

# American Academy in Rome Names New President

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PARIS — The American Academy in Rome is expected to name Mark Robbins, the executive director of the International Center of Photography, as its new president. Mr. Robbins, an architect and artist who has also been the director of design at the National Endowment for the Arts, will follow Adele Chatfield-Taylor, who is [stepping down](#) in January after 27 years as the head of the independent research institution.

Known for his multidisciplinary interests, Mr. Robbins, 57, is leaving the Center of Photography after only one year at its helm, but said in a phone interview from New York that the lure of Rome had been too strong to resist.

The [American Academy](#) hosts artists, scholars, preservationists, architects, writers and composers for residencies at its villa on the Janiculum Hill in Rome, where Mr. Robbins was a fellow in design in 1996-1997. As president, “I’m hoping to broaden people’s understanding” of the institution, Mr. Robbins said, adding, “for artists and scholars, of the continuing importance of Rome as a way of thinking about the contemporary world, but also for the wider public, internationally, to understand the American Academy in Rome as a center for thinking, arts and creativity.”

In her tenure, Ms. Chatfield-Taylor, 68, a historic preservationist, helped restore the Academy’s McKim, Mead & White building and oversaw a capital campaign in which the institution’s endowment grew to \$100 million. She also brought on Alice Waters, the chef and owner of the restaurant Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif., to create the [Rome Sustainable Food Project](#), which brings chefs from the United States to explore Italian sustainable food traditions and cook for the Academy guests.

In the future, “We can only go up,” Mr. Robbins said. “There’s a firm foundation.”