POMONA DOCKS IN TRANSITION

Manchester Docks were made while constructing Manchester Ship Canal in late 19th century to make Manchester as an inland harbor. Manchester couldn’t accommodate the sea vessels and the docks and canals were filled with trading ships and were houses. Manchester docks were separated with two areas. From dock number 1 to 4 were located which were called Pomona Docks near to city center; and the others, from 6 to 9 which were called Salford Docks were located across the Trafford Industrial Park.

Today, Salford Docks, Trafford and Manchester City Center are busy with redevelopments while Pomona Docks are still left over with weeds. And most of redevelopments are highly concentrated on housing, shopping malls, and other recreational programs but has little consideration on the infrastructures that make possible today’s Manchester.

Pomona Docks are the place where most of the rivers and canals from east gather and separate to west. These water connections are not just linked around the territory but are linked to whole territory of England. However, most of canals are not used and they are just abandoned, and British Water Way is trying to change the use of the canals for recreation.

Pomona Docks have the chance to be half of the narrow boats around the territory. It does not need huge development to be happened. It just needs relevant facilities to attract boaters such as work stations, filling stations, boater’s camp, rowing clubs and etc. These small facilities will change the whole condition of the water ways.

These facilities will be located on the docks where it was used to be used for industrial use to reveal the trace of the docks. The position of the rear houses will be replaced to recreational facilities and the trading ships will be replaced to the narrow boats and rowing boats. The earth that is excavated from the docks will be related within the site and will be purified.

To make this happen first of all the water quality of the canals should be improved. The bad quality of the water is still making for the people to enjoy the water. Purifying water is the most fundamental factor to make the land to be used for recreation. By introducing constructed wetlands, the wet field will give the park like atmosphere to the surrounding environment.

Furthermore, the main station in Pomona dock connects all the way to north east and south west part of the territory. This condition will not only hold boaters but also introduce the urbanites to come and enjoy as a park, temporal markets or events, and transfer to water facilities. The shape of the facilities will become an object that is gently integrated with the landscape and infrastructure. The materials such as concrete, steel, Staffordshire blue brick, and marsh shows its line and reveals the previous condition of the site that was used to be the industrial area.

By these small gestures, the whole territory that is connected by these facilities will bring the changes and promises for the future water network of England. And I imagine the boaters from London are enjoying in Pomona Docks with great pleasure.