholders, including, without limitation, waivers, amendments, redemptions and offers to purchase the notes.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Our net proceeds from the sale of the additional notes will be approximately \$ million, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us. If the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full, our net proceeds from the offering will be approximately \$ million, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We plan to use all of the net proceeds from this offering to make investments relating to our business, to repurchase or pay liabilities and for general corporate purposes.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods presented on an actual basis. The ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends was computed by dividing earnings by our combined fixed charges and preferred dividends. For purposes of calculating this ratio, (i) earnings represent "Net income (loss) from continuing operations" from our consolidated statements of operations, as adjusted for fixed charges and loss (income) and distributions from equity affiliates, and (ii) fixed charges represent "Interest expense" from our consolidated statements of operations as adjusted for capitalized interest. The ratios are based solely on historical financial information.

	Actual					
	Six Months Ended June 30, 2014	Year Ended December 31,				
		2013	2012	2011 (1)	2010	2009 (2)
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	1.7x	1.4x	1.4x	x	2.9x	x

(1) Due to a loss in 2011, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$36.1 million.

(2) Due to a loss in 2009, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$193.2 million.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and capitalization as of June 30, 2014, on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to our sale of the additional notes in this offering and the application of the estimated net proceeds as described under "Use of Proceeds." You should read this table in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014.

	As of June 30, 2014	
	Actual	As Adjusted
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 47,813,740	\$
Debt:		
Debt	\$ 1,216,846,264	\$
7.375% Senior Notes due 2021	58,637,625	(1)
Stockholders' Equity:		
Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, cumulative, redeemable, \$0.01 par value: 100,000,000 shares authorized; 8.25% Series A, \$38,787,500 aggregate liquidation preference; 1,551,500 shares issued and outstanding; 7.75% Series B, \$31,500,000 aggregate liquidation preference; 1,260,000 shares issued and outstanding; 8.50% Series C, \$22,500,000 aggregate liquidation preference; 900,000 shares issued and outstanding		
	89,295,905	89,295,905
Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share: 500,000,000 shares authorized; 53,128,075 shares issued; 50,477,308 shares outstanding ⁽²⁾	531,280	531,280
Additional paid-in capital	631,889,669	631,889,669
Treasury stock, at cost 2,650,767 shares	(17,100,916)	(17,100,916)
Accumulated Deficit	(207,803,092)	(207,803,092)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(20,221,527)	(20,221,527)
Total equity	476,591,319	476,591,319
Total capitalization	\$ 1,752,075,208	\$

(1) Assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional million principal amount of the notes.

(2) Does not include 1,000,000 warrants that were acquired and canceled in July 2014.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

We will issue the additional notes under a base indenture between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the "Trustee"), as supplemented by the first supplemental indenture, each dated as of May 12, 2014. In this section, we refer to the base indenture as supplemented by the first supplemental indenture with respect to the notes, collectively as the "indenture." This description of the notes supplements and, to the extent it is inconsistent, replaces the description of the general provisions of the notes and the base indenture in the accompanying prospectus. The terms of the notes include those expressly set forth in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act").

We are permitted under the indenture, without the consent of the holders of the initial notes, to issue additional notes. The \$ aggregate principal amount (or \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) of our 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021 offered hereby are additional notes under the indenture, and will be treated together with the initial notes as a single series of securities for all purposes under the indenture, including, without limitation, waivers, amendments, redemptions and offers to purchase the notes. The additional notes will have terms identical to the initial notes, other than issue date and offering price, and will have the same CUSIP number as, and will be fungible with and vote together with, the initial notes immediately upon settlement. Upon completion of this offering, the aggregate principal amount of outstanding notes under this series will be \$ (or \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full). Unless the context requires otherwise, references to the notes in this description of notes include the initial notes, the additional notes offered hereby and any further additional notes that may be issued under the indenture.

In this section, we use capitalized words to signify terms that are specifically defined in the indenture. You can find the definitions of certain terms used in this description under "Certain Definitions." Certain defined terms used in this description but not defined under "Certain Definitions" have the meanings assigned to them in the indenture. You may request a copy of the indenture from us as described under "Where You Can Find More Information."

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the notes and the indenture and does not purport to be complete. This summary is subject to and is qualified by reference to all the provisions of the notes and the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. We urge you to read these documents because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of the notes.

For purposes of this description, references to "we," "our," "us," and the "Company" refer only to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., and not to any of its consolidated its subsidiaries.

General

In general, the additional notes have terms identical to the initial notes. Therefore, the additional notes:

will be our general unsecured, senior obligations;

will bear cash interest from May 12, 2014 at an annual rate of 7.375% payable on February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th of each year, beginning on August 15, 2014;

will be subject to redemption at our option, in whole or in part, at any time on or after May 15, 2017, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date;

Table of Contents

will be subject to repurchase by us at the option of the holders following a Fundamental Change (as defined below under " Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes"), at a repurchase price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date;

will mature on May 15, 2021, unless earlier redeemed or repurchased by us;

will be issued in minimum denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof; and

will be represented by one or more registered notes in global form, but in certain limited circumstances may be represented by notes in definitive form (see " Book-entry, Settlement and Clearance").

None of our subsidiaries, affiliates or any other person has guaranteed the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the notes or has any other obligation in connection with the notes.

The indenture does not restrict our or our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, incur liens, sell less than substantially all of our assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, enter into sale-leaseback transactions, enter into agreements that restrict the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us or make investments, issue or repurchase our other securities or secure indebtedness with the assets, stock or equity interests of our subsidiaries. As described under " Financial Covenants," the indenture restricts, but does not eliminate, our and our subsidiaries' ability to incur indebtedness, including indebtedness that would be senior to the notes. Other than as described below under " Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes" and " Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale," the indenture does not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us or in the event of a decline in our credit rating as the result of a takeover, recapitalization, highly leveraged transaction or similar restructuring involving us that could adversely affect such holders.

Further Issuances

We may, without the consent of the holders, reopen the indenture for the notes and issue further additional notes under the indenture with the same terms as the notes offered hereby in an unlimited aggregate principal amount; *provided*, that if the additional notes are not fungible with the notes initially offered hereby for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number. No additional notes may be issued if an event of default (as defined under " Events of Default") has occurred and is continuing with respect to the notes.

Listing

The initial notes are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "ABRN". We intend to apply to list the additional notes on the NYSE under the same symbol.

Trading Characteristics of the Notes

We expect the additional notes to trade at a price that takes into account the value, if any, of accrued and unpaid interest. This means that purchasers will not pay, and sellers will not receive, accrued and unpaid interest on the additional notes that is not included in their trading price. Any portion of the trading price of an additional note that is attributable to accrued and unpaid interest will be treated as a payment of interest for U.S. federal income

Table of Contents

tax purposes and will not be treated as part of the amount realized for purposes of determining gain or loss on disposition of the additional notes.

Purchase and Cancellation

We will cause all notes surrendered for payment, repurchase (including as described below), redemption or registration of transfer or exchange, if surrendered to any person other than the Trustee (including any of our agents, subsidiaries or affiliates), to be delivered to the Trustee for cancellation. All notes delivered to the Trustee shall be cancelled promptly by the Trustee in accordance with its customary procedures. No notes shall be authenticated in exchange for any notes cancelled as provided in the indenture.

We may, to the extent permitted by law, and directly or indirectly (regardless of whether such notes are surrendered to us), repurchase notes in the open market or otherwise, whether by us or our subsidiaries or through a private or public tender or exchange offer or through counterparties to private agreements, including by cash-settled swaps or other derivatives. We will cause any notes so repurchased to be surrendered to the Trustee for cancellation, and they will no longer be considered "outstanding" under the indenture upon their repurchase.

Payments on the Notes; Paying Agent and Registrar

The following subsection replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Payment and Transfer" in the accompanying prospectus.

We will pay the principal of, and interest on, the notes in global form registered in the name of or held by DTC or its nominee by wire transfer in immediately available funds to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of such global note.

We will pay the principal of any certificated notes at the office or agency designated by us for that purpose. We have initially designated the Trustee as our paying agent and registrar and its agency in St. Paul, Minnesota as a place where notes may be presented for payment or for registration of transfer. We may, however, change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of the notes, and we may act as paying agent or registrar. Interest on certificated notes will be payable (i) to holders having an aggregate principal amount of \$5,000,000 or less, by check mailed to the holders of these notes and (ii) to holders having an aggregate principal amount of more than \$5,000,000, either by check mailed to each holder or, upon application by a holder to the registrar not later than the relevant Regular Record Date (as defined below under "Interest"), by wire transfer in immediately available funds to that holder's account within the United States, which application shall remain in effect until the holder notifies, in writing, the registrar to the contrary.

Exchange, Registration and Transfer

In addition to the limitations described under "Description of Debt Securities Exchange, Registration and Transfer" in the accompanying prospectus, we will not be required to register the transfer of or exchange of any note surrendered for required repurchase, except any portion of such note being repurchased in part.

The registered holder of a note will be treated as its owner for all purposes.

Interest

The notes will bear cash interest at a rate of 7.375% per year until maturity. Interest on the notes will accrue from May 12, 2014 or from the most recent date on which interest has been paid or duly provided for. Interest will be payable quarterly in arrears on February 15th,

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

May 15th, August 15th and November 15th of each year (each, an "Interest Payment Date"), beginning on August 15, 2014.

Interest will be paid to the person in whose name a note is registered at the close of business on February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st, as the case may be, immediately preceding the relevant Interest Payment Date (each, a "Regular Record Date"). Interest on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months. The amount of interest payable for any period shorter than a full quarterly interest period will be computed on the basis of the number of days elapsed in a 90-day quarter of three 30-day months.

If any Interest Payment Date, the maturity date or any earlier Fundamental Change Repurchase Date or Redemption Date of a note falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the required payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day and no interest on such payment will accrue in respect of the delay. The term "Business Day" means, with respect to any note, any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is authorized or required by law or executive order to close or be closed.

Unless the context otherwise requires, all references to interest in this prospectus supplement include special interest, if any, payable at our election as the sole remedy relating to the failure to comply with our reporting obligations as described under " Events of Default."

Ranking

The initial notes are, and the additional notes will be, our general unsecured obligations and the notes will rank senior in right of payment to all of our existing and future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes. The notes rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future liabilities that are not subordinated. The notes effectively rank junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. The notes rank structurally junior in right of payment to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, our assets that secure secured debt will be available to pay obligations on the notes only after all indebtedness under such secured debt has been repaid in full from such assets. We advise you that there may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all the notes then outstanding.

As of June 30, 2014, our total consolidated indebtedness was \$1.275 billion, all of which was indebtedness of our subsidiaries and approximately \$0.0232 billion of which was guaranteed by us. After giving effect to the issuance of the additional notes (assuming no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option), our total consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$ billion.

Optional Redemption

No "sinking fund" is provided for the notes, which means that we are not required to redeem or retire the notes periodically. Prior to May 15, 2017, the notes will not be redeemable. On or after May 15, 2017 and prior to the maturity date, we may redeem for cash all or part of the notes, upon not less than 45 nor more than 60 calendar days' notice before the redemption date to the Trustee, the paying agent and each holder of notes. The redemption price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date (unless the redemption date falls after a Regular Record Date but on or prior to the immediately

Table of Contents

succeeding Interest Payment Date, in which case we will pay the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest to the holder of record as of the close of business on such Regular Record Date, and the redemption price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed). The redemption date must be a Business Day.

If we decide to redeem fewer than all of the outstanding notes, the Trustee will select the notes to be redeemed (in principal amounts of \$25 or integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof) by lot, on a *pro rata* basis or by another method the Trustee considers to be fair and appropriate in accordance with DTC procedures.

No notes may be redeemed if the principal amount of the notes has been accelerated, and such acceleration has not been rescinded, on or prior to the redemption date (except in the case of an acceleration resulting from a default by us in the payment of the redemption price with respect to such notes).

Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes

If a Fundamental Change (as defined below in this section) occurs at any time, holders will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase for cash any or all of their notes, or any portion of the principal amount thereof that is equal to \$25 or an integral multiple of \$25 in excess thereof. The price we are required to pay is equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date (unless the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date falls after a Regular Record Date but on or prior to the Interest Payment Date to which such Regular Record Date relates, in which case we will instead pay the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest to the holder of record on such Regular Record Date, and the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price will be equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased). The Fundamental Change Repurchase Date will be a date specified by us that is not less than 20 or more than 35 calendar days following the date of our Fundamental Change Company Notice as described below.

A "Fundamental Change" will be deemed to have occurred at the time after the notes are originally issued if any of the following occurs:

(1) a "person" or "group" within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, other than us, our subsidiaries and our and their employee benefit plans, has become the direct or indirect "beneficial owner," as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, of our common stock representing more than 50% of the voting power of our common stock;

(2) the consummation of (A) any recapitalization, reclassification or change of our common stock (other than changes resulting from a subdivision or combination) as a result of which our common stock would be converted into, or exchanged for, stock, other securities, other property or assets, (B) any stock exchange, consolidation or merger of us pursuant to which our common shares will be converted into cash, securities or other property; or (C) any sale, lease or other transfer in one transaction or a series of transactions of all or substantially all of the consolidated assets of us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person other than one of our subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that a transaction described in subclause (A) or (B) in which the holders of all classes of our common equity immediately prior to such transaction own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of all classes of common equity of the continuing or surviving corporation or transferee or the parent thereof immediately after such transaction shall not be a Fundamental Change pursuant to this clause (2);

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

- (3) "continuing directors" (as defined below) cease to constitute at least a majority of our board of directors; or
- (4) our stockholders approve any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of us.

The term "continuing director" means a director who either was a member of our board of directors on the date of this prospectus supplement or who becomes a member of our board of directors subsequent to that date and whose election, appointment or nomination for election by our stockholders is duly approved by a majority of the continuing directors on our board of directors at the time of such approval, either by a specific vote or by approval of the proxy statement issued by us on behalf of our entire board of directors in which such individual is named as nominee for director.

On or before the 20th day after the occurrence of a Fundamental Change, we will provide to all holders of the notes and the Trustee and paying agent a notice of the occurrence of the Fundamental Change and of the resulting repurchase right (a "Fundamental Change Company Notice"). Such notice shall state, among other things:

- the CUSIP number and the designation of the notes;
- the events causing a Fundamental Change;
- the date of the Fundamental Change;
- the last date on which a holder may exercise its repurchase right;
- the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price;
- the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date;
- the name and address of the paying agent; and
- the procedures that holders must follow to require us to repurchase their notes.

Simultaneously with providing such Fundamental Change Company Notice, we will publish a notice containing this information in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of New York or publish the information on our website or through such other public medium as we may use at that time.

To exercise the repurchase right, holders of the notes must deliver, on or before the close of business on the Business Day immediately preceding the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date, the notes to be repurchased, duly endorsed for transfer, together with a written repurchase notice (a "Fundamental Change Repurchase Notice"), to the paying agent. Each Fundamental Change Repurchase Notice must state:

- if certificated, the certificate numbers of the holder's notes to be delivered for repurchase or if not certificated, the notice must comply with appropriate DTC procedures;
- the portion of the principal amount of notes to be repurchased, which must be \$25 or an integral multiple of \$25 in excess thereof; and
- that the notes are to be repurchased by us pursuant to the applicable provisions of the notes and the indenture.

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Holders may withdraw any Fundamental Change Repurchase Notice (in whole or in part) by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the paying agent prior to the close of business

S-18

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

on the Business Day immediately preceding the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date. The notice of withdrawal shall state:

the principal amount of the withdrawn notes;

if certificated notes have been issued, the certificate numbers of the withdrawn notes or, if not certificated, the notice must comply with appropriate DTC procedures; and

the principal amount, if any, which remains subject to the Fundamental Change Repurchase Notice.

We will be required to repurchase the notes on the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date. Holders will receive payment of the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price on the later of (i) the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date and (ii) the time of book-entry transfer or the delivery of the notes. If the paying agent holds money sufficient to pay the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price of the notes on the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date, then:

the notes will cease to be outstanding and interest will cease to accrue (whether or not book-entry transfer of the notes is made or whether or not the notes are delivered to the paying agent); and

all other rights of the holder will terminate (other than the right to receive the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price).

In connection with any repurchase offer pursuant to a Fundamental Change Company Notice, we will, if required:

comply with the provisions of Rule 13e-4, Rule 14e-1 and any other tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable;

file a Schedule TO or any other required schedule under the Exchange Act; and

otherwise comply with all federal and state securities laws in connection with any offer by us to repurchase the notes,

in each case, so as to permit the rights and obligations under this " Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes" to be exercised in the time and in the manner specified in the indenture.

No notes may be repurchased on any date at the option of holders upon a Fundamental Change if the principal amount of the notes has been accelerated, and such acceleration has not been rescinded, on or prior to such date (except in the case of an acceleration resulting from a default by us in the payment of the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price with respect to such notes).

The repurchase rights of the holders could discourage a potential acquirer of us. The Fundamental Change repurchase feature, however, is not the result of management's knowledge of any specific effort to obtain control of us by any means or part of a plan by management to adopt a series of anti-takeover provisions.

The term Fundamental Change is limited to specified transactions and may not include other events that might adversely affect our financial condition. In addition, the requirement that we offer to repurchase the notes upon a Fundamental Change may not protect holders in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, merger or similar transaction involving us.

Furthermore, holders may not be entitled to require us to repurchase their notes upon a Fundamental Change in certain circumstances involving a significant change in the

Table of Contents

composition of our board of directors, including in connection with a proxy contest where our board of directors does not endorse a dissident slate of directors but approves them for purposes of the definition of "continuing directors" above.

The definition of Fundamental Change includes a phrase relating to the conveyance, transfer, sale, lease or disposition of "all or substantially all" of our consolidated assets. There is no precise, established definition of the phrase "substantially all" under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of the notes to require us to repurchase its notes as a result of the conveyance, transfer, sale, lease or other disposition of less than all of our assets may be uncertain.

