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**Trust for Architectural Easements Announces Sustainability and Historic Preservation
Panel Series**

December 29, 2008, Washington, DC -- A series of three panel discussions sponsored by the Trust for Architectural Easements and Island Press will bring together experts from the financial, real estate, architecture, preservation, planning, and policy worlds to discuss how to create a future that is environmentally, financially, and socially sound. The panels will cover “how policy influences development,” “how we regulate development,” and “how we finance development.”

In the next twenty years, the number of urban dwellers will swell to an estimated five-billion people. How we develop or redevelop to accommodate this growth will determine the future of our cities and regions, the natural environment, and the health and human welfare of all of the earth’s inhabitants. As we face the challenges of climate change and diminishing fossil fuel resources, how will urban areas accommodate a growing population while minimizing resource use?

The re-use and adaptation of existing resources in the built environment should be a critical component of any sustainable growth strategy. The Trust for Architectural Easements president, Steven L. McClain, notes that “the process of recycling and rehabilitating existing buildings is almost always more environmentally efficient than tearing down and building new structures. The positive attributes of rehabilitating older buildings is increased when one considers their protection results in not only preserving historic buildings, but also the continued use of the communities they anchor.”

Visionary developer and author of *The Option of Urbanism* Christopher B. Leinberger will participate in each panel in the series with an eye towards linking the topics, ideas, and debates from one panel in the series to another. Leinberger has a progressive approach to development that will contribute significantly to the impact of this panel series.

The Trust for Architectural Easements is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit organizations dedicated to voluntary preservation through easement donations. Island Press was established in 1984 to stimulate, shape and communicate the ideas that are essential for solving environmental problems.

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