Alexandros Washburn is the Chief Urban Designer of the City of New York, Department of City Planning and the author of *The Nature of Urban Design: a New York Perspective on Resilience*.

He leads a design studio within government for projects ranging in scale from skyscrapers to micro-unit apartments and acts as the design eyes for City Planning in zoning, policy and project review.   He has a Masters of Architecture from the Harvard Design School, and in past lives he has been a partner at W Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the president of the Moynihan Station Redevelopment Corporation, and Environment and Public Works advisor in the United States Senate.

World traveler, global professor, and bicycle commuter, he takes his sketchbook with him to cities around the world looking for best practices to bring home to New York City. His goal is to meet the urban design challenges for New York City while improving the quality of civic life, and by writing The Nature of Urban Design, to widen the circle of those who can learn to change their cities for the better.

Critics have said that The Nature of Urban Design redefines field, that "Alex Washburn has performed the miracle of writing a book about cities that appeals to experts and general readers alike." And "Alex Washburn shows planning in New York as it is really done, with the technical requirements, the political difficulties, and the dreams."