If a Fundamental Change were to occur, we may not have enough funds to pay the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price. Our ability to repurchase the notes for cash may be limited by restrictions on our ability to obtain funds for such repurchase through dividends from our subsidiaries, the terms of our then existing borrowing arrangements or otherwise. See "Risk Factors Risks Related to the Notes We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to repurchase the notes upon a Fundamental Change." If we fail to repurchase the notes when required following a Fundamental Change, we will be in default under the indenture. In addition, we have, and may in the future incur, other indebtedness with similar change in control provisions permitting our holders to accelerate or to require us to repurchase our indebtedness upon the occurrence of similar events or on some specific dates.

Financial Covenants

We will not, and will not permit any our Subsidiaries to, incur any Debt (as defined under " Certain Definitions"), other than Intercompany Debt (as defined under " Certain Definitions"), including that which is subordinate in right of payment to the notes, if, immediately after giving pro forma effect to the incurrence of such Debt and the application of the proceeds thereof, our Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio (as defined under " Certain Definitions") would be less than 1.2 to 1.0 or if our Debt to Equity Ratio (as defined under " Certain Definitions") would be greater than 6.0 to 1.0. In giving pro forma effect to the incurrence of such Debt, (1) with respect to the Debt to Equity Ratio, the principal amount of such Debt, after taking into account the application of the proceeds thereof, will be added to our assets and liabilities as of the last day of the Testing Period (as defined under " Certain Definitions") and (2) with respect to the Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio, (i) our Operating Cash Flow (as defined under " Certain Definitions") for the applicable Testing Period will be increased by an amount equal to the product of (x) the principal amount of such Debt and (y) our average yield on earning assets during the applicable Testing Period and (ii) our Senior Debt Service (as defined under " Certain Definitions") will be increased by the interest that would have been paid on such Debt had it been issued on the first day of the applicable Testing Period.

Except as described in the immediately preceding paragraph, the indenture does not include financial covenants that would limit or restrict our or our Subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, incur liens, sell less than substantially all of our assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, enter into sale-leaseback transactions, enter into agreements that restrict the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us or make investments, issue or repurchase our other securities or secure indebtedness with the assets, stock or equity interests of our subsidiaries.

If we issue senior unsecured debt securities in an aggregate principal amount equal to or greater than \$200.0 million pursuant to an indenture that contains financial covenants that are different than the financial covenants applicable to the notes, we will amend the indenture

Table of Contents

with respect to the notes, without the consent of holders of the notes, so that the financial covenants applicable to such senior unsecured debt securities replace the financial covenants applicable to notes. See " Modification of the Indenture."

Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale

This section replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities in the Prospectus Supplement Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale" in the accompanying prospectus.

We may consolidate with, or sell, lease, convey or transfer all or substantially all of our assets to, or merge with or into, any other entity, provided that the following conditions are met:

we shall be the continuing entity, or the successor entity (if other than us) formed by or resulting from any consolidation or merger or which shall have received the transfer of assets shall be an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and such entity (if other than us) shall expressly assume by supplemental indenture all of our obligations under the notes and the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default under the indenture, and no event which, after notice or the lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing; and

an officers' certificate and legal opinion covering these conditions shall be delivered to the Trustee.

In the event of any transaction described in and complying with the conditions listed in the immediately preceding paragraph in which we are not the continuing entity, the successor person formed or remaining shall succeed, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of ours, and we shall be discharged from our obligations under the notes and the indenture except in the case of any such lease.

Although these types of transactions are permitted under the indenture, certain of the foregoing transactions could constitute a Fundamental Change permitting each holder to require us to repurchase the notes of such holder as described above.

Events of Default

This section replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Events of Default and Remedies" in the accompanying prospectus.

Each of the following is an "event of default" with respect to the notes:

default in the payment of any principal amount or any redemption price or repurchase price (including, but not limited to, the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price) due with respect to the notes, when the same becomes due and payable, whether at maturity, upon redemption or repurchase, by acceleration or otherwise;

default in payment of any interest (including special interest, if any) under the notes, which default continues for 30 calendar days;

our failure to provide a Fundamental Change Company Notice as described under "Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes" when due, which default continues for five calendar days;

Table of Contents

our failure to comply with our obligations under "Financial Covenants" and " Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale";

our failure to comply with any other term, covenant or agreement in the notes or the indenture upon our receipt of notice of such default from the Trustee or from holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the notes then outstanding, and the failure to cure (or obtain a waiver of) such default within 60 calendar days after receipt of such notice;

default in the payment of principal when due on, or any other default resulting in the acceleration of, other indebtedness of ours or of any significant subsidiary of ours for borrowed money where the aggregate principal amount with respect to which the default or acceleration has occurred exceeds \$25 million and such indebtedness is not discharged, or such default in payment or acceleration is not cured or rescinded, prior to written notice of acceleration of the notes;

failure by us or any of our significant subsidiaries to pay final judgments entered by a court or courts of competent jurisdiction aggregating in excess of \$25 million, which judgments are not paid, discharged or stayed for a period of 30 calendar days after such judgment became final and non-appealable; and

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization affecting us or any of our significant subsidiaries.

As used in the indenture, "significant subsidiary" means a significant subsidiary of ours as defined in Regulation S-X promulgated under the Securities Act, *provided* that it shall not include (i) any entity consolidated by us where we hold 50 percent or less of the voting power of such entity or (ii) any bankruptcy remote, special purpose entity, used to securitize assets and consolidated by us, whose indebtedness is without recourse to us.

We are required to notify the Trustee promptly in writing upon becoming aware of the occurrence of any default under the indenture known to us. The Trustee is then required within 90 calendar days of becoming aware of the occurrence of any default to give to the registered holders of the notes notice of all uncured defaults known to it. However, the Trustee may withhold notice to the holders of the notes of any default, except defaults in payment of principal or interest (including special interest, if any) on the notes, if the Trustee, in good faith, determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interest of the holders. We are also required to deliver to the Trustee, on or before a date not more than 120 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year, a written statement as to compliance with the indenture, including whether or not any default has occurred.

If an event of default specified in the last bullet point listed above occurs with respect to us, the principal amount of the notes and accrued and unpaid interest (including special interest, if any) on the outstanding notes will automatically become due and payable. If any other event of default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes may declare the principal amount of the notes and accrued and unpaid interest (including special interest, if any) on the outstanding notes to be due and payable immediately. Thereupon, the Trustee may, in its discretion, proceed to protect and enforce the rights of the holders of notes by appropriate judicial proceedings.

After a declaration of acceleration, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the Trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

amount of notes outstanding, by written notice to us and the Trustee, may rescind and annul such declaration (except with respect to nonpayment of principal or interest) if:

such rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction;

interest on overdue installments of interest (including special interest, if any) (to the extent the payment of such interest is lawful) and on overdue principal, which has become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration, has been paid;

we have paid the Trustee its agreed upon compensation and reimbursed the Trustee for its expenses, disbursements and advances (including those of its agents and counsel); and

all events of default (other than the non-payment of the principal amount and any accrued and unpaid interest and special interest, if any, that have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration) have been cured or waived.

Each holder shall have the right to receive payment or delivery, as the case may be, of the principal (including the redemption price, repurchase price or Fundamental Change Repurchase Price, if applicable) of, and accrued and unpaid interest (including special interest), if any, on, its notes, on or after the respective due dates expressed or provided for in the indenture, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment or delivery, as the case may be, and such right to receive such payment or delivery, as the case may be, on or after such respective dates shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of such holder.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding notes will have the right to direct the time, method and place of any proceedings for any remedy available to the Trustee, subject to limitations specified in the indenture. No holder of the notes may pursue any remedy under the indenture, except in the case of a default in the payment of principal or interest (including special interest, if any), on the notes, unless:

the holder has given the Trustee written notice of an event of default;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of outstanding notes make a written request to the Trustee to pursue the remedy, and offer security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee against any costs, liability or expense of the Trustee incurred or to be incurred in pursuing the remedy;

the Trustee fails to comply with the request within 60 calendar days after receipt of the request and offer of indemnity; and

the Trustee does not receive an inconsistent direction from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding notes during the 60 calendar day period.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the notes outstanding may, on behalf of the holders of all the notes, waive any past default or event of default under the indenture and its consequences, except:

our failure to pay principal of or interest (including special interest, if any) on any note when due;

our failure to pay the redemption price on the redemption date in connection with a redemption by us or the Fundamental Change Repurchase Price on the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date in connection with a repurchase by us in connection with a Fundamental Change; or

Table of Contents

our failure to comply with any of the provisions of the indenture, the non-compliance with which would require the consent of the holder of each outstanding note affected.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the indenture provides that, to the extent elected by us, the sole remedy for an event of default relating to (i) the failure to comply with the reporting obligations in the indenture described under " Reports" below or (ii) our failure to comply with the requirements of Section 314(a)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act will, for the first 365 days after the occurrence of such an event of default, consist exclusively of the right to receive special interest on the notes at an annual rate equal to 0.50% of the principal amount of the notes. This special interest will be paid semi-annually in arrears, with the first semi-annual payment due on the first Interest Payment Date following the date on which the special interest began to accrue on any notes. The special interest will accrue on all outstanding notes from and including the date on which an event of default relating to a failure to comply with the reporting obligations in the indenture first occurs to, but not including, the 365th day thereafter (or such earlier date on which the event of default shall have been cured or waived). On such 365th day (or earlier, if the event of default relating to the reporting obligations is cured or waived prior to such 365th day), such special interest will cease to accrue and, if the event of default relating to reporting obligations has not been cured or waived prior to such 365th day, the notes will be subject to acceleration as provided above. The provisions of the indenture described in this paragraph will not affect the rights of holders in the event of the occurrence of any other event of default. In the event we do not elect to pay special interest upon an event of default in accordance with this paragraph, the notes will be subject to acceleration as provided above.

If we elect to pay special interest in connection with an event of default relating to (i) the failure to comply with reporting obligations in the indenture described under " Reports" below or (ii) our failure to comply with the requirements of Section 314(a)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the immediately preceding paragraph, we will notify all holders of notes and the Trustee and paying agent in writing of such election on or before the close of business on the date on which such event of default first occurs.

If any portion of the amount payable on the notes upon acceleration is considered by a court to be unearned interest, the court could disallow recovery of any such portion.

Modification of the Indenture

This section replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities in the Prospectus Supplement Modification of Indentures" in the accompanying prospectus.

Subject to certain exceptions, we and the Trustee may amend the indenture or the notes with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the notes then outstanding. However, the consent of each holder of outstanding notes affected is required with respect to any amendment which would:

impair or adversely affect the manner of calculation or rate of accrual of interest (including special interest) on the notes or change the time of payment thereof;

make the notes payable in money or securities other than that stated in the notes;

change the stated maturity of the notes;

reduce the principal amount, redemption price or Fundamental Change Repurchase Price with respect to the notes;

Table of Contents

make any change that impairs or adversely affects the rights of a holder to require us to repurchase the notes;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment with respect to the notes;

change our obligation to redeem any notes called for redemption on a redemption date in a manner adverse to the holders;

change our obligation to maintain an office or agency for payment and presentation of notes;

make the notes subordinate in right of payment to any other indebtedness;

reduce the percentage in aggregate principal amount of notes outstanding required to modify or amend the indenture; or

make any change in the amendment provisions that require each holder's consent or in the waiver provisions under the indenture.

Without the consent of any holder of notes, we and the Trustee may amend the indenture:

to evidence a successor to us and the assumption by that successor of our obligations under the indenture and the notes;

to provide for the assumption of our obligations to the holders of the notes in accordance with the terms of the indenture if any reclassification or exchange of our common stock or any consolidation, merger or sale of all or substantially all of our property or assets occurs;

to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of the notes or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us;

to secure our obligations in respect of the notes;

to add guarantees with respect to the notes;

to evidence and provide the acceptance of the appointment of a successor trustee under the indenture;

to provide for the issuance of additional notes in accordance with the limitations set forth in the indenture as of the date of the indenture;

to comply with the requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act, as contemplated by the indenture or otherwise;

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency in the indenture which we may deem necessary or desirable and which shall not be inconsistent with provisions of the indenture, provided that such modification or amendment does not, in the good faith opinion of our board of directors, adversely affect the interests of the holders of notes in any material respect;

to add or modify any provision with respect to matters or questions arising under the indenture which we may deem necessary or desirable and which will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the notes in any material respect as evidenced in an officers' certificate;

S-25

Table of Contents

to make any change to the indenture or the notes to conform the terms thereof to the "Description of Notes" section in this prospectus supplement, as supplemented by the related pricing term sheet, as evidenced in an officers' certificate to the Trustee;

to provide for the issuance of additional notes; or

if we or our consolidated Subsidiaries issue senior unsecured debt securities in an aggregate principal amount equal to or greater than \$200.0 million pursuant to an indenture that contains financial covenants that are different than the financial covenants applicable to the notes, to add or modify any of the financial covenants applicable to the notes so that the financial covenants applicable to such senior unsecured debt securities replace the financial covenants applicable to the notes.

Holders do not need to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It will be sufficient if such holders approve the substance of the proposed amendment. After an amendment under the indenture becomes effective, we are required to mail to the holders a notice briefly describing such amendment. However, the failure to give such notice to all the holders, or any defect in the notice, will not impair or affect the validity of the amendment.

Discharge

This section replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance" in the accompanying prospectus.

We may satisfy and discharge our obligations under the indenture by delivering to the securities registrar for cancellation all outstanding notes or by depositing with the Trustee or delivering to the holders, as applicable, after the notes have become due and payable, whether at maturity, any Fundamental Change Repurchase Date or otherwise, cash sufficient to pay all of the outstanding notes and paying all other sums payable under the indenture by us. Such discharge is subject to terms contained in the indenture.

Calculations in Respect of Notes

Except as otherwise provided above, we will be responsible for making all calculations called for under the notes. These calculations include, but are not limited to, determinations of accrued interest payable on the notes. We will make all these calculations in good faith and, absent manifest error, our calculations will be final and binding on holders of notes. We will provide a schedule of our calculations to the Trustee, and the Trustee is entitled to rely conclusively upon the accuracy of our calculations without independent verification. The Trustee will forward our calculations to any holder of notes upon the written request of that holder. Neither the Trustee nor the paying agent will be responsible or liable for our calculations.

Inapplicable Provisions of the Base Indenture

The provisions described under "Description of Debt Securities Subordination" in the accompanying prospectus will not apply to the notes.

Reports

The indenture provides that during any period in which we are not subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act and any notes are outstanding, we will (i) transmit by mail (or other permissible means under the Exchange Act) to all holders of notes, without cost to such holders, copies of annual reports and quarterly reports containing information that is substantially similar to the information that is required to be contained in such reports that we

Table of Contents

would have been required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act if we were subject thereto and (ii) promptly, upon request, supply copies of such reports to any prospective holder of notes. We will mail (or otherwise provide) the information to the holders of notes within five days after the respective dates by which a periodic report on Form 10-K or Form 10-Q, as the case may be, in respect of such information would have been required to be filed with the SEC if we were subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as a non-accelerated filer as such term is defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act.

The indenture provides that any documents or reports that we are required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act must be filed by us with the Trustee within 15 days after the same are required to be filed with the SEC (giving effect to any grace period provided by Rule 12b-25 under the Exchange Act). Documents filed by us with the SEC via the EDGAR system will be deemed to be filed with the Trustee as of the time such documents are filed via EDGAR; however, the Trustee will have no responsibility to determine whether such filing via EDGAR has been made.

Trustee

U.S. Bank National Association serves as the Trustee, registrar and paying agent. If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee will be required to use the degree of care and skill of a prudent person in the conduct of such person's own affairs. The Trustee will become obligated to exercise any of its powers under the indenture at the request of any of the holders of any notes only after those holders have offered the Trustee indemnity satisfactory to it.

If the Trustee becomes one of our creditors, it will be subject to limitations on its rights to obtain payment of claims or to realize on some property received for any such claim, as security or otherwise. The Trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us. If, however, it acquires any conflicting interest, it must eliminate that conflict or resign.

U.S. Bank National Association, in each of its capacities, including without limitation as Trustee, registrar and paying agent, assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information concerning us or our affiliates or any other party contained in this document or the related documents or for any failure by us or any other party to disclose events that may have occurred and may affect the significance or accuracy of such information.

Governing Law

The indenture provides that it and the notes, and any claim, controversy or dispute arising under or related to the indenture or the notes, will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Book-entry, Settlement and Clearance

This section replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Book Entry, Delivery and Form" in the accompanying prospectus.

The Global Notes

The additional notes will be initially issued in the form of one or more registered notes in global form, without interest coupons (the "global notes"). Upon issuance, each of the global

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

notes will be deposited with the Trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global note will be limited to persons who have accounts with DTC ("DTC participants") or persons who hold interests through DTC participants. We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of a global note with DTC's custodian, DTC will credit portions of the principal amount of the global note to the accounts of the DTC participants designated by the underwriters; and

ownership of beneficial interests in a global note will be shown on, and transfer of ownership of those interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to interests of DTC participants) and the records of DTC participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests).

Beneficial interests in global notes may not be exchanged for notes in physical, certificated form except in the limited circumstances described below.

Book-entry Procedures for the Global Notes

All interests in the global notes will be subject to the operations and procedures of DTC. We provide the following summary of those operations and procedures solely for the convenience of investors. The operations and procedures of DTC are controlled by that settlement system and may be changed at any time. Neither we, the Trustee nor the underwriters are responsible for those operations or procedures.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;

a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York State Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

a "clearing agency" registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its participants through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its participants. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriters; banks and trust companies; clearing corporations and other organizations. Indirect access to DTC's system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies; these indirect participants clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC participant, either directly or indirectly. Investors who are not DTC participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through DTC participants or indirect participants in DTC.

