

# A 4-quadrant approach to real estate investing

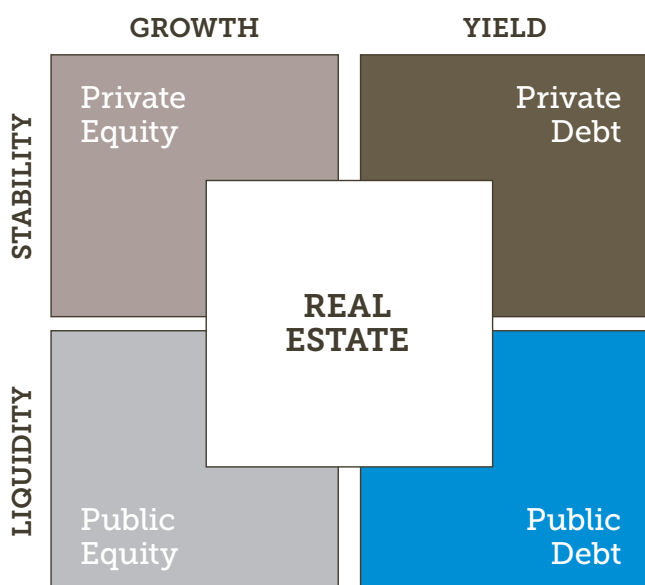
## Boost portfolios with a balance of public and private exposure to real estate equity and debt

Investors have long turned to real estate for income, inflation protection and diversification. There are a variety of ways to access this asset class, including private, direct investments in bricks-and-mortar properties, debt investments backed by real estate, publicly traded real estate investment trusts (REITs) and publicly traded debt-like instruments. Each of the four main types of real estate exposure – private equity, private debt, public equity and public debt – has its own set of advantages. Arguably the best approach is to combine their complementary benefits.

### Combining strengths

Having all four types of real estate exposure allows investors to offset the limitations of one type with the benefits of another. Figure 1 illustrates the primary features of each type of exposure.

Figure 1: The Four Quadrants of Real Estate Exposure



### PRIVATE EQUITY: HIGH RETURNS WITH LOW VOLATILITY

A private equity allocation consists of direct investments in real estate (bricks-and-mortar investments) and privately held companies that primarily own real estate. As an active investor, Timbercreek's focus is on investments where value can be created by improving net operating income (e.g., through renovations or recapitalization) or the overall quality and competitiveness of the property.

### PRIVATE DEBT: STABLE INCOME

A private debt exposure involves direct investments in debt that's secured by real estate or issued to companies that focus on real estate. The aim of the portfolio manager should be to identify opportunities that generate more yield than would normally be expected for the level of risk undertaken. Timbercreek's focus is on shorter-duration mortgage loans to protect invested capital in a rising interest rate environment.

### PUBLIC EQUITY: STRONG RETURNS WITH HIGH LIQUIDITY

This is the most liquid form of real estate investing, targeting common equities of publicly traded issuers backed by real estate, such as REITs. Investing in REITs provides a diversified exposure to real estate assets. Timbercreek targets both income and opportunistic growth with the aim of generating substantial returns.

### PUBLIC DEBT: STABLE INCOME AND LIQUIDITY

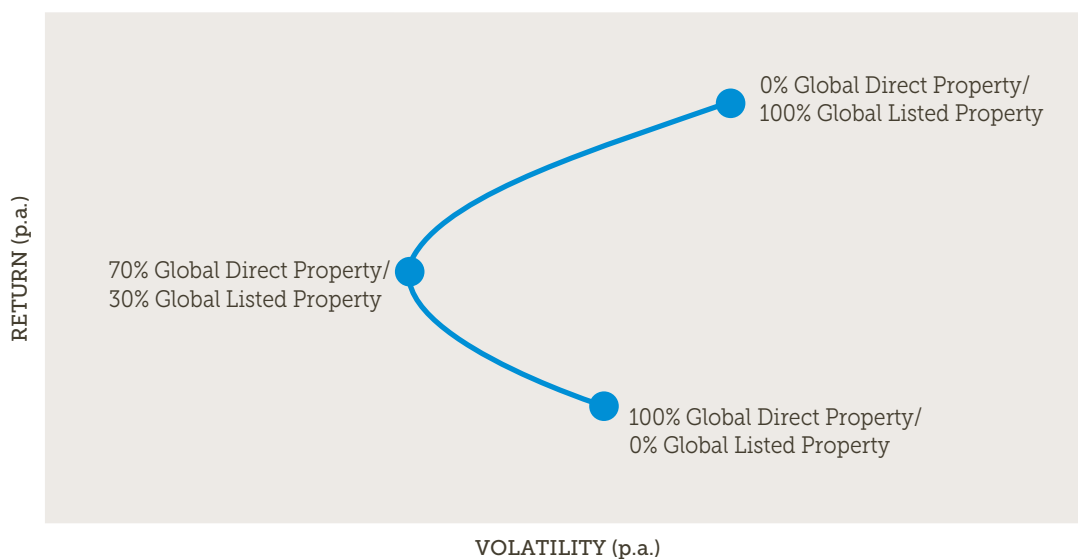
A public debt exposure includes investments in publicly traded preferred stock, unsecured debt, convertible debentures, preferred equity of REITs and mortgage REITs. Timbercreek targets undervalued securities to generate outsized returns. As with private debt, Timbercreek is looking for securities with yields that are greater than would be expected given their risk levels.

Where one of these four types of exposure shows limitations, another steps in to offset it. For example, private equity's stability comes at the expense of liquidity. This disadvantage is overcome when the investor has an allocation to public real estate equity and debt. Conversely, while strong active management will dramatically reduce the volatility of a public real estate portfolio, an allocation to private equity and debt can provide a degree of stability that exchange-listed investments cannot match.

## By the numbers

A portfolio that includes a real estate allocation combining all four exposure types has substantial benefits over the typical 60% equity, 40% bond portfolio. In addition, Figure 2 illustrates the benefits of achieving the optimal combination of global direct and global listed property.

Figure 2: Combining Global Direct and Global Listed Real Estate



Source: Bloomberg.

A 30% allocation to global listed property and a 70% allocation to global direct property provides the highest potential return with the lowest volatility of returns in a global property portfolio.

## Best of all worlds

Innovative new solutions now enable clients to harness the full range of benefits real estate offers. With a multi-strategy approach, investors no longer have to make compromises to achieve liquidity, stability, income and growth.

In today's investing environment, it's important to look at asset classes that can help enhance portfolio returns and lower volatility. The real estate asset class can do just that, with an active approach enhancing these benefits.

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