

# *Architecture 101*

## *Part 1: From Nothingness To Place*

9/101

Week 2: Learning to sketch

*Wednesday:*  
*#SomePeopleTheyKnowThings*



In Japan, they know a lot of things...

Japanese gardens, for instance,  
the overall concept.

*The plum tree, dwindling, contains less of the  
spring; But the garden is wider, and holds  
more of the moon.*

(a koan by R. H. Blyth)

Here's a nice **interactive tour** of Ryoan-Ji, the famous garden we have in today's video.

*On the southern and western side, a low wall with thatched roof tile surrounds the rock garden. The wall, originally white in color has turned into a rusty earthy color, blending it well with the garden.*

*In the rock garden Ryoanji, the objects (rocks) are so aesthetically and perfectly arranged in space (sand) one ceases to be aware of either one separately.*

Along the centuries, especially in the West, a lot of stuff has been written on zen, zen gardens, zen this, zen that.

On a first look, it looks fairly funny crap. Actually, we have to admit, it is quite fascinating.



*The garden at Ryōan-ji does not symbolize anything, or more precisely, to avoid any misunderstanding, the garden of Ryōan-ji does not symbolize, nor does it have the value of reproducing a natural beauty that one can find in the real or mythical world.*

*I consider it to be an abstract composition of “natural” objects in space, a composition whose function is to incite meditation.*

Gunter Nitschke

We have to say that a lot of people don't completely agree with Mr. Nitschke's idea.

But for the benefit of our class, we can take it as it is and we can proceed on.

Maybe one day you'll go there and think about this sentence, and compare it to your own perceptive experience.



*What will I do today?*

Today, you will sketch leaves.

Find some leaves and sketch them without looking at what you are sketching.

You are only allowed to look at the leaves.  
You are not allowed to look to your drawing  
(while you draw it).

Understood?

Once you have your sketch, upload it to  
Instagram using the hashtags:

#SomePeopleTheyKnowThings  
#Architecture101

*What will I learn?*

Work on the negative,  
switch off your mind, observe.

As Leonard Cohen would say, *there is a crack  
in everything, that's how the light gets in.*

Did you know that Leonard Cohen was also  
a Zen monk? We love Mr. Cohen.  
Especially when he sings.

Not so sure when he is a zen monk.  
Still, we give him the benefit of the doubt...

You know, we know, **everybody knows...**

*Why do we do this?*

To achieve higher understanding of things.

Ok, we know that it sounds funny,  
but this is the way.

Sometimes,  
we accept to look funny because  
the trade-off is actually good...

:-)

Show me the place...

森

*Mori, forest*



## ***Further inspiration***

Mona Hatoum + *and -*

*Construction and destruction of a sand Mandala by the Dalai Lama, from Werner Herzog documentary Wheel of Time.*

Tibetan monks spend days making beautiful sand mandalas, and then they destroy what they did.

:o



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