So long as DTC's nominee is the registered owner of a global note, that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by that global note for all purposes under the indenture. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note:

will not be entitled to have notes represented by the global note registered in their names;

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical, certificated notes; and

Table of Contents

will not be considered the owners or holders of the notes under the indenture for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the Trustee under the indenture.

As a result, each investor who owns a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the indenture (and, if the investor is not a participant or an indirect participant in DTC, on the procedures of the DTC participant through which the investor owns its interest).

Payments of principal and interest with respect to the notes represented by a global note will be made by the Trustee to DTC's nominee as the registered holder of the global note. Neither we nor the Trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the payment of amounts to owners of beneficial interests in a global note, for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of those interests by DTC, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to those interests.

Payments by participants and indirect participants in DTC to the owners of beneficial interests in a global note will be governed by standing instructions and customary industry practice and will be the responsibility of those participants or indirect participants and DTC.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected under DTC's procedures and will be settled in same-day funds.

Certificated Notes

Notes in physical, certificated form will be issued and delivered to each person that DTC identifies as a beneficial owner of the related notes only if:

DTC notifies us at any time that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary for the global notes and a successor depositary is not appointed within 90 days;

DTC ceases to be registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act and a successor depositary is not appointed within 90 days; or

an event of default with respect to the notes has occurred and is continuing and such beneficial owner requests that its notes be issued in physical, certificated form.

Certain Definitions

Set forth below are certain defined terms used in the indenture. Reference is made to the indenture for a full disclosure of all such terms, as well as any other capitalized terms used herein for which no definition is provided.

"Capitalized Lease Obligations" means obligations under a lease that are required to be capitalized for financial reporting purposes in accordance with GAAP. The amount of a Capitalized Lease Obligation is the capitalized amount of such obligation as would be required to be reflected on the balance sheet prepared in accordance with GAAP of the applicable Person as of the applicable date.

"Debt to Equity Ratio" means, with respect to the Company on any date, the ratio of (i) Total Liabilities (other than the TRUPs Indebtedness) to (ii) Tangible Capital Base.

"Debt" means, for any Person, (a) obligations created, issued or incurred by such Person for borrowed money (whether by loan, the issuance and sale of debt securities or the sale of property to another Person subject to agreement, contingent or otherwise, to repurchase such property from such Person); (b) obligations of such Person to pay the deferred purchase or acquisition price of property or services, other than trade accounts payable (other than for

Table of Contents

borrowed money) arising, and accrued expenses incurred, in the ordinary course of business so long as such trade accounts payable are payable within 90 days of the date the respective goods are delivered or the respective services are rendered; (c) Debt of others secured by a lien on the property of such Person, whether or not the respective Debt so secured has been assumed by such Person; (d) obligations (contingent or otherwise) of such Person in respect of letters of credit or similar instruments issued or accepted by banks and other financial institutions for account of such Person; (e) obligations of such Person under repurchase agreements, sale/buy-back agreements or like arrangements; (f) Debt of others guaranteed by such Person; (g) all obligations of such Person incurred in connection with the acquisition or carrying of fixed assets by such Person; (h) Recourse Debt of such Person; (i) Debt of general partnerships of which such Person is secondarily or contingently liable (other than by endorsement of instruments in the course of collection), whether by reason of any agreement to acquire such indebtedness to supply or advance sums or otherwise; (j) Capitalized Lease Obligations of such Person; (k) all net liabilities or obligations under any interest rate, interest rate swap, interest rate cap, interest rate floor, interest rate collar, or other hedging instrument or agreement; and (l) all obligations of such Person under Financing Leases.

"Financing Lease" means any lease of property, real or personal, the obligations of the lessee in respect of which are required in accordance with GAAP to be capitalized on a balance sheet of the lessee.

"GAAP" means generally accepted accounting principles set forth in opinions and pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and in statements and pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or in opinions, statements or pronouncements of any other entity approved by a significant segment of the accounting profession, which are applicable to the circumstances as of the date of determination.

"Intercompany Debt" means Debt to which the only parties are the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or Debt owed to the Company arising from routine cash management practices, but only so long as such Debt is held solely by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

"Operating Cash Flow" means, for any period of determination, with respect to the Company and its Subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis, net cash provided by operating activities, exclusive of the effects from changes in operating assets and liabilities, determined in accordance with GAAP applied in a manner consistent with the Company's most recent audited financial statements.

"Recourse Debt" means, for any Person on any date, without duplication, the indebtedness of such Person (and its consolidated Subsidiaries) for which such Person (and its consolidated Subsidiaries) is directly responsible or liable as obligor or guarantor (excluding obligations arising by reason of customary recourse carve-outs under a non-recourse instrument, including, but not limited to, fraud, misappropriation and environmental indemnities).

"Senior Debt Service" means, for the Testing Period, the sum of:

- (a) the expenses paid in cash of the Company and its Subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis, for the Testing Period for interest payable with respect to all Debt and all fees paid on account of or with respect thereto, minus the expenses paid in cash of the Company and its Subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis, for the Testing Period for interest payable with respect to all Subordinated Debt and all fees paid on account of or with respect thereto, in each case, determined in accordance with GAAP; plus

Table of Contents

(b)

regularly scheduled principal amortization payments made or required to be made on account of Debt for the Testing Period (exclusive of pay-offs or pay-downs on account of such Debt), in each case determined in accordance with GAAP.

"Senior Debt Service Coverage Ratio" means, with respect to the Company, at any date of determination, the ratio of Operating Cash Flow during the Testing Period to cash flow used to pay Senior Debt Service for the Testing Period.

"Subordinated Debt" means all Debt of the Company and its Subsidiaries that is effectively subordinated in right of payment to the notes.

"Subsidiary" or "Subsidiaries" means, as to any Person, a corporation, partnership or other entity of which shares of stock or other ownership interests having ordinary voting power (other than stock or such other ownership interests having such power only by reason of the happening of a contingency) to elect a majority of the board of directors or other managers of such corporation, partnership or other entity are at the time owned, or the management of which is otherwise controlled, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, or both, by such Person. Unless otherwise qualified, all references to a "Subsidiary" or to "Subsidiaries" shall refer to a Subsidiary or Subsidiaries of the Company.

"Tangible Capital Base" means, with respect to the Company on any date, Total Assets less Total Liabilities plus the TRUPs Indebtedness.

"Testing Period" means, with respect to the Company, at any date of determination, the four consecutive fiscal quarters of the Company most recently ended immediately prior to such determination date.

"Total Assets" means, with respect to the Company on any date, all amounts that would be included under total assets on a balance sheet of the Company and its consolidated Subsidiaries at such date, determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with GAAP less intangible assets at such date, determined in accordance with GAAP.

"Total Liabilities" means, with respect to the Company on any date, all amounts that would be included under total liabilities on a balance sheet of the Company and its consolidated Subsidiaries at such date, determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with GAAP.

"TRUPs Indebtedness" means, with respect to the Company, as of any date, all amounts that would be included under junior subordinated notes on the balance sheet of the Company and its consolidated Subsidiaries at such date, determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with GAAP.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

Under the terms of, and subject to the conditions in, an underwriting agreement, the underwriters named below, for whom Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. and MLV & Co. LLC are acting as the representatives, have severally agreed to purchase from us the principal amount of the additional notes indicated below:

Names	Principal Amount of Additional Notes
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	\$
Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.	
MLV & Co. LLC	
JMP Securities LLC	
Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Inc.	
Total	\$

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the additional notes are subject to certain conditions, including the delivery of certain legal opinions by their counsel. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, the underwriters are committed to take and pay for all of the additional notes, if they purchase any of the additional notes. However, the underwriters are not committed to take or pay for the additional notes covered by the underwriters' over-allotment option described below.

Commissions and Discounts

The underwriters initially propose to offer the additional notes at a price of % of the principal amount of the additional notes, plus accrued interest from May 12, 2014 to, but excluding, the date of delivery, and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes, plus accrued interest from May 12, 2014. After the public offering, the public offering price, concession and discount may be changed.

The following table shows the public offering price as a percentage of principal amount, underwriting discounts and commissions and proceeds before expenses to us. The information assumes either no exercise or full exercise by the underwriters of their option to purchase additional notes.

	Per Additional Note	Total	
		Without Option	With Option
Public offering price	% \$	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	% \$	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	% \$	\$	\$

The expenses of this offering, not including the underwriting discounts and commissions, are estimated to be \$ and are payable by us.

Option to Purchase Additional Notes

We have granted the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, from time to time, in whole or in part, to purchase up to an additional

Table of Contents

\$ aggregate principal amount of the notes at the initial offering price less the underwriting discount, to cover over-allotments.

No Sales of Similar Securities

During a period of 60 days from the date of this prospectus, we will not, without the prior written consent of the representatives, (i) directly or indirectly, offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, purchase any option or contract to sell, sell or grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of any debt securities issued or guaranteed by us that are substantially similar to the notes or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for such debt securities, (ii) enter into any swap or any other agreement or any transaction that transfers, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the economic consequence of ownership of debt securities issued or guaranteed by us, whether any such swap or transaction described in clause (i) or (ii) above is to be settled by delivery of debt securities issued or guaranteed by us that are substantially similar to the notes or securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for such debt, in cash or otherwise, (iii) file any registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to any of the foregoing, or (iv) publicly disclose the intention to do any of the foregoing. The foregoing restrictions shall not apply to the notes to be sold hereunder.

Stabilization, Short Positions, Market Making and Trading

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize the market price of the notes. Such transactions include, without limitation, bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain the price of the notes. If the underwriters create a short position in the notes in connection with the offering, or if the underwriters sell more notes than are listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing notes in the open market. The underwriters may also elect to reduce any short position by exercising all or part of the option that we have granted to the underwriters. Purchases of a security to stabilize the price or reduce a short position may cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases.

Neither the underwriters nor we make any representations or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the notes. In addition, neither the underwriters nor we make any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Listing of Additional Notes

The initial notes are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "ABRN". We intend to apply to list the additional notes on the NYSE under the same symbol.

We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading market for the notes or that an active public market for the notes will develop or continue. If an active trading market for the notes does not develop or continue, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected. The notes may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our performance and certain other factors.

Indemnification

We have agreed pursuant to the terms of the underwriting agreement to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the U.S. securities laws, or to contribute to any payments the underwriters may be required to make for such liabilities.

Table of Contents

Electronic Distribution

A prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement in electronic format may be made available on the Internet sites or through other online services maintained by the underwriters in this offering, or by their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms online and prospective investors may be allowed to place orders online. The underwriters may agree with us to allocate a specific principal amount of notes for sale to online brokerage account holders. The representatives will make any such allocation on the same basis as other allocations.

Other than the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format, the information on any underwriter's website and any information contained in any other website maintained by such underwriter or any selling group member is not part of the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or the underwriters in their capacity as underwriters and should not be relied upon by investors.

Relationships

The underwriters and certain of their affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. The underwriters and their related entities have engaged, and may in the future engage, in commercial and investment banking transactions with us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of their business. They have received, and expect to receive, customary compensation and expense reimbursement for these commercial and investment banking transactions.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and certain of their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the issuer or its affiliates. If the underwriters or their affiliates have a lending relationship with us, certain of those underwriters or their affiliates routinely hedge, and certain other of those underwriters or their affiliates may hedge, their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, the underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities or the securities of our affiliates, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. The underwriters and certain of their affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Hunton & Williams LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries appearing in Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2013 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). You may read and copy any reports or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may also receive copies of these documents upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Room. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room in Washington D.C. and other locations. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial documents retrieval services, at our website at www.arborrealtytrust.com and at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. The information on our website is not, and you should not consider the information to be, a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Our common stock and the notes listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and all such material filed by us with the NYSE also can be inspected at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York 10005.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3, of which the accompanying prospectus is a part, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the securities. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information concerning us and our securities, reference is made to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other documents are not necessarily complete, and in each instance, reference is made to the copy of the contract or documents filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information that we file with them into this prospectus supplement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC, including our annual, quarterly and current reports. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, except for any information that is modified or superseded by information contained in this prospectus supplement or any other subsequently filed document. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The following documents have been filed by us with the SEC and are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement:

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014;

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013;

the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated April 11, 2014, incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K dated February 25, 2014, April 29, 2014, May 12, 2014 and May 21, 2014.

All documents that we file (but not those we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus supplement but before the end of any offering of securities made under this prospectus supplement will also be considered to be incorporated by reference and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus supplement and any previously filed documents.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus supplement is delivered, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of these documents incorporated herein by reference (other than exhibits to those documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in such documents). Requests for documents should be directed to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York, 11553, Attention: Secretary (telephone no.: (516) 506-4200).

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

ARBOR REALTY TRUST, INC.

COMMON STOCK

PREFERRED STOCK

DEPOSITARY SHARES

DEBT SECURITIES

AND

WARRANTS

We may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately, our debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, shares of our preferred stock, which we may issue in one or more classes or series, depositary shares representing shares of our preferred stock, shares of our common stock, or warrants to purchase debt or equity securities, at an aggregate initial offering price which will not exceed \$500,000,000.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. We may describe the terms of these securities in a term sheet which will precede the prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

An investment in these securities entails certain material risks and uncertainties that should be considered. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 2 of this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "ABR." Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS OR THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is August 5, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	<u>ii</u>
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>EXPERTS</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	<u>54</u>

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. This prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, the securities offered by such documents in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom or from whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation of an offer in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of such documents. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement nor any distribution of securities pursuant to such documents shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the information set forth in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or in our affairs since the date of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

This prospectus contains, and any applicable prospectus supplement may contain, summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein and therein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to have been filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under "Where You Can Find More Information."

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of the prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares and warrants that we may sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The particular terms of any security will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. You should read the entire prospectus, including "Risk Factors," before making a decision to invest in our securities. In this prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, (a) the words "we," "us," "our," "Arbor," and similar references refer to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, our operating partnership, and Arbor Realty SR, Inc., (b) "our board of directors" refers to the board of directors of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and (c) the words "Arbor Commercial Mortgage," "ACM" or "our manager" refer to Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC.

Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.

We are a specialized real estate finance company that invests in a diversified portfolio of structured finance assets in the multi-family and commercial real estate market. We invest primarily in real estate-related bridge and mezzanine loans, including junior participating interests in first mortgages, and preferred equity and, in limited cases, discounted mortgage notes and other real estate-related assets, which we refer to collectively as structured finance investments. We also invest in mortgage-related securities and equity interests in real property. Our principal business objective is to maximize the difference between the yield on our investments and the cost of financing these investments to generate cash available for distribution, facilitate capital appreciation and maximize total return to our stockholders.

We are organized to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") for federal income tax purposes. A REIT is generally not subject to federal income tax on that portion of its REIT taxable income ("Taxable Income") that is distributed to its stockholders, provided that at least 90% of Taxable Income is distributed and certain other REIT qualification requirements are met. Certain of our assets that produce non-qualifying income are held in taxable REIT subsidiaries. Unlike other subsidiaries of a REIT, the income of a taxable REIT subsidiary is generally subject to federal income tax.

We conduct substantially all of our operations and investing activities through our operating partnership, Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty SR, Inc., a subsidiary REIT ("SR Inc."), and its subsidiaries. We serve as the general partner of our operating partnership, and currently own 100% of its partnership interests.

We are externally managed and advised by Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC, a national commercial real estate finance company that specializes in debt and equity financing for multi-family and commercial real estate, pursuant to the terms of a management agreement.

We are a Maryland corporation formed in June 2003. Our principal executive offices are located at 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York 11553. Our telephone number is (516) 506-4200. Our website is located at www.arborrealtytrust.com. The information contained on our website is not a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

You should consider the specific risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, the risk factors described under the caption "Risk Factors" in any applicable prospectus supplement and any risk factors set forth in our other filings with the SEC, pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), before making an investment decision. Each of the risks described in these documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment. See "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus. You should also carefully review the cautionary statement referred to under "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information contained in this prospectus is not a complete description of our business or the risks associated with an investment in Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. We urge you to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us in this prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein.

This prospectus contains certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the operating performance of our investments and financing needs. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "potential," "intend," "expect," "endeavor," "seek," "anticipate," "estimate," "overestimate," "underestimate," "believe," "could," "project," "predict," "continue" or other similar words or expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions, discuss future expectations, describe future plans and strategies, contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition or state other forward-looking information. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, our actual results and performance could differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results in future periods to differ materially from forecasted results. Factors that could have a material adverse effect on our operations and future prospects include, but are not limited to, changes in economic conditions generally and the real estate market specifically; adverse changes in the financing markets we access affecting our ability to finance our loan and investment portfolio; changes in interest rates; the quality and size of the investment pipeline and the rate at which we can invest our cash; impairments in the value of the collateral underlying our loans and investments; changes in the markets; legislative/regulatory changes; completion of pending investments; the availability and cost of capital for future investments; competition within the finance and real estate industries; and other risks detailed from time to time in our SEC reports. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any of these forward-looking statements, which reflect our management's views as of the date of this prospectus. The factors noted above could cause our actual results to differ significantly from those contained in any forward-looking statement. For a discussion of our critical accounting policies, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries Significant Accounting Estimates and Critical Accounting Policies" under Item 7 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We are under no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus to conform these statements to actual results.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds of any offering of securities to invest in real estate loans and securities, to purchase or pay liabilities and for general corporate purposes. We will have significant discretion in the use of any net proceeds. The net proceeds may be invested temporarily in interest-bearing accounts and short-term interest-bearing securities that are consistent with our qualification as a REIT until they are used for their stated purpose. We may provide additional information on the use of the net proceeds from the sale of the offered securities in an applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offered securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	March 31, 2013	2012	2011(1)	2010	2009(2)	2008(3)
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	1.6x	1.4x	x	2.9x	x	x

The ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends was computed by dividing earnings by our combined fixed charges and preferred dividends. For purposes of calculating the above ratios, (i) earnings represent "Net income (loss) from continuing operations" from our consolidated statements of operations, as adjusted for fixed charges and loss (income) and distributions from equity affiliates, and (ii) fixed charges represent "Interest expense" from our consolidated statements of operations as adjusted for capitalized interest. The ratios are based solely on historical financial information.

