

1

Someone once wrote: Our relationships with cities resemble our relationships with people. What is your opinion?

2

How many cities do you think of as yours?

3

Do you reckon this figure to be final? If not, how many cities do you think you will end up having in your life?

4

Which cities in your life did you choose off your own bat? Which ones did you end up in without meaning to?

5

Which cities where you had to find your feet have aroused strong feelings in you? Have you felt at the mercy of these feelings? Or have you tried to structure the encounter yourself? Please elaborate.

6

When you come across a building that you find especially beautiful or ugly, ordinary or exceptional, well-maintained or uncared for, do you draw conclusions about the people who live or work there? Does this also hold true for neighbourhoods or entire cities?

7

What defines your image of a city more: the developed or the undeveloped areas?

8

Which cities do you think you are truly acquainted with?

9

When you compare the different cities in your life, are you being fair? Which ones do you idealise? Which ones get a roasting?

10

If you feel a close connection to a city, how much change do you allow it to go through before you start having conversations in which you claim it is not what it used to be?

11

Have you ever left a city for good because you wanted to become someone else? If so, looking back, what has had more of an influence on you: the city you left or the new city?

12

Are your relationships with cities strictly business? What do you put in? What do you get out? Who gets the better deal?

13

When you are talking to people, do you keep quiet about certain cities in your life or overstate the importance of others? If so, do you think this is because of

- a) you?
- b) the person you are talking to?
- c) the city in question?

14

Have you ever felt ill at ease in a city,

- a) because you thought you were very rich in comparison to the people there?
- b) because you thought you were very poor in comparison to the people there?
- c) because you felt like an outsider in every way?
- d) because you had the feeling that you got swallowed up in the crowd?

(Feel free to continue the list.)

15

What do you consider a city's wealth to consist in?

16

Who do you think this wealth should be for?

- a) The people who produce it?
- b) The people who administer it?
- c) The people who consume it?

17

When you hear about rankings that rate a city as the most expensive/the most liveable/the most popular in a country or in the world, does that change the way you see it? Do you trust mainstream opinion, or do you tend to push back against it?

18

When you hear about a city's outstanding qualities, do you imagine a possible life there? Or do you first think of other people, like

- a) the people who really get something out of these advantages?
- b) the people who are almost always excluded from enjoying these advantages?
- c) the people in the centre?

19

Who or where is the heart of a city, the centre of things? (Please explain.)

20

When you talk to someone about a city you hold dear, such as the one you grew up in or lived in for a long time or spent an important part of your life in, are you certain you are both talking about the same place?

21

Have you ever thought of certain cities in your life purely as places of transition? If so, how are they different from places that feel more permanent? Are there qualities that they both share?

22

Have you ever had to forgive a city?

Or, conversely, do you think a city is capable of regret?

23

Is there a city you have never visited that has a special place in your heart? What is the story behind this infatuation? Do you think visiting the city might compromise it?

24

Have you ever had the experience of feeling completely present in a city and then suddenly realising that you were in a different city?

25

If so, what do you think deceived you? Did your feeling trick you? Or were you just in the wrong place?