

