-
- (1) Due to a loss in 2011, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$36.3 million.
- (2) Due to a loss in 2009, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$193.2 million.
- (3) Due to a loss in 2008, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$72.9 million.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that we may issue from time to time. The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and a "Senior Indenture Trustee," referred to as the "Senior Indenture," and subordinated debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and a "Subordinated Indenture Trustee," referred to as the "Subordinated Indenture." This prospectus sometimes refers to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture, collectively, as the "Indentures." The Senior Indenture Trustee and the Subordinated Indenture Trustee are both referred to, individually, as the Trustee.

The forms of Indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of the Indentures and debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the Indentures (and any amendments or supplements we may enter into from time to time which are permitted under each Indenture) and the debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

General

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be our direct unsecured obligations. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to any senior indebtedness.

The Indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue and provide that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. Unless indicated in a prospectus supplement, we may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable Indenture.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the terms relating to the specific series of debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title of debt securities and whether they are subordinated debt securities or senior debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the ability to issue additional debt securities of the same series;

the price or prices at which we will sell the debt securities;

the maturity date or dates of the debt securities;

the rate or rates of interest, if any, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates, if any;

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such deferral period, including the maximum consecutive period during which interest payment periods may be extended;

Table of Contents

whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to any index, formula or other method, such as one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices, and the manner of determining the amount of such payments;

the dates on which we will pay interest on the debt securities and the regular record date for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the debt securities will be payable, where any securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer, exchange or conversion, as applicable, and notices and demands may be delivered to or upon us pursuant to the Indenture;

if we possess the option to do so, the periods within which and the prices at which we may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to optional redemption provisions, and the other terms and conditions of any such provisions;

our obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities by making periodic payments to a sinking fund or through an analogous provision or at the option of holders of the debt securities, and the period or periods within which and the price or prices at which we will redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and the other terms and conditions of such obligation;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

the portion, or methods of determining the portion, of the principal amount of the debt securities which we must pay upon the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities in connection with an Event of Default (as described below), if other than the full principal amount;

the currency, currencies or currency unit in which we will pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities, if not United States dollars;

provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or our covenants with respect to the applicable series of debt securities, and whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with those contained in the applicable Indenture;

any limitation on our ability to incur debt, redeem stock, sell our assets or other restrictions;

the application, if any, of the terms of the Indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (which terms are described below) to the debt securities;

whether the subordination provisions summarized below or different subordination provisions will apply to the debt securities;

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

the terms, if any, upon which the holders may convert or exchange the debt securities into or for our common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property;

whether any of the debt securities will be issued in global form and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which global debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities;

any change in the right of the Trustee or the requisite holders of debt securities to declare the principal amount thereof due and payable because of an Event of Default;

the depositary for global or certificated debt securities;

Table of Contents

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities;

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indentures, as amended or supplemented;

to whom any interest on any debt security shall be payable, if other than the person in whose name the security is registered, on the record date for such interest, the extent to which, or the manner in which, any interest payable on a temporary global debt security will be paid if other than in the manner provided in the applicable Indenture;

if the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities of the series is to be payable in one or more currencies or currency units other than as stated, the currency, currencies or currency units in which it shall be paid and the periods within and terms and conditions upon which such election is to be made and the amounts payable (or the manner in which such amount shall be determined);

the portion of the principal amount of any securities of the series which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities pursuant to the applicable Indenture if other than the entire principal amount; and

if the principal amount payable at the stated maturity of any debt security of the series will not be determinable as of any one or more dates prior to the stated maturity, the amount which shall be deemed to be the principal amount of such securities as of any such date for any purpose, including the principal amount thereof which shall be due and payable upon any maturity other than the stated maturity or which shall be deemed to be outstanding as of any date prior to the stated maturity (or, in any such case, the manner in which such amount deemed to be the principal amount shall be determined).

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities will be issued in fully-registered form without coupons.

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies, currency units or composite currencies, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and certain additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

Subordination

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to any existing Senior Indebtedness.

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

Under the Subordinated Indenture, "Senior Indebtedness" means all amounts due on obligations in connection with any of the following, whether outstanding at the date of execution of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter incurred or created:

the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest due on our indebtedness for borrowed money and indebtedness evidenced by securities, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments issued by us;

all of our capital lease obligations;

any of our obligations as lessee under leases required to be capitalized on the balance sheet of the lessee under generally accepted accounting principles;

all of our obligations for the reimbursement on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction;

all of our obligations in respect of interest rate swap, cap or other agreements, interest rate future or options contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts and other similar agreements;

all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons for the payment of which we are responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and

all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons secured by any lien on any property or asset of ours (whether or not such obligation is assumed by us).

However, Senior Indebtedness does not include:

any indebtedness which expressly provides that such indebtedness shall not be senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities, or that such indebtedness shall be subordinated to any other of our indebtedness, unless such indebtedness expressly provides that such indebtedness shall be senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities;

any of our indebtedness in respect of the subordinated debt securities;

any indebtedness or liability for compensation to employees, for goods or materials purchased in the ordinary course of business or for services;

any of our indebtedness to any subsidiary; and

any liability for federal, state, local or other taxes owed or owing by us.

Senior Indebtedness shall continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

Unless otherwise noted in the accompanying prospectus supplement, if we default in the payment of any principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Senior Indebtedness when it becomes due and payable, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or by declaration or otherwise, then, unless and until such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, we will make no direct or indirect payment (in cash, property, securities, by set-off or otherwise) in respect of the principal of or interest on the subordinated debt securities or in respect of any

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

redemption, retirement, purchase or other requisition of any of the subordinated debt securities.

In the event of the acceleration of the maturity of any subordinated debt securities, the holders of all senior debt securities outstanding at the time of such acceleration, subject to any security interest, will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior debt securities before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

If any of the following events occurs, we will pay in full all Senior Indebtedness before we make any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, to any holder of subordinated debt securities:

any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership;

any general assignment by us for the benefit of creditors; or

any other marshaling of our assets or liabilities.

In such event, any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, which would otherwise (but for the subordination provisions) be payable or deliverable in respect of the subordinated debt securities, will be paid or delivered directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders until all Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full. If any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities is received by the Trustee of any subordinated debt securities in contravention of any of the terms of the Subordinated Indenture and before all the Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full, such payment or distribution or security will be received in trust for the benefit of, and paid over or delivered and transferred to, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness at the time outstanding in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all such Senior Indebtedness in full.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the issuance of additional Senior Indebtedness.

Consolidation, Merger, Sale of Assets and Other Transactions

We may not (i) merge with or into or consolidate with another corporation or sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, any other corporation other than a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ours, and (ii) no corporation may merge with or into or consolidate with us or, except for any direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ours, sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to us, unless:

we are the surviving corporation or the corporation formed by or surviving such merger or consolidation or to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance has been made, if other than us, has expressly assumed by supplemental indenture all of our obligations under the Indentures;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing; and

we deliver to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the supplemental indenture complies with the applicable Indenture.

Events of Default, Notice and Waiver

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following shall constitute "Events of Default" under the Indentures with respect to each series of debt securities:

our failure to pay any interest on any debt security of such series when due and payable, continued for 30 days;

our failure to pay principal (or premium, if any) on any debt security of such series when due, regardless of whether such payment became due because of maturity, redemption, acceleration or otherwise, or is required by any sinking fund established with respect to such series;

Table of Contents

our failure to observe or perform any other of our covenants or agreements with respect to such debt securities for 60 days after we receive notice of such failure;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.; and

any other Event of Default provided with respect to Securities of that series.

If an Event of Default with respect to any debt securities of any series outstanding under either of the Indentures shall occur and be continuing, the Trustee under such Indenture or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series outstanding may declare, by notice as provided in the applicable Indenture, the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of that series) of all the debt securities of that series outstanding to be due and payable immediately; provided that, in the case of an Event of Default involving certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, acceleration is automatic; and, provided further, that after such acceleration, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all Events of Default, other than the nonpayment of accelerated principal, have been cured or waived. Upon the acceleration of the maturity of original issue discount securities, an amount less than the principal amount thereof will become due and payable. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to any original issue discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of maturity thereof.

Any past default under either Indenture with respect to debt securities of any series, and any Event of Default arising therefrom, may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of such series outstanding under such Indenture, except in the case of (i) default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any debt securities of such series or (ii) default in respect of a covenant or provision which may not be amended or modified without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of such series affected.

The Trustee is required within 90 days after the occurrence of a default (which is known to the Trustee and is continuing), with respect to the debt securities of any series (without regard to any grace period or notice requirements), to give to the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default.

The Trustee, subject to its duties during default to act with the required standard of care, may require indemnification by the holders of the debt securities of any series with respect to which a default has occurred before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the Indentures at the request of the holders of the debt securities of such series. Subject to such right of indemnification and to certain other limitations, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series under either Indenture may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series, provided that such direction shall not be in conflict with any rule of law or with the applicable Indenture and the Trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the Trustee which is not inconsistent with such direction.

No holder of a debt security of any series may institute any action against us under either of the Indentures (except actions for payment of overdue principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt security or for the conversion or exchange of such debt security in accordance with its terms) unless (i) the holder has given to the Trustee written notice of an Event of Default and of the continuance thereof with respect to the debt securities of such series specifying an Event of Default, as required under the applicable Indenture, (ii) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding under such Indenture shall have requested the Trustee to institute such action and offered to the Trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request; (iii) the Trustee shall

Table of Contents

not have instituted such action within 60 days of such request and (iv) no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the Trustee during such 60-day period by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series.

We are required to furnish annually to the Trustee statements as to our compliance with all conditions and covenants under each Indenture.

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

We may discharge or defease our obligations under the Indenture as set forth below, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture which have not already been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation and which have either become due and payable or are by their terms due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the Trustee money in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on such debt securities not previously delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, for principal and any premium and interest to the date of such deposit (in the case of debt securities which have become due and payable) or to the stated maturity or redemption date, as the case may be and we have paid all other sums payable under the applicable indenture.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the debt securities of or within any series (except as otherwise provided in the relevant Indenture) ("defeasance") or (ii) to be released from our obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the debt securities of or within any series ("covenant defeasance"), upon the deposit with the relevant Indenture Trustee, in trust for such purpose, of money and/or government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon. As a condition to defeasance or covenant defeasance, we must deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (i) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable federal income tax law occurring after the date of the relevant Indenture. In addition, in the case of either defeasance or covenant defeasance, we shall have delivered to the Trustee (i) an officers' certificate to the effect that the relevant debt securities exchange(s) have informed us that neither such debt securities nor any other debt securities of the same series, if then listed on any securities exchange, will be delisted as a result of such deposit and (ii) an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

We may exercise our defeasance option with respect to such debt securities notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option.

Modification and Waiver

Under the Indentures, we and the applicable Trustee may supplement the Indentures for certain purposes which would not materially adversely affect the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities of a series without the consent of those holders. We and the applicable Trustee may also modify the Indentures or any supplemental indenture in a manner that affects the interests or rights of

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

the holders of debt securities with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series issued under the Indenture. However, the Indentures require the consent of each holder of debt securities that would be affected by any modification which would:

change the fixed maturity of any debt securities of any series, or reduce the principal amount thereof, or reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest thereon, or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof;

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security or any other debt security payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

change the currency in which any debt security or any premium or interest is payable;

impair the right to enforce any payment on or with respect to any debt security;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the Indentures or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indentures or for waiver of certain defaults; or

modify any of the above provisions.

The Indentures permit the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series issued under the Indenture which is affected by the modification or amendment to waive our compliance with certain covenants contained in the Indentures.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name a debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, interest and premium on the debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such paying agent or paying agents as we may designate for such purpose from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at our option, payment of any interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address appears in the security register.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, a paying agent designated by us will act as paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. All paying agents initially designated by us for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for the payment of the principal, interest or premium on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, interest or premium has become due and payable will be repaid to us upon request, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Denominations, Registrations and Transfer

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, debt securities will be represented by one or more global certificates registered in the name of a nominee for The Depository

Table of Contents

Trust Company, or DTC. In such case, each holder's beneficial interest in the global securities will be shown on the records of DTC and transfers of beneficial interests will only be effected through DTC's records.

A holder of debt securities may only exchange a beneficial interest in a global security for certificated securities registered in the holder's name if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue serving as the depository for the relevant global securities or DTC ceases to maintain certain qualifications under the Exchange Act and no successor depository has been appointed for 90 days; or

we determine, in our sole discretion, that the global security shall be exchangeable.

If debt securities are issued in certificated form, they will only be issued in the minimum denomination specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement and integral multiples of such denomination. Transfers and exchanges of such debt securities will only be permitted in such minimum denomination. Transfers of debt securities in certificated form may be registered at the Trustee's corporate office or at the offices of any paying agent or trustee appointed by us under the Indentures. Exchanges of debt securities for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities in different denominations may also be made at such locations.

Governing Law

The Indentures and debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

Trustee

The Trustee shall be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, preferred stock or other debt securities. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of our common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities to be adjusted.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of the terms of our stock is only a summary. For a complete description, we refer you to the Maryland General Corporation Law (the "MGCL"), our charter and our bylaws. Copies of our charter and bylaws are available upon request. The following description discusses the general terms of the common stock and preferred stock that we may issue.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular class or series of preferred stock will describe certain other terms of such class or series of preferred stock. If so indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular class or series of preferred stock, the terms of any such class or series of preferred stock may differ from the terms set forth below. The description of preferred stock set forth below and the description of the terms of a particular class or series of preferred stock set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our charter, particularly to the articles supplementary relating to that class or series of preferred stock.

General

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 500,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of June 15, 2013, 43,136,975 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding. As of June 15, 2013, 1,551,500 shares of 8.250% Series A cumulative redeemable preferred stock (the "Series A Preferred Stock") and 1,260,000 shares of 7.75% Series B cumulative redeemable preferred stock (the "Series B Preferred Stock") were issued and outstanding. As of June 15, 2013, there were 6,912 holders of record of our common stock. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not liable for our debts or obligations.

Common Stock

Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock, including our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, and to the provisions of the charter regarding the restrictions on transfer and ownership of stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends on such stock when, as and if authorized by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor and declared by us and to share ratably in the assets of our company legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all known debts and liabilities of our company, including the preferential rights on dissolution of any class or series of preferred stock.

Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on transfer and ownership of stock, each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to the vote of stockholders, including the election of directors. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our board of directors, which means that the holders of outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to cast a majority of the votes in the election of directors can elect all of the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares of our common stock are not able to elect any directors.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company. Subject to the provisions of the charter regarding the restrictions on transfer and ownership of stock, shares of our common stock have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

Under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge or consolidate with another entity, sell all or substantially all of its assets or engage in a statutory share exchange unless declared advisable by the board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter unless a

Table of Contents

lesser percentage (but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter) is set forth in the corporation's charter. Subject to the voting rights of any other class or series of our stock, including our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, our charter provides for approval of these matters, except with respect to certain charter amendments relating to the classification and removal of our directors and the vote required to amend such provisions (which must be approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast on the amendment), by an affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to amend our charter to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock, to authorize us to issue additional authorized but unissued shares of our common stock, to reclassify any unissued shares of our common stock into other classes or series of stock and to establish the number of shares in each class or series and to set or change, subject to the restrictions on transfer and ownership of stock contained in our charter and the terms of any outstanding class or series of stock, including our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, the preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications or terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series without stockholder approval.

Preferred Stock

Our board of directors may authorize the issuance of preferred stock in one or more classes or series and may determine, with respect to any such series, the powers, preferences and rights of such class or series, and its qualifications, limitations and restrictions, including, without limitation:

the number of shares to constitute such series and the designations thereof;

the voting power, if any, of holders of shares of such series and, if voting power is limited, the circumstances under which such holders may be entitled to vote;

the rate of dividends, if any, and the extent of further participation in dividend distributions, if any, and whether dividends shall be cumulative or non-cumulative;

whether or not such series will be redeemable, and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which shares of such series will be redeemable;

the extent, if any, to which such series will have the benefit of any sinking fund provision for the redemption or purchase of shares;

the rights, if any, of such series, in the event of the dissolution of the corporation, or upon any distribution of the assets of the corporation; and

whether or not the shares of such series will be convertible, and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which shares of such series will be convertible.

You should refer to the articles supplementary and prospectus supplement relating to the class or series of preferred stock being offered for the specific terms of that class or series, including:

the title or designation of the class or series and the number of shares in the class or series;

the price at which the preferred stock will be offered;

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

the dividend rate or rates or method of calculating the rates, the dates on which the dividends will be payable, whether or not dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends on the preferred stock being offered will cumulate;

the voting rights, if any, of the holders of shares of the preferred stock being offered;

Table of Contents

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, and the provisions for redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock being offered;

the liquidation preference per share;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock being offered will be convertible into our common stock, including the conversion price, or the manner of calculating the conversion price, and the conversion period;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock being offered will be exchangeable for debt securities, including the exchange price, or the manner of calculating the exchange price, and the exchange period;

any listing of the preferred stock being offered on any securities exchange;

whether interests in the shares of the series will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock being offered;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock being offered as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs;

any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior or equal to the series of preferred stock being offered as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs; and

any additional rights, preferences, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the series.

Upon issuance, the shares of preferred stock will be fully paid and nonassessable, which means that its holders will have paid their purchase price in full and we may not require them to pay additional funds. Holders of preferred stock will not have any preemptive rights.

Preferred Stock Dividend Rights

Holders of preferred stock will be entitled to receive, when, as and if authorized by the board of directors out of funds legally available therefor and declared by us, dividends in additional shares of preferred stock or cash dividends at the rates and on the dates set forth in the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement. Dividend rates may be fixed or variable or both. Different classes or series of preferred stock may be entitled to dividends at different dividend rates or based upon different methods of determination. Each dividend will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on record dates determined by the board of directors. Dividends on preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as specified in the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement. If the board of directors fails to authorize or we fail to declare a dividend on any preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the right to receive that dividend will be lost, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend for that dividend period, whether or not dividends are declared for any future dividend period.

No full dividends will be declared or paid on any preferred stock unless full dividends for the dividend period commencing after the immediately preceding dividend payment date and any cumulative dividends still owing have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid on all other series of preferred stock which have the same rank as, or rank senior to, that series of preferred stock. When those dividends are not paid in full, dividends will be declared pro rata, so that the amount of dividends declared per share on that class or series of preferred stock and on each other class or series of preferred stock having the same rank as that class or series of preferred stock will bear the same ratio to each other that accrued dividends per share on that class or series of preferred stock and the other classes or series of preferred stock bear to each other. In addition, generally, unless full dividends

Table of Contents

including any cumulative dividends still owing on all outstanding shares of any class or series of preferred stock have been paid, no dividends will be declared or paid on the common stock and generally we may not redeem or purchase any common stock. No interest will be paid in connection with any dividend payment or payments which may be in arrears.

Unless otherwise set forth in the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement, the dividends payable for each dividend period will be computed by annualizing the applicable dividend rate and dividing by the number of dividend periods in a year, except that the amount of dividends payable for the initial dividend period or any period shorter than a full dividend period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months and, for any period less than a full month, the actual number of days elapsed in the period.

Preferred Stock Rights Upon Liquidation

If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of each class and series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions in the amount set forth in the articles supplementary and prospectus supplement relating to the class or series of preferred stock. If the amounts payable with respect to preferred stock of any class or series and any stock having the same rank as that class or series of preferred stock are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock will share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After the holders of each class or series of preferred stock having the same rank are paid in full, they will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Neither the sale of all or substantially all of our property or business nor a merger or consolidation by us with any other corporation will be considered a dissolution, liquidation or winding up by us of our business or affairs.

Preferred Stock Redemption

Any class or series of preferred stock may be redeemable in whole or in part at our option. In addition, any class or series of preferred stock may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund. The redemption provisions that may apply to a class or series of preferred stock, including the redemption dates and the redemption prices for that class or series, will be set forth in the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement.

If a class or series of preferred stock is subject to mandatory redemption, the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement will specify the year we can begin to redeem shares of the preferred stock, the number of shares of the preferred stock we can redeem each year and the redemption price per share. We may pay the redemption price in cash, stock or other securities of our company or of third parties, as specified in the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement. If the redemption price is to be paid only from the proceeds of the sale of our capital stock, the terms of the class or series of preferred stock may also provide that if no capital stock is sold or if the amount of cash received is insufficient to pay in full the redemption price then due, the class or series of preferred stock will automatically be converted into shares of the applicable capital stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the related prospectus supplement.

If fewer than all the outstanding shares of any class or series of preferred stock are to be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, the board of directors will determine the method for selecting the shares to be redeemed, which may be by lot or pro rata by any other method determined to be equitable. From and after the redemption date, dividends will cease to accrue on the shares of preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders of those shares other than the right to receive the redemption price will cease.

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock Conversion Rights

The related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement will state any conversion rights under which shares of preferred stock are convertible into shares of common stock or another class or series of preferred stock or other property. As described under "Redemption" above, under some circumstances preferred stock may be mandatorily converted into common stock or another class or series of preferred stock.

Preferred Stock Voting Rights

The related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement will state any voting rights of that class or series of preferred stock. Unless otherwise indicated in the related articles supplementary and prospectus supplement, if we issue full shares of any class or series of preferred stock, each share will be entitled to one vote on matters on which holders of that class or series of preferred stock are entitled to vote. Because each full share of any class or series of preferred stock will be entitled to one vote, unless otherwise provided in the related articles supplementary, the voting power of that class or series will depend on the number of shares in that class or series, and not on the aggregate liquidation preference or initial offering price of the shares of that class or series of preferred stock.

Permanent Global Preferred Securities

A class or series of preferred stock may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with a depository or its nominee identified in the related prospectus supplement. For most classes and series of preferred stock, the depository will be DTC. A global security may not be transferred except as a whole to the depository, a nominee of the depository or their successors unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for preferred stock in individually certificated form. Any additional terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any class or series of preferred stock and the rights of and limitations on owners of beneficial interests in a global security representing class or a series of preferred stock may be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Power To Reclassify Unissued Shares Of Common And Preferred Stock

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of our common stock or preferred stock into other classes or series of stock, including one or more classes or series of stock that have priority over our common stock with respect to voting rights, dividends or upon liquidation. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, our board of directors is required by the MGCL and by our charter to set, subject to our charter restrictions on transfer and ownership of stock and to the terms of any outstanding class or series of stock, including our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series. Subject to the rights of holders of any other class or series of our stock, including our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, our board of directors may take these actions without stockholder approval unless stockholder approval is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automatic quotation system on which our securities are listed or traded. Therefore, our board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of common or preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

Power to Increase or Decrease Authorized Shares of Stock and Issue Additional Shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock

We believe that the power of our board of directors to amend our charter to increase or decrease the number of authorized shares of stock, to authorize us to issue additional shares of common stock

Table of Contents

or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued shares of common stock or preferred stock and thereafter to authorize us to issue the classified or reclassified shares provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise. These actions can be taken without common stockholder approval, unless such approval is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Although we have no present intention of doing so, we could issue a class or series of stock that could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of us that might involve a premium price for holders of common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

We may implement a dividend reinvestment plan whereby stockholders may automatically reinvest their dividends in our common stock. Details about any such plan would be sent to our stockholders following adoption thereof by our board of directors.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock is American Stock Transfer and Trust Company.

Restrictions on Transfer and Ownership

In order for us to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"), our stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities) during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made).

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our stock that are intended to assist us in complying with these requirements and continuing to qualify as a REIT. The relevant sections of our charter provide that subject to the exceptions described below, no person or entity may beneficially own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 5.0% (by value or by number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our common stock or 5.0% by value of our aggregate outstanding shares of stock of all classes or series. We refer to this restriction as the "general ownership limit."

The constructive ownership rules under the Internal Revenue Code are complex and may cause stock owned actually or constructively by a group of related individuals and/or entities to be owned constructively by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 5.0% of our outstanding shares of common stock or stock of all classes or series (or the acquisition of an interest in an entity that owns, actually or constructively, less than 5.0% of our outstanding shares of common stock or stock of all classes or series) by an individual or entity, could, nevertheless cause that individual or entity, or another individual or entity, to own constructively in excess of these limits on our outstanding stock and thereby subject the stock to the applicable ownership limit.

Shares of our stock that would otherwise be directly or indirectly acquired or held by a person in violation of the restrictions on ownership and transfer are, in general, automatically transferred to a trust for the benefit of a charitable beneficiary, as described below, and the purported owner will acquire no rights in such shares. Our board of directors may, in its sole discretion, waive the ownership limit with respect to a particular stockholder if it determines that any exemption from the ownership

Table of Contents

limit will not jeopardize our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. The stockholder must also agree that any violation of certain required representations and undertakings provided with respect to the exemption or other action contrary to the ownership and transfer restrictions will result in the automatic transfer of the shares causing the violation to a trust.

We have granted ACM and Mr. Ivan Kaufman (who is the beneficial owner of approximately 91% of ACM's outstanding membership interests) an exemption from the general ownership limit which permits them to collectively own up to 24% of our outstanding shares of common stock. We have also granted C. Michael Kojanian, one of our directors, an exemption from the general ownership limit which permits him to own up to 8.3% of our outstanding shares of common stock.

As a condition of our waiver, our board of directors may require an opinion of counsel or a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") that is satisfactory to our board of directors, and/or representations or undertakings from the applicant with respect to preserving our REIT status, and our board of directors may impose such other conditions or restrictions as it deems appropriate. Additionally, the waiver of the ownership limit may not allow five or fewer stockholders to beneficially own more than 50% in value of our outstanding capital stock.

Our charter provisions further prohibit:

any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of our stock that would result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT; and

any person from transferring shares of our stock after January 29, 2004 if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined under the principles of Section 856(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code).

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our common stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transfer and ownership will be required to give notice immediately to us or, in the case of a proposed or attempted transaction, must give at least 15 days' prior written notice to us, and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on transfer and ownership will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

Pursuant to our charter, if any purported transfer of our stock or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the ownership limits or other restrictions on transfer and ownership directors, then that number of shares in excess of the applicable ownership limit (rounded up to the nearest whole share) will be automatically transferred to, and held by, a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable organizations selected by us. The automatic transfer will be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the date of the violative transfer or other event that results in a transfer to the trust. Any dividend or other distribution paid to the purported transferee, prior to our discovery that the shares had been automatically transferred to a trust as described above, must be repaid to the trustee upon demand for distribution to the beneficiary of the trust. If the transfer to the trust as described above is not automatically effective, for any reason, to prevent violation of the applicable ownership limit or as otherwise permitted by our board of directors, then our charter provides that the transfer of the excess shares will be void.

Shares of our stock transferred to the trustee are deemed offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of (1) the price paid by the purported transferee for the shares (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of such devise or gift) and (2) the market price on the date we, or our designee, accepts such offer. We have the right to accept such offer until the trustee has sold the shares of our common stock held in the trust as discussed below.

Table of Contents

Upon a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold terminates and the trustee must distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the purported record transferee and any dividends or other distributions held by the trustee with respect to such common stock will be paid to the charitable beneficiary.

If we do not buy the shares, the trustee must, within 20 days of receiving notice from us of the transfer of shares to the trust, sell the shares to a person or entity designated by the trustee who could own the shares without violating the restrictions on transfer and ownership. After that, the trustee must distribute to the purported record transferee an amount equal to the lesser of (1) the price paid by the purported transferee or owner for the shares (or, if the purported transferee did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in trust (e.g., in the case of a gift, devise or other such transaction), the market price of the shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the trust), and (2) the sales proceeds (net of commissions and other expenses of sale) received by the trust for the shares. The purported transferee has no rights in the shares held by the trustee.

The trustee will be designated by us and shall be unaffiliated with us and with any purported transferee. Prior to the sale of any excess shares by the trust, the trustee will receive, in trust for the beneficiary, all dividends and other distributions paid by us with respect to the excess shares, and may also exercise all voting rights with respect to the excess shares.

Subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that the shares have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will have the authority, at the trustee's sole discretion, to:

rescind as void any vote cast by a purported transferee prior to our discovery that the shares have been transferred to the trust; and

recast the vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the beneficiary of the trust.

However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee may not rescind and recast the vote.

Every owner of more than five percent (or such lower percentage as may be required by the Internal Revenue Code or regulations promulgated thereunder) of the shares of our stock, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, is required to give us written notice, stating the owner's name and address, the number of shares of stock beneficially owned and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. In addition, any person or entity that is a beneficial owner or constructive owner of shares of our stock and any person or entity (including the stockholder of record) who is holding shares of our stock for a beneficial owner or constructive owner will, on request, be required to disclose to us in writing such information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such stockholder's ownership of shares of our stock on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the ownership limits or to comply with the requirements of any taxing or governmental authority or to determine such compliance.

All certificates representing shares of our stock bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

These restrictions on ownership and transfer could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may issue depositary receipts representing interests in shares of particular class or series of preferred stock which are called depositary shares. We will deposit the preferred stock of a class or series which is the subject of depositary shares with a depositary, which will hold that preferred stock for the benefit of the holders of the depositary shares, in accordance with a deposit agreement between the depositary and us. The holders of depositary shares will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate, including dividend, voting, conversion, redemption and liquidation rights, to the extent of their interests in that preferred stock.

While the deposit agreement relating to a particular class or series of preferred stock may have provisions applicable solely to that class or series of preferred stock, all deposit agreements relating to preferred stock we issue will include the following provisions:

Dividends and Other Distributions

Each time we pay a cash dividend or make any other type of cash distribution with regard to preferred stock of a class or series, the depositary will distribute to the holder of record of each depositary share relating to that class or series of preferred stock an amount equal to the dividend or other distribution per depositary share the depositary receives. If there is a distribution of property other than cash, the depositary either will distribute the property to the holders of depositary shares in proportion to the depositary shares held by each of them, or the depositary will, if we approve, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds to the holders of the depositary shares in proportion to the depositary shares held by them.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

A holder of depositary shares will be entitled to receive, upon surrender of depositary receipts representing depositary shares, the number of whole or fractional shares of the applicable class or series of preferred stock, and any money or other property, to which the depositary shares relate.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by a depositary, the depositary will be required to redeem, on the same redemption date, depositary shares constituting, in total, the number of shares of preferred stock held by the depositary which we redeem, subject to the depositary's receiving the redemption price of those shares of preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares relating to a class or series are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or by another method we determine to be equitable.

Voting

Any time we send a notice of meeting or other materials relating to a meeting to the holders of a class or series of preferred stock to which depositary shares relate, we will provide the depositary with sufficient copies of those materials so they can be sent to all holders of record of the applicable depositary shares, and the depositary will send those materials to the holders of record of the depositary shares on the record date for the meeting. The depositary will solicit voting instructions from holders of depositary shares and will vote or not vote the preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate in accordance with those instructions.

Liquidation Preference

Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holder of each depositary share will be entitled to what the holder of the depositary share would have received if the holder had owned the

Table of Contents

number of shares (or fraction of a share) of preferred stock which is represented by the depositary share.

Conversion

If shares of a class or series of preferred stock are convertible into shares of common stock or other of our securities or property, holders of depositary shares relating to that class or series of preferred stock will, if they surrender depositary receipts representing depositary shares and appropriate instructions to convert them, receive the shares of common stock or other securities or property into which the number of shares (or fractions of shares) of preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate could at the time be converted.

Amendment and Termination of a Deposit Agreement

We and the depositary may amend a deposit agreement, except that an amendment which materially and adversely affects the rights of holders of depositary shares, or would be materially and adversely inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the preferred stock to which they relate, must be approved by holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding depositary shares. No amendment will impair the right of a holder of depositary shares to surrender the depositary receipts evidencing those depositary shares and receive the preferred stock to which they relate, except as required to comply with law. We may terminate a deposit agreement with the consent of holders of a majority of the depositary shares to which it relates. Upon termination of a deposit agreement, the depositary will make the whole or fractional shares of preferred stock to which the depositary shares issued under the deposit agreement relate available to the holders of those depositary shares. A deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

All outstanding depositary shares to which it relates have been redeemed or converted; and/or

The depositary has made a final distribution to the holders of the depositary shares issued under the deposit agreement upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Miscellaneous

There will be provisions: (1) requiring the depositary to forward to holders of record of depositary shares any reports or communications from us which the depositary receives with respect to the preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate; (2) regarding compensation of the depositary; (3) regarding resignation of the depositary; (4) limiting our liability and the liability of the depositary under the deposit agreement (usually to failure to act in good faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct); and (5) indemnifying the depositary against certain possible liabilities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. We may issue warrants independently or together with any offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

the title of the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants;

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

the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time; and

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any.

Exercise of Warrants

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Each warrant will entitle the holder of warrants to purchase for cash the amount of debt or equity securities, at the exercise price stated or determinable in the prospectus supplement for the warrants. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date shown in the applicable prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified in such prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. Warrants may be exercised as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. When the warrant holder makes the payment and properly completes and signs the warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as possible, forward the debt or equity securities that the warrant holder has purchased. If the warrant holder exercises the warrant for less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

Table of Contents

FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material federal income tax consequences relating to the acquisition, holding and disposition of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities of Arbor Realty. For purposes of this section under the heading "Federal Income Tax Considerations," references to "Arbor Realty," "we," "our" and "us" mean only Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise required by the context. However, our indirect subsidiary, SR Inc., like Arbor Realty, has also elected to be taxed as a REIT. To the extent that the discussion below relates to the tax requirements for, and consequences of, qualifying as a REIT, it also applies to SR Inc.'s election to be taxed as a REIT.

This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department, rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the 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 of the tax consequences described below. No advance ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS regarding any matter discussed in this prospectus. The summary is also based upon the assumption that the operation of Arbor Realty, and of its subsidiaries and other lower-tier and affiliated entities, will in each case be in accordance with its applicable organizational documents or partnership agreement. This summary of the material federal income tax consequences of an investment in our stock or debt securities does not purport to discuss all aspects of federal income taxation that may be relevant 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 Arbor Realty stock or debt securities through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

persons holding Arbor Realty stock or debt securities as part of a "straddle," "hedge," "conversion transaction," "synthetic security" or other integrated investment;

and, except to the extent discussed below:

partnerships, other pass-through entities and trusts;

tax-exempt organizations; and

foreign investors.

This summary assumes that investors will hold our stock or debt securities as capital assets, which generally means as property held for investment.

THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF HOLDERS OF ARBOR REALTY STOCK OR DEBT 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

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

CONSEQUENCES OF HOLDING ARBOR REALTY STOCK OR DEBT SECURITIES TO ANY PARTICULAR INVESTOR WILL DEPEND ON THE INVESTOR'S PARTICULAR TAX CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU ARE URGED TO CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU, IN LIGHT OF YOUR PARTICULAR INVESTMENT

Table of Contents

OR TAX CIRCUMSTANCES, OF ACQUIRING, HOLDING, EXCHANGING OR OTHERWISE DISPOSING OF ARBOR REALTY STOCK OR DEBT SECURITIES.

Taxation of Arbor Realty

Arbor Realty and SR Inc. have each elected to be taxed as a REIT, commencing with their initial taxable years, which ended on December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2005, respectively. We believe that such entities were organized and have operated in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT, and intend to continue to operate in such a manner.

In connection with this prospectus, we have received an opinion of the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP to the effect that, commencing with Arbor Realty's initial taxable year ended December 31, 2003, Arbor Realty was organized in conformity with the requirements for qualification as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and its actual method of operation through the date hereof has enabled, and its proposed method of operation will enable, it to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT. It must be emphasized that an opinion of counsel is expressed as of the date given, is based on various assumptions relating to the organization and operation of Arbor Realty and its affiliates, and is conditioned upon representations and covenants made by the management of Arbor Realty and affiliated entities regarding their organization, assets and the past, present and future conduct of their business operations. Qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on 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 Internal Revenue Code and the Treasury regulations issued thereunder, including requirements relating to the nature and composition of our assets and income. Our ability to comply with the REIT asset requirements also depends, in part, upon the fair market values of assets that we own directly or indirectly. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination.

While we intend to operate so as to 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 circumstances, no assurance can be given that we will so qualify for any particular year. Counsel will have no obligation to advise us or the holders of our stock 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, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinions.

Taxation of REITs in General

As indicated above, qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under "Requirements for Qualification General." While we intend to operate so as to qualify as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our qualification, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See " Failure to Qualify" below.

Provided that we meet the requirements for qualification 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 net income that is distributed, or is treated as distributed, to our stockholders in the year that it is earned. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" at the corporate and stockholder levels that historically has resulted from investment in a corporation. Rather, income generated by a REIT generally is taxed only at the stockholder level upon a distribution of dividends by the REIT.

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

Beginning in 2013, most U.S. stockholders that are individuals, trusts or estates are taxed on corporate dividends at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20% (the same as long-term capital gains). With limited exceptions, however, dividends from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs are generally not eligible for this rate and will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income. Commencing in 2013, the highest marginal non-corporate U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income is 39.6%. See "Taxation of Stockholders Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders Distributions."

Net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes of a REIT generally do not pass through to the stockholders of the REIT, subject to special rules for certain items such as capital gains recognized by REITs. See "Taxation of Stockholders."

If we qualify 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 items of tax preference, including any deductions of net operating losses.

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

If we elect to treat property acquired in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as "foreclosure property," we may thereby avoid the 100% 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%).

If we derive "excess inclusion income" from an interest in certain mortgage loan securitization structures (i.e., a "taxable mortgage pool" or a residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, or "REMIC"), we could be subject to corporate level federal income tax at a 35% rate to the extent that such income is allocable to specified types of tax-exempt stockholders known as "disqualified organizations" that are not subject to unrelated business income tax. See "Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income" below.

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintains REIT qualification because other requirements are met, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount based upon the magnitude of the failure, adjusted to reflect the profit margin associated with our gross income.

If we should fail to satisfy the asset or other requirements applicable to REITs, as described below, yet nonetheless maintain REIT qualification because there is reasonable cause for the failure and other applicable requirements are met, we may be subject to an excise tax. In that case, the amount of the tax will be at least \$50,000 per failure, and, in the case of certain asset test failures, will be determined as the amount of net income generated by the assets in question, multiplied by the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%) if that amount exceeds \$50,000 per failure.

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (i) the amounts actually distributed, plus (ii) retained amounts on which income tax is paid at the corporate level.

Table of Contents

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

A 100% tax may be imposed on some items of income and expense that are directly or constructively paid between a REIT and a taxable REIT subsidiary (as described below) if and to the extent that the IRS successfully adjusts the reported amounts of these items.

If we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT (i.e., a corporation taxable under subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code) in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation, we may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest corporate income tax rate then applicable to the extent that we subsequently recognize that gain on a disposition of any such assets during the ten-year period following their acquisition from the subchapter C corporation.

The earnings of our subsidiaries could be subject to federal corporate income tax to the extent that such subsidiaries are subchapter C corporations.

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

Requirements for Qualification General

The Internal Revenue 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 Internal Revenue Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
- (6) in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer "individuals" (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include specified tax-exempt entities); and
- (7) which meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets.

The Internal Revenue 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 shorter taxable year. Arbor Realty's charter provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of its shares, which are intended to assist in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. For purposes of condition (6), an "individual" generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefit plan, a private foundation, or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes, but does not include a qualified pension plan or profit sharing trust.

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we are generally required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written

Table of Contents

statements each year from the record holders of specified percentages of our stock in which the record holders are to disclose the actual owners of the shares (i.e., the persons required to include in gross income for tax purposes any dividends that we pay). A stockholder 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. A list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand must be maintained as part of our records. A failure to comply with these record-keeping requirements could subject us to monetary penalties. If we satisfy these requirements and have no reason to know that condition (6) above is not satisfied, we will be deemed to have satisfied that condition.

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

The Internal Revenue Code provides relief from violations of the REIT gross income and asset requirements, as described below under "Income Tests," in cases where a violation is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, and other requirements are met, including the payment of a penalty tax that is based upon the magnitude of the violation. If we fail to satisfy any of the various REIT requirements, there can be no assurance that these relief provisions would be available to enable us to maintain qualification as a REIT, and, if available, the amount of any resultant penalty tax could be substantial.

Effect of Subsidiary Entities

Ownership of Partnership Interests. In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, Treasury regulations provide that the REIT is deemed to own its proportionate share of the partnership's assets, and to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs as described below. In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in the hands of the REIT. Thus, the proportionate share of the assets and items of income of partnerships in which we own an equity interest (including SR Inc.'s preferred equity interests in certain lower-tier partnerships), are treated as assets and items of income of the relevant REIT for purposes of applying the REIT requirements described below. The REIT's proportionate share is generally determined, for these purposes, based upon its percentage interest in the partnership's equity capital, except that for purposes of the 10% value-based asset test described below, the percentage interest also takes into account certain debt securities issued by the partnership. Consequently, to the extent that we directly or indirectly hold a preferred or other equity interest in a partnership, the partnership's assets and operations may affect our ability to qualify as a REIT, even though we may have no control, or only limited influence, over the partnership. A summary of certain rules governing the federal income taxation of partnerships and their partners is provided below in "Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships."

Disregarded Subsidiaries. If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a "qualified REIT subsidiary," the separate existence of 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 the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs as summarized below. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a "taxable REIT subsidiary" as described below, that is wholly owned by a REIT, or by other disregarded subsidiaries, or by a combination of the two. Other entities that are wholly owned by a REIT, including single member limited liability companies, are also generally disregarded as separate entities for federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with partnerships in which Arbor Realty holds an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as "pass-through subsidiaries."

Table of Contents

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary of a REIT ceases to be wholly owned—for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than the REIT or another disregarded subsidiary of the REIT—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% of the securities of another corporation. See "Asset Tests" and "Income Tests" below.

Taxable Subsidiaries. A REIT, in general, may jointly elect with subsidiary corporations, whether or not wholly owned, to treat the subsidiary corporation as a taxable REIT subsidiary ("TRS"). The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation, unlike that of a disregarded subsidiary as discussed above, is not ignored for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, such an entity would generally be subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, which may have the effect of reducing the cash flow generated by us and our subsidiaries in the aggregate, and our ability to make distributions to stockholders.

A REIT is not treated as holding the assets of a taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by the subsidiary is taken into account as an asset of the REIT, and the REIT recognizes as income, the dividends, if any, that it receives from the subsidiary. This treatment can affect the income and asset test calculations that apply to the REIT, as described below. Because a parent REIT does not include the assets and income of such subsidiary corporations in determining the parent's compliance with the REIT requirements, such entities may be used by the parent REIT to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude it from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries (for example, activities that give rise to certain categories of nonqualifying income such as management fees or other service income, or gains from the sale of inventory or dealer property).

Subsidiary REITs. In connection with a January 2005 financing that gave rise to a "taxable mortgage pool," the assets of our subsidiary operating partnership, Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, through which we conduct substantially all of our activities and operations, were transferred to SR Inc., which was a newly-formed subsidiary of the operating partnership, and its subsidiaries. SR Inc. has elected and intends to be taxed as a REIT, which, in general, will allow us to avert certain adverse tax consequences that would otherwise result from the presence of the taxable mortgage pool. See "Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income," below, for a discussion of certain issues relating to taxable mortgage pools. Arbor Realty Limited Partnership was previously treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, but is now classified as a disregarded subsidiary.

Arbor Realty's interest in the stock of SR Inc. is treated as a qualifying real estate asset of Arbor Realty for purposes of the REIT asset requirements (see "Asset Tests" below), and any dividend income or gains derived by Arbor Realty from the stock of SR Inc. will generally be treated by Arbor Realty as income that qualifies for purposes of the REIT 95% and 75% income requirements (see "Income Tests" below), provided, in each case, that SR Inc. is able to qualify as a REIT. Arbor Realty and SR Inc. are separate entities, each of which intends to qualify as a REIT, and each of which must independently satisfy the various REIT qualification requirements as described herein. Substantially all of Arbor Realty's assets are currently held indirectly through SR Inc., however, which effectively ensures that Arbor Realty will satisfy the asset and income requirements applicable to REITs provided that SR Inc. qualifies as a REIT. If SR Inc. were to fail to qualify as a REIT, it would then be a regular taxable corporation, and its income would be subject to federal income tax. In addition, a failure of SR Inc. to qualify as a REIT would likely have an adverse effect on Arbor Realty's ability to comply with the REIT asset and income requirements described below, and thus its ability to qualify as a REIT.

Table of Contents

Income Tests

In order to maintain qualification as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income requirements each year. 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" and from certain hedging transactions, generally must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including "rents from real property," dividends received from other REITs, including SR Inc., provided that SR Inc. is able to qualify as a REIT, 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, as well as income from some kinds of temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions and from certain hedging transactions, must be derived from some combination of 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. Income and gain from certain hedging transactions is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator for purposes of both the 75% and the 95% gross income tests. See " Derivatives and Hedging Transactions."

In 2009 through 2011, Arbor Realty did not report any gross income because SR Inc. did not pay any dividends on its common stock. Although there are no authorities addressing this situation, we do not believe that Arbor Realty's lack of gross income will adversely affect its qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. No assurance can be given, however, that the IRS will not assert a contrary position.

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% income test (as described above) to the extent that the obligation is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, or are treated as having acquired the instrument if it is restructured in a manner that constitutes a significant modification of its terms, the interest income will generally be apportioned between the real property and the other collateral, and our income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. (Similar apportionment rules apply for purposes of the REIT 75% asset test as described below under " Asset Tests".) Even if a loan is not secured by real property, or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% income test.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan (a "shared appreciation provision"), income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property, which generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided that the property is not inventory or dealer property in the hands of the borrower or the REIT.

To the extent that a REIT derives interest income from a mortgage loan or income from the rental of real property where all or a portion of the amount of interest or rental income payable is contingent, such income generally will qualify for purposes of the gross income tests only if it is based upon the gross receipts or sales, and not the net income or profits, of the borrower or lessee. This limitation does not apply, however, where the borrower or lessee leases substantially all of its interest in the property to tenants or subtenants, to the extent that the rental income derived by the borrower or lessee, as the case may be, would qualify as rents from real property had it been earned directly by a REIT, as described below.

Among the assets that we and our subsidiaries hold are mezzanine loans, which are loans secured by equity interests in an entity that directly or indirectly owns real property, rather than by a direct

Table of Contents

mortgage of the real property. Revenue Procedure 2003-65 issued by the IRS provides a safe harbor pursuant to which a mezzanine loan, if it meets each of the requirements contained in the Revenue Procedure, will be treated by the IRS as a real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests described below, and interest derived from it will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the REIT 75% income test. Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. While we and our advisors believe, on the basis of relevant regulations and IRS rulings, that our mezzanine loans qualify as real estate assets and give rise to qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the REIT asset and income requirements, or otherwise do not adversely affect our status as a REIT, such loans do not meet all of the requirements for reliance on the safe harbor, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the tax treatment of these loans.

We also hold certain participation interests, or "B-Notes," in mortgage loans and mezzanine loans originated by other lenders. A B-Note is an interest created in an underlying loan by virtue of a participation or similar agreement, to which the originator of the loan is generally a party, along with one or more participants. The borrower on the underlying loan is typically not a party to the participation agreement. The performance of a participant's investment depends upon the performance of the underlying loan, and if the underlying borrower defaults, the participant typically has no recourse against the originator of the loan. The originator often retains a senior position in the underlying loan, and grants junior participations, which will be a first loss position in the event of a default by the borrower. We believe that our participation interests generally qualify as real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests described below, and that interest derived from such investments will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the REIT 75% income test. The appropriate treatment of participation interests for federal income tax purposes is not entirely certain, however, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our treatment of such participation interests.

Rents that we derive, including as a result of our ownership of preferred or common equity interests in a partnership that owns rental properties, will qualify as "rents from real property" in satisfying the gross income requirements described above, only if several conditions are met, including the following. If rent is partly attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property, the portion of the total rent that is attributable to the personal property will not qualify as "rents from real property" unless it constitutes 15% or less of the total rent received under the lease. Moreover, for rents received to qualify as "rents from real property," the REIT generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to the tenants of such property, other than through an "independent contractor" from which the REIT derives no revenue. An independent contractor is generally a person that, after application of constructive ownership rules, does not own more than 35% of the shares of the REIT and, if it is a corporation, partnership, or other entity, the REIT does not own more than 35% of its shares, assets or net profits. We and our affiliates are permitted, however, to perform services that are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. In addition, we and our affiliates may directly or indirectly provide non-customary services to tenants of properties without disqualifying all of the rent from the property if the payment for such services does not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the property. For purposes of this test, the income received from such non-customary services is deemed to be at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the services. Moreover, we are generally permitted to provide services to tenants or others through a TRS without disqualifying the rental income received from tenants for purposes of the REIT income requirements. Also, rental income will generally qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that we do not directly or constructively hold a 10% or greater interest, as measured by vote or value, in the lessee's equity.

We may indirectly receive distributions from TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions will be classified as dividend income to the extent of

Table of Contents

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 under the 75% gross income test. Any dividends received from a REIT, including dividends derived by Arbor Realty from SR Inc. if SR Inc. qualifies as a REIT, will be qualifying income in Arbor Realty's hands for purposes of both the 95% and 75% income tests.

Any income or gain that a REIT or its pass-through subsidiaries derives from instruments that hedge certain risks, such as the risk of changes in interest rates, will not be treated as income for purposes of calculating the 75% and 95% gross income tests (i.e., will be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator), provided that specified requirements are met. Such requirements include that the instrument hedges risks associated with indebtedness incurred to acquire or carry "real estate assets" (as described below under "Asset Tests"), and the instrument is properly identified as a hedge along with the risk that it hedges within prescribed time periods. Income and gain from other hedging transactions will generally not be qualifying income for either the 95% or 75% gross income test. See "Derivatives and Hedging Transactions."

Certain foreign currency gains are excluded from gross income for purposes of one or both of the gross income tests. "Real estate foreign exchange gain" will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Real estate foreign exchange gain generally includes foreign currency gain attributable to any item of income or gain that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of (or becoming or being the obligor under) obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interest in real property, and certain foreign currency gain attributable to certain "qualified business units" of a REIT. "Passive foreign exchange gain" will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. Passive foreign exchange gain generally includes real estate foreign exchange gain as described above, and also includes foreign currency gain attributable to any item of income or gain that is qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test and foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of (or becoming or being the obligor under) obligations. Because passive foreign exchange gain includes real estate foreign exchange gain, real estate foreign exchange gain is excluded from gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income test. These exclusions for real estate foreign exchange gain and passive foreign exchange gain do not apply to foreign currency gain derived from dealing, or engaging in substantial and regular trading, in securities. Such gain is treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nonetheless qualify as a REIT for the year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions will generally be available if the failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we attach to our tax return a schedule of the sources of our income, and any incorrect information on the schedule was not due to fraud with intent to evade tax. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we may not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above under "Taxation of REITs in General," even where these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed that is based upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

Pursuant to The Housing and Economic Recovery Tax Act of 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury has been granted broad authority to determine whether particular items of gain or income qualify or not under the 75% and 95% gross income tests, or are to be excluded altogether from the measure of gross income for such purposes.

Table of Contents

Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter, a REIT must also satisfy four tests relating to the nature of its assets. First, at least 75% of the value of the 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 other corporations that qualify as REITs, mortgage loans (to the extent secured by interests in real property), and certain kinds of mortgage backed securities. This would include stock of SR Inc. that is indirectly owned by Arbor Realty, provided that SR Inc. qualifies as a REIT. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

The second REIT asset test is that the value of any one issuer's securities owned by the REIT may not exceed 5% of the value of the REIT's total assets. Third, the REIT may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs, and the 10% value test does not apply to "straight debt" having specified characteristics. Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of TRSs held by a REIT may not exceed 25% of the value of the REIT's total assets.

Notwithstanding the general rule, as noted above, that for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests, a REIT is treated as owning its share of the underlying assets of a subsidiary partnership, if a REIT holds indebtedness issued by a partnership, the indebtedness will generally be subject to, and may cause a violation of the asset tests, unless it is a qualifying mortgage asset, satisfies the rules for "straight debt," or other conditions are met. In applying the 10% value test, a debt security issued by a partnership is not taken into account to the extent, if any, of the REIT's proportionate interest in that partnership. Similarly, although stock of another REIT is a qualifying asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, any non-mortgage debt held by a REIT that is issued by another REIT may not so qualify (except that debt issued by REITs will not be treated as "securities" that are subject to the 10% value based asset test, as explained below).

The rules regarding REITs include relief provisions that make it easier for REITs to satisfy the asset test requirements, or to maintain REIT qualification notwithstanding certain violations of the asset test and other requirements.

One such provision allows a REIT which fails one or more of the asset requirements to nevertheless maintain its REIT qualification if (a) it provides the IRS with a description of each asset causing the failure, (b) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (c) the REIT pays a tax equal to the greater of (i) \$50,000 per failure, and (ii) the product of the net income generated by the assets that caused the failure multiplied by the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%), and (d) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within 6 months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or otherwise satisfies the relevant asset tests within that time frame.

A second relief provision applies to de minimis violations of the 10% and 5% asset tests. A REIT may maintain its qualification despite a violation of such requirements if (a) the value of the assets causing the violation does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the REIT's total assets or \$10,000,000, and (b) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within 6 months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure or the relevant tests are otherwise satisfied within that time frame.

In addition, certain securities will not violate the 10% value test. Such securities include (a) any "straight debt," provided that the REIT (or a controlled taxable REIT subsidiary of the REIT) does not own other securities of the issuer of that security which do not qualify as straight debt, unless the value of those other securities constitute, in the aggregate, 1% or less of the total value of that issuer's

Table of Contents

outstanding securities, (b) any loan made to an individual or an estate, (c) certain rental agreements in which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between a REIT and certain persons related to the REIT), (d) any obligation to pay rents from real property, (e) 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, (f) any security issued by another REIT, and (g) any debt instrument issued by a partnership if the partnership's income is of a nature that it would satisfy the 75% gross income test described above under " Income Tests."

Any interests held by a REIT in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, or "REMIC," are generally treated as qualifying real estate assets, and income derived by a REIT from interests in REMICs is generally treated as qualifying income for purposes of the REIT income tests described above. If less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of the REIT's interest in the REMIC, and its income derived from the interest, qualifies for purposes of the REIT asset and income tests. Where a REIT holds a "residual interest" in a REMIC from which it derives "excess inclusion income," the REIT will be required to either distribute the excess inclusion income or pay tax on it (or a combination of the two), even though the income may not be received in cash by the REIT. To the extent that distributed excess inclusion income is allocable to a particular stockholder, the income (i) would not be allowed to be offset by any net operating losses otherwise available to the stockholder, (ii) would be subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of stockholders that are otherwise generally exempt from federal income tax, and (iii) would result in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate (30%), without reduction for any otherwise applicable income tax treaty or other exemption, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders. See "Taxation of Stockholders." Moreover, any excess inclusion income that we receive that is allocable to specified categories of tax-exempt investors which are not subject to unrelated business income tax, such as government entities, may be subject to corporate-level income tax in our hands, whether or not it is distributed. See "Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income."

To the extent that we hold mortgage participations or mortgage backed securities that do not represent REMIC interests, such assets may not qualify as real estate assets, and the income generated from them might not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT income requirements, depending upon the circumstances and the specific structure of the investment.

We believe that our holdings of securities and other assets will comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements, and we intend to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis. Certain of our mezzanine loans may qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65, pursuant to which certain loans secured by a first priority security interest in ownership interests in a partnership or limited liability company will be treated as qualifying real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests, as well as for purposes of the gross income tests described above. See " Income Tests." We may, however, hold some mezzanine loans that do not qualify for that safe harbor and that do not qualify as "straight debt" securities or for one of the other exclusions from the definition of "securities" for purposes of the 10% value test. We intend to make such investments in such a manner as not to fail the asset tests described above, and we believe that our existing investments satisfy such requirements.

Independent appraisals generally are not obtained 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, including instruments issued in securitization transactions, may not be susceptible to a precise determination, and values are subject to change in the future. Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset requirements. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers will not cause a violation of the REIT asset tests.

Table of Contents

Loan Modifications and Distressed Debt

The IRS issued Revenue Procedure 2011-16, which contains provisions that are relevant where a REIT holds a mortgage loan which is modified in a transaction that is treated as the issuance of a new loan. In general, a modified loan will not be treated as less than fully secured by real property, and therefore will not give rise to interest income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test or cause a portion of the loan to be a non-qualifying asset for purposes of the 75% asset test applicable to REITs, provided that the value of the real estate collateral was at least as great as the amount of the loan at the time it was originally acquired by the REIT and the modification was occasioned by default or we reasonably believed at the time of the modification that there was a significant risk of default and the modified loan presented a substantially reduced risk of default. Moreover, for purposes of the REIT asset tests, a loan, whether or not it is modified, will generally not be treated as less than fully secured by real property provided that the value of the real estate collateral is at least as great as the value of the loan at the time that it is originally acquired by the REIT.

Annual Distribution Requirements

In order to qualify as a REIT, an entity is required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to its stockholders in an amount at least equal to:

- (a) the sum of:
 - (1) 90% of its "REIT taxable income" (computed without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding its net capital gains), and
 - (2) 90% of the net income, if any, (after tax) from foreclosure property (as described below), minus
- (b) the sum of specified items of non-cash income.

These distributions generally must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before the REIT timely files its tax return for the year and if paid with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. In order for distributions to be counted for this purpose, and to give rise to a tax deduction by the REIT, they must not be "preferential dividends." A dividend is not a preferential dividend if it is pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class, and is in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in the organizational documents.

To the extent that a REIT distributes at least 90%, but less than 100%, of its "REIT taxable income," as adjusted, it will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion. It may elect to retain, rather than distribute, its net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, the REIT could elect to have its stockholders include their proportionate share of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income and receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax paid by the REIT. Stockholders would then increase the adjusted basis of their REIT stock by the difference between the designated amounts of capital gains from the REIT that they include in their taxable income, and the tax paid on their behalf by the REIT with respect to that income.

To the extent that a REIT has any net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that it must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character, in the hands of stockholders, of any distributions that are actually made by the REIT, which are generally taxable to stockholders to the extent that the REIT has current or accumulated earnings and profits. See "Taxation of Stockholders Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders."

Table of Contents

If a REIT fails to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of its REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of its REIT capital gain net income for such year and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, it will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (x) the amounts actually distributed and (y) the amounts of income retained on which it has paid corporate income tax.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between (a) the actual receipt of cash, including receipt of distributions from its subsidiaries, and (b) the inclusion by us of items in income for federal income tax purposes. Potential sources of non-cash taxable income include income from equity interests in taxable mortgage pools, income from loans or mortgage-backed securities held as assets that are issued at a discount and require the accrual of taxable economic interest in advance of its receipt in cash, and income from loans on which the borrower is permitted to defer cash payments of interest and distressed loans on which we may be required to accrue taxable interest income even though the borrower is unable to make current servicing payments in cash. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary for us to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of our stock or other property.

A REIT may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying "deficiency dividends" to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in the REIT's deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, the REIT may be able to avoid losing its REIT status or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. However, the REIT will be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

Deferred Cancellation of Indebtedness Income and Net Operating Loss Carryforwards

SR Inc. has elected to defer the recognition of approximately \$306 million of cancellation of indebtedness, or COD, income under section 108(i) of the Internal Revenue Code. The deferred COD income will be recognized ratably over the 2014 through 2018 taxable years. SR Inc. has also generated approximately \$179 million of net operating loss, or NOL, carryforwards that may be available to offset the deferred COD income. However, SR Inc.'s ability to utilize NOL carryforwards to offset deferred COD or other income will be significantly limited in the event that SR Inc. undergoes, or has undergone, an ownership change within the meaning of Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. In general, an ownership change occurs with respect to a corporation if 5% stockholders increase their aggregate ownership interest in the corporation by more than 50 percentage points within a prescribed testing period (generally three years). We do not believe that SR Inc. has experienced an "ownership change" to date. However, no assurance can be provided that SR Inc. will not experience an ownership change. In that event, SR Inc. would be limited in its ability to offset its deferred COD income with its NOL carryforwards, which could result in SR Inc. or Arbor Realty not having sufficient cash from operations to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement, or paying corporate-level tax with respect to some or all of the COD income in lieu of paying a deductible dividend.

Failure to Qualify

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification other than the income or asset tests, we could avoid disqualification as a REIT if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. Relief provisions are also available for failures of the income tests and asset tests, as described above in " Income Tests" and " Asset Tests."

Table of Contents

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above 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 stockholders in any year in which an entity fails to qualify as a REIT are not deductible by the entity, nor would they be required to be made. In this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, distributions to stockholders would generally be taxable in the case of U.S. stockholders who are individuals, trusts and estates, at capital gains rates, and, subject to limitations of the Internal Revenue Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

Prohibited Transactions

Net income derived from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term "prohibited transaction" generally 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 by a REIT, by a lower-tier partnership in which the REIT holds an equity interest or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument to the REIT. Whether property is held "primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business" depends on the particular facts and circumstances. Although we intend to structure any asset sales so that they are not treated as prohibited transactions, no assurance can be given that any particular property in which we hold a direct or indirect interest will not be treated as property held for sale to customers, or that certain safe-harbor provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that could prevent such treatment will apply. The 100% tax will generally not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate income tax rates.

Foreclosure Property

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (i) that is acquired by a REIT as the result of the REIT 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 a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (ii) for which the related loan or lease was acquired by the REIT at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated and (iii) for which such REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. REITs generally 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, such as certain rental 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% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property in the hands of the selling REIT. If we receive any income from foreclosure property that is not qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, we expect to make an election to treat the related property as foreclosure property, or to otherwise determine that the receipt of such non-qualifying income will not adversely affect our status as a REIT.

Foreign Investments

To the extent that we directly or indirectly hold or acquire any investments and, accordingly, pay taxes, in foreign countries, such foreign taxes may not be passed through to, or used by, our stockholders, as a foreign tax credit or otherwise. Any foreign investments may also generate foreign

Table of Contents

currency gains and losses. Certain foreign currency gains are excluded from gross income for purposes of one or both of the gross income tests, as discussed above. See above under " Income Tests."

Derivatives and Hedging Transactions

We and our subsidiaries may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of derivative instruments such as interest rate swap contracts, interest rate cap or floor contracts, futures or forward contracts, and options. In general, any income from a hedging transaction we enter into (1) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate or price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, or (2) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests (or any asset that produces such income) which is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will be excluded altogether from the REIT income test calculations (i.e., from both the numerator and the denominator). To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Moreover, our position in a hedging contract or other derivative instrument, to the extent that it has positive value, may not be treated favorably for purposes of the REIT asset tests.

We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities through a TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT gross income tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income

An entity, or a portion of an entity, may be classified as a taxable mortgage pool ("TMP") under the Internal Revenue Code if:

substantially all of its assets consist of debt obligations or interests in debt obligations,

more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgages or interests in real estate mortgages,

the entity has issued debt obligations (liabilities) that have two or more maturities, and

the payments required to be made by the entity on its debt obligations (liabilities) "bear a relationship" to the payments to be received by the entity on the debt obligations that it holds as assets.

Under regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, if less than 80% of the assets of an entity (or a portion of an entity) consist of debt obligations, these debt obligations are considered not to comprise "substantially all" of its assets, and therefore the entity would not be treated as a TMP. Our financing and securitization arrangements may give rise to TMPs, with the consequences described below.

Table of Contents

Where an entity, or a portion of an entity, is classified as a TMP, it is generally treated as a taxable corporation for federal income tax purposes. In the case of a REIT, or a portion of a REIT, or a disregarded subsidiary of a REIT, that is a TMP, however, special rules apply. The TMP is not treated as a corporation that is subject to corporate income tax, and the TMP classification does not directly affect the tax status of the REIT. Rather, the consequences of the TMP classification would, in general, except as described below, be limited to the stockholders of the REIT.

A portion of the REIT's income from the TMP arrangement, which might be non-cash accrued income, could be treated as "excess inclusion income." Pursuant to guidance issued by the IRS, including IRS Notice 2006-97, the REIT's excess inclusion income, including any excess inclusion income from a residual interest in a REMIC, must be allocated among its stockholders in proportion to dividends paid. The REIT is required to notify stockholders of the amount of "excess inclusion income" allocated to them. A stockholder's share of excess inclusion income:

cannot be offset by any losses or deductions otherwise available to the stockholder,

is subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of stockholders that are otherwise generally exempt from federal income tax, and

results in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate (30%), without reduction for any otherwise applicable income tax treaty or other exemption, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders.

See "Taxation of Stockholders." Under the IRS guidance, to the extent that excess inclusion income is allocated to a tax-exempt stockholder of a REIT that is not subject to unrelated business income tax (such as a government entity or charitable remainder trust), the REIT will be subject to tax on this income at the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%). In that case, the REIT could reduce distributions to such stockholders by the amount of such tax paid by it that is attributable to such stockholder's ownership. Treasury regulations provide that such a reduction in distributions does not give rise to a preferential dividend that could adversely affect the REIT's compliance with its distribution requirements. See "Annual Distribution Requirements." The manner in which excess inclusion income is calculated, or would be allocated to stockholders, including allocations among shares of different classes of stock, is not clear under current law. As required by the IRS guidance, we intend to make such determinations using a reasonable method. Tax-exempt investors, foreign investors and taxpayers with net operating losses should carefully consider the tax consequences described above, and are urged to consult their tax advisors.

In the case of a subsidiary partnership that is not wholly-owned by us or by another entity, such as SR Inc., that is taxed as a REIT, if the partnership were a TMP, the foregoing rules would not apply. Rather, the partnership that is a TMP would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, and potentially could be subject to corporate income tax or withholding tax. In addition, this characterization would alter our income and asset test calculations, and could adversely affect our compliance with those requirements. We intend to monitor the structure of any TMPs in which we have an interest to ensure that they will not adversely affect our status as a REIT.

Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships

General

Arbor Realty and SR Inc. may hold investments through entities that are classified as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. In general, partnerships are "pass-through" entities that 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 on these items, without regard to whether the partners receive a distribution from the partnership. We will include in income our proportionate share of items from partnerships in which we hold an equity

Table of Contents

interest for purposes of the various REIT income tests and in the computation of our REIT taxable income. Moreover, for purposes of the REIT asset tests, we will generally include our proportionate share of assets held by subsidiary partnerships. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Effect of Subsidiary Entities Ownership of Partnership Interests."

Consequently, to the extent that we directly or indirectly hold a preferred or other equity interest in a partnership, the partnership's assets and operations may affect our ability to qualify as a REIT, even though we may have no control, or only limited influence, over the partnership.

Entity Classification

Any investment in partnerships involves special tax considerations, including the possibility of a challenge by the IRS of the status of any subsidiary partnership as a partnership, as opposed to an association taxable as a corporation, for federal income tax purposes (for example, if the IRS were to assert that a subsidiary partnership is a TMP). See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income." If any of these entities were treated as an association for federal income tax purposes, it would be taxable as a corporation and therefore could be 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 and could preclude us from satisfying the REIT asset tests or the gross income tests as discussed in "Taxation of Arbor Realty Asset Tests" and " Income Tests," and in turn could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT, unless we are eligible for relief from the violation pursuant to relief provisions described above. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Asset Tests," " Income Tests" and " Failure to Qualify," above, for discussion of the effect of failure to satisfy the REIT tests for a taxable year, and of the relief provisions. In addition, any change in the status of any subsidiary partnership for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case we could have taxable income that is subject to the REIT distribution requirements, without receiving any cash.

Tax Allocations with Respect to Partnership Properties

Under the Internal Revenue Code and the 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 must be allocated for tax purposes so that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of the unrealized gain or unrealized loss is generally 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 (a "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.

To the extent that any subsidiary partnership acquires appreciated (or depreciated) properties by way of capital contributions from its partners, allocations would need to be made in a manner consistent with these requirements. Where a partner contributes cash to a partnership at a time that the partnership holds appreciated (or depreciated) property, the Treasury regulations provide for a similar allocation of these items to the other (i.e., non-contributing) partners. These rules may apply to a contribution that we make to any subsidiary partnerships of the cash proceeds received in offerings of our stock. As a result, the partners in any subsidiary partnerships, including us, could be allocated greater or lesser amounts of depreciation and taxable income in respect of a partnership's properties than would be the case if all of the partnership's assets (including any contributed assets) had a tax basis equal to their fair market values at the time of any contributions to that partnership. This could cause us to recognize, over a period of time, taxable income in excess of cash flow from the partnership, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements discussed above.

Table of Contents

Taxation of Stockholders

Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders

This section summarizes the taxation of U.S. stockholders that are not tax-exempt organizations. For these purposes, a U.S. stockholder is a holder of our stock that for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

an individual who is 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 a political subdivision thereof;

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

any trust if (1) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. persons 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.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds stock issued by Arbor Realty, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our stock.

Distributions. As a REIT, the distributions that we make to our taxable domestic stockholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taken into account by stockholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. With limited exceptions, our dividends are not eligible for taxation at the preferential income tax rates (i.e., the 20% maximum federal rate under current law) which are applicable to qualified dividends from taxable C corporations received by domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates. Such stockholders, however, are taxed at the preferential rates on dividends designated by and received from REITs to the extent that the dividends are attributable to:

income retained by the REIT in the prior taxable year on which the REIT was subject to corporate level income tax (less the amount of tax),

dividends received by the REIT from TRSs or other taxable C corporations, or

income from subsequent sales of "built-in gain" property that had previously been acquired by the REIT from C corporations in tax-deferred carryover basis transactions (less the amount of corporate tax borne by the REIT on such income).

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taxed to our stockholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that such distributions do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the stockholder that receives such distribution has held its stock. We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long term capital gains, if any. In that case, we might elect to apply certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that treat our stockholders as having received, solely for tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains. The stockholders would be taxable on this income, but would also receive a corresponding credit for the taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gains. The stockholders would also be deemed to recontribute the after-tax amount of the income back to us, and would correspondingly increase the tax basis of their shares. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Annual

Table of Contents

Distribution Requirements." Corporate stockholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable under current law at maximum federal rates of 20% in the case of stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates, and 35% in the case of stockholders that are corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions, subject to a 25% maximum federal income tax rate in lieu of the 20% capital gains rate that applies to certain taxpayers.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will generally represent a return of capital, and will not be taxable to a stockholder, to the extent that the amount of such distributions does not exceed the adjusted tax basis of the stockholder's shares in respect of which the distributions were made. Rather, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of the stockholder's shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a stockholder's shares, the stockholder generally must include such distributions in income as long-term capital gain, or as short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder 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 have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Annual Distribution Requirements." Such losses, however, are not passed through to stockholders and do not offset income of stockholders from other sources, nor would such losses affect the character of any distributions that we make, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits, as described above.

If excess inclusion income from a taxable mortgage pool or REMIC residual interest is allocated to any stockholder, that income will be taxable in the hands of the stockholder and would not be offset by any losses or other deductions of the stockholder that would otherwise be available. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income." As required by IRS guidance, we intend to disclose to our stockholders if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income.

Dispositions of Stock. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals, trusts and estates upon the sale or disposition of our stock will be subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 20% if the stock is held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates of up to 39.6% if the stock is held for one year or less. Gains recognized by stockholders that are corporations are subject to federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gains. Capital losses recognized by a stockholder upon the disposition of our stock that was held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the stockholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may apply up to \$3,000 per year of the excess, if any, of capital losses over capital gains, to offset ordinary income). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of our stock by a stockholder who has held the shares for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the stockholder as long-term capital gain.

If an investor recognizes a loss upon a disposition of our stock in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of Treasury regulations involving "reportable transactions" could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss-generating transaction to the IRS. These regulations, though directed towards "tax shelters," are written quite

Table of Contents

broadly, and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. The Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our stock, or transactions that we might undertake directly or indirectly. Moreover, we and other participants in the transactions in which we are involved (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations. Distributions that we make and gains arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. stockholder of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, stockholders will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against income or gain relating to our stock. To the extent that distributions we make do not constitute a return of capital, they will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders

The following is a summary of certain United States federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our stock that are applicable to non-U.S. holders of our stock. A "non-U.S. holder" is any person other than a U.S. stockholder, as defined above, or a partnership, including for this purpose any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The discussion is based on current law and is for general information only. It addresses only selected, and not all, aspects of United States federal income and estate taxation.

Ordinary Dividends. The portion of dividends received by non-U.S. holders that (1) is payable out of our earnings and profits, (2) is not attributable to our capital gains, and (3) is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder, will generally be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by treaty. Reduced treaty rates and other exemptions are not available to the extent that income is attributable to excess inclusion income allocable to the foreign stockholder. Accordingly, we will withhold at a rate of 30% on any portion of a dividend that is paid to a non-U.S. holder and attributable to that holder's share of our excess inclusion income. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income." As required by IRS guidance, we intend to disclose to stockholders if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income.

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

Non-dividend Distributions. Unless our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest (a "USRPI"), distributions that we make which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. income tax. Although we believe that our stock is not a USRPI, no assurances can be given that our stock is not, or will not become, a USRPI. See below under "Dispositions of Stock" for a discussion of whether our stock will constitute a USRPI. If we cannot determine at the time that a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. The non-U.S. holder 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 stock constitutes a USRPI, as described below, distributions that we make in excess of

Table of Contents

the sum of (a) the stockholder's proportionate share of our earnings and profits, plus (b) the stockholder's basis in its stock, will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA") at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a domestic stockholder of the same type (e.g., 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 stockholder's share of our earnings and profits.

Capital Gain Dividends. Under FIRPTA, a distribution that we make to a non-U.S. holder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of USRPIs that we held directly or through pass-through subsidiaries ("USRPI capital gains"), will, except as described below, be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder and will be subject to U.S. income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. individuals or corporations, without regard to whether we designate the distribution as a capital gain dividend. See above under "Taxation of Foreign Stockholders Ordinary Dividends," for a discussion of the consequences of income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. 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 in the hands of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation. A distribution is not a USRPI capital gain if we held an interest in the underlying asset solely as a creditor. Capital gain dividends received by a non-U.S. holder that are attributable to dispositions of our assets other than USRPIs are not subject to U.S. income or withholding tax, unless (1) the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. holder would be subject to the same treatment as U.S. holders with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, in which case the non-U.S. holder will incur a 30% tax on his or her capital gains.

A capital gain dividend that would otherwise have been treated as a USRPI capital gain will not be so treated or be subject to FIRPTA, and generally will not be treated as income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and instead will be treated in the same manner as an ordinary dividend (see "Taxation of Foreign Stockholders Ordinary Dividends"), provided that (1) the capital gain dividend is received with respect to a class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States, and (2) the recipient non-U.S. holder does not own more than 5% of that class of stock at any time during the year ending on the date on which the capital gain dividend is received. We believe that our common stock is, and is likely to continue to be, "regularly traded" on an established securities exchange.

Dispositions of Stock. Unless our stock constitutes a USRPI, a sale of our stock by a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. taxation under FIRPTA. Our stock will not be treated as a USRPI if less than 50% of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as a creditor. It is not currently anticipated that our stock will constitute a USRPI.

Even if the foregoing 50% test is not met, our stock nonetheless will not constitute a USRPI if we are a "domestically-controlled qualified investment entity." A domestically-controlled qualified investment entity is a REIT, less than 50% of value of which is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. holders at all times during a specified testing period. We believe that we are, and we expect to continue to be, a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity, and that a sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. No assurance can be given, however, that we will remain a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity.

In the event that we are not a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity, but our stock is "regularly traded," as defined by applicable Treasury Department regulations, on an established securities market, a non-U.S. holder's sale of our stock nonetheless would not be subject to tax under

Table of Contents

FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that the selling non-U.S. holder held 5% or less of such class of stock at all times during a specified testing period. As noted above, we believe that our common stock is, and is likely to continue to be, "regularly traded" on an established securities exchange.

If gain on the sale of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. holder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder 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 stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS. Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. holder in two cases: (1) if the non-U.S. holder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. holder, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, or (2) if the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain.

Estate Tax. If our stock is owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) of the United States at the time of such individual's death, the stock will be includable in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and may therefore be subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. Such entities, however, may be subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). While some investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity generally do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt stockholder has not held our stock as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code (i.e., where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt stockholder), and (2) our stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, distributions that we make and income from the sale of our stock generally should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt stockholder.

To the extent, however, that we are (or a part of us, or a disregarded subsidiary of ours is) a TMP, or if we hold residual interests in a REMIC, a portion of the dividends paid to a tax-exempt stockholder that is allocable to excess inclusion income may be treated as UBTI. If, however, excess inclusion income is allocable to some categories of tax-exempt stockholders that are not subject to UBTI, we will be subject to corporate level tax on such income, and, in that case, we may reduce the amount of distributions to those stockholders whose ownership gave rise to the tax. See "Taxation of Arbor Realty Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income." As required by IRS guidance, we intend to disclose to our stockholders if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income.

Tax-exempt stockholders 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), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally require such stockholders to characterize distributions that we make as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends as UBTI, if we are a "pension-held REIT." We will not be a

Table of Contents

pension-held REIT unless either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock, or (2) a group of pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock, collectively owns more than 50% of our stock. Certain restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock should generally prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock, and, in general, should prevent us from becoming a pension-held REIT.

Tax-exempt stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of owning our stock.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Debtholders

This section summarizes the taxation of non-U.S. debtholders. This discussion deals only with certain U.S. federal income tax consequences to a non-U.S. debtholder that acquires fixed rate debt securities issued by us without original issue discount in their initial offering and at their issue price. For these purposes, a non-U.S. debtholder is a holder of our debt securities, other than a person that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is 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 a political subdivision thereof;

a partnership, or any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

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

any trust if (1) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. persons 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.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds debt securities issued by Arbor Realty, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our debt securities.

Interest. A payment of interest on a debt security to a non-U.S. debtholder will generally not be subject to U.S. taxation, provided that

- (i) such interest is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by the non-U.S. debtholder;
- (ii) such non-U.S. debtholder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;
- (iii) such non-U.S. debtholder is not a controlled foreign corporation directly or indirectly related to us through stock ownership;
- (iv) such non-U.S. debtholder is not a bank whose receipt of interest on the debt securities is described in section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (v)

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

either (A) such non-U.S. debtholder provides its name and address, and certifies on IRS Form W-8BEN (or a substantially similar form), under penalties of perjury, that it is not a U.S. person or (B) a securities clearing organization or certain other financial institutions holding the debt security on behalf of the non-U.S. debtholder certifies on IRS

Table of Contents

Form W-8IMY, under penalties of perjury, that such certification has been received by it and furnishes us or our paying agent with a copy thereof; and

(vi)

we or our paying agent do not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner of the debt security is a U.S. person.

If all of the foregoing requirements are not met, payments of interest on a debt security generally will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by treaty, subject to the discussion below under " U.S. Trade or Business."

Sale, Exchange, Retirement or Other Disposition of a Debt Security. Gain from the sale of a debt security generally will be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. debtholder only in two cases: (1) if the non-U.S. debtholder's investment in our debt securities is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. holder, such gain will be subject to tax in the manner described below under " U.S. Trade or Business," or (2) if the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain.

U.S. Trade or Business. In cases where interest in respect of, or gain from the sale of, our debt securities is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as domestic holders of debt securities are taxed with respect to such interest or gain. Such income must generally be reported on a U.S. income tax return filed by or on behalf of the non-U.S. holder. The income may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation.

Other Tax Considerations

Legislative or Other Changes in Tax Law Affecting REITs

The present U.S. federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the Treasury which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. Changes to the U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our stock or debt securities.

Medicare 3.8% Tax on Investment Income

Certain U.S. stockholders and debtholders who are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on dividends, interest and certain other investment income, including capital gains from the sale or other disposition of our common stock or debt securities.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

Legislation enacted in 2010 and regulations and other guidance issued thereafter will require, after June 30, 2014, withholding at a rate of 30% on dividends and payments of interest in respect of, and after December 31, 2016, withholding at a rate of 30% on gross proceeds from the sale of, shares of our stock and debt securities held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to shares in, or accounts maintained by, the institution to the extent such shares or accounts are held by certain U.S. persons or by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by U.S. persons. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country, or future Treasury regulations or other guidance may modify these

Table of Contents

requirements. Accordingly, the entity through which our shares or debt securities are held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, dividends and payments of interest in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, shares of our stock and debt securities held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity which does not qualify under certain exceptions will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30% beginning after the dates noted above, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any "substantial U.S. owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial U.S. owners," which we will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. We will not pay any additional amounts to stockholders in respect of any amounts withheld. The withholding tax will generally not apply to debt securities issued before July 1, 2014, unless such securities are significantly modified after that date. U.S. holders intending to hold our stock or debt securities through foreign financial institutions and non-U.S. holders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these rules on their investment.

State, Local and Foreign Taxes

We and our subsidiaries, stockholders and debtholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions, including those in which we or they transact business, own property or reside. We may own properties located in numerous jurisdictions, and may be required to file tax returns in some or all of those jurisdictions. Our state, local or foreign tax treatment, and that of our stockholders and debtholders, may not conform to the federal income tax treatment discussed above. We may pay foreign property taxes, and dispositions of foreign property or operations involving, or investments in, foreign property may give rise to foreign income or other tax liability in amounts that could be substantial. Any foreign taxes that we incur do not pass through to stockholders as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws and their effect on an investment in our stock or debt securities.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, including without limitation;

directly to purchasers;

through agents;

to or through underwriters or dealers; or

through a combination of these methods.

A distribution of the securities offered by this prospectus may also be effected through the issuance of derivative securities, including without limitation, warrants, exchangeable securities, forward delivery contracts and the writing of options.

In addition, the manner in which we may sell some or all of the securities covered by this prospectus includes, without limitation, through:

a block trade in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell as agent, but may position or resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers; or

privately negotiated transactions.

We may also enter into hedging transactions. For example, we may:

enter into transactions with a broker-dealer or affiliate thereof in connection with which such broker-dealer or affiliate will engage in short sales of the common stock pursuant to this prospectus, in which case such broker-dealer or affiliate may use shares of common stock received from us to close out its short positions;

sell securities short and redeliver such shares to close out our short positions;

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us to deliver common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who will then resell or transfer the common stock under this prospectus; or

loan or pledge the common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who may sell the loaned shares or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged shares pursuant to this prospectus.

In addition, we may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell securities covered by and pursuant to this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be. If so, the third party may use securities

borrowed from us or others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Table of Contents

A prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the terms of the offering;

the name or names of any underwriters or agents and the amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them, if any;

the public offering price or purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds to be received by us from the sale;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any initial public offering price;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

The offer and sale of the securities described in this prospectus by us, the underwriters or the third parties described above may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including privately negotiated transactions, either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to the prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

General

Any public offering price and any discounts, commissions, concessions or other items constituting compensation allowed or reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers, agents or remarketing firms may be changed from time to time. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms that participate in the distribution of the offered securities may be "underwriters" as defined in the Securities Act, as amended (the "Securities Act"). Any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profits they receive on the resale of the offered securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify any underwriters, agents or dealers and describe their commissions, fees or discounts in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Underwriters and Agents

If underwriters are used in a sale, they will acquire the offered securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the offered securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. These sales may be made at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale, at prices related to such prevailing market price or at negotiated prices.

Edgar Filing: ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC - Form 424B5

We may offer the securities to the public through an underwriting syndicate or through a single underwriter. The underwriters in any particular offering will be mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to certain conditions contained in an underwriting agreement that we will enter into with the underwriters at the time of the sale to them.

Table of Contents

The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities of the series offered if any of the securities are purchased, unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may designate agents to sell the offered securities. Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the agents will agree to use their best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. We may also sell the offered securities to one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. These firms will remarket the offered securities upon purchasing them in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to the terms of the offered securities. A prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be, will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any, with us and its compensation.

In connection with offerings made through underwriters or agents, we may enter into agreements with such underwriters or agents pursuant to which we receive our outstanding securities in consideration for the securities being offered to the public for cash. In connection with these arrangements, the underwriters or agents may also sell securities covered by this prospectus to hedge their positions in these outstanding securities, including in short sale transactions. If so, the underwriters or agents may use the securities received from us under these arrangements to close out any related open borrowings of securities.

Dealers

We may sell the offered securities to dealers as principals. We may negotiate and pay dealers' commissions, discounts or concessions for their services. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public either at varying prices to be determined by the dealer or at a fixed offering price agreed to with us at the time of resale. Dealers engaged by us may allow other dealers to participate in resales.

Direct Sales

We may choose to sell the offered securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

Institutional Purchasers

We may authorize agents, dealers or underwriters to solicit certain institutional investors to purchase offered securities on a delayed delivery basis pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified future date. The applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be will provide the details of any such arrangement, including the offering price and commissions payable on the solicitations.

We will enter into such delayed contracts only with institutional purchasers that we approve. These institutions may include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions.

Indemnification; Other Relationships

We may have agreements with agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms, and their affiliates, may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business. This includes commercial banking and investment banking transactions.

Table of Contents

Market Making, Stabilization and Other Transactions

There is currently no market for any of the offered securities other than the common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. If the offered securities are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending upon prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities and other factors. While it is possible that an underwriter could inform us that it intended to make a market in the offered securities, such underwriter would not be obligated to do so, and any such market making could be discontinued at any time without notice. Therefore, no assurance can be given as to whether an active trading market will develop for the offered securities. We have no current plans for listing of the debt securities, preferred stock or warrants on any securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. automated quotation system; any such listing with respect to any particular debt securities, preferred stock or warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve syndicate sales of common stock in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. "Covered" short sales are sales of shares made in an amount up to the number of shares represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered syndicate short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. Transactions to close out the covered syndicate short involve either purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed or the exercise of the over-allotment option. The underwriters may also make "naked" short sales of shares in excess of the over-allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares of common stock in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids for or purchases of shares in the open market while the offering is in progress for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may also engage in penalty bids. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would be in the absence of the transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York, and Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. If the validity of any securities is also passed upon by counsel for the underwriters of an offering of those securities, that counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries appearing in Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries' Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2012 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may also receive copies of these documents upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Room. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room in Washington D.C. and other locations. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial documents retrieval services, at our website (www.arborrealtytrust.com) and at the SEC's website (www.sec.gov).

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information that we file with them into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC, including our annual, quarterly and current reports. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information that is modified or superseded by information contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

The following documents have been filed by us with the SEC and are incorporated by reference into this prospectus:

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2013;

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012;

our Form 8-A filed on April 5, 2004; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K, dated January 8, 2013, January 17, 2013, January 28, 2013, February 1, 2013, March 4, 2013, March 27, 2013, May 9, 2013 and May 24, 2013.

All documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of the initial registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and will automatically update and

Table of Contents

supersede the information in this prospectus, and any previously filed document. In addition, all documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of shares hereby will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and any previously filed document.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the foregoing documents incorporated herein by reference (other than exhibits to such documents, unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in such documents). Requests for such documents should be directed to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York, 11553, Attention: Secretary (telephone no.: (516) 506-4200).

**Table of Contents
Prospectus Supplement**

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	<u>S-i</u>
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>S-ii</u>
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-6</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-11</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends</u>	<u>S-11</u>
<u>Capitalization</u>	<u>S-12</u>
<u>Description of Notes</u>	<u>S-13</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-32</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>S-35</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>S-35</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>S-35</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>S-36</u>

Prospectus

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	<u>ii</u>
<u>Summary</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>54</u>

Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.

\$ 7.375% Senior Notes due 2021

Deutsche Bank Securities

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
A Stifel Company

MLV & Co.
JMP Securities
Ladenburg Thalmann

Prospectus Supplement

August , 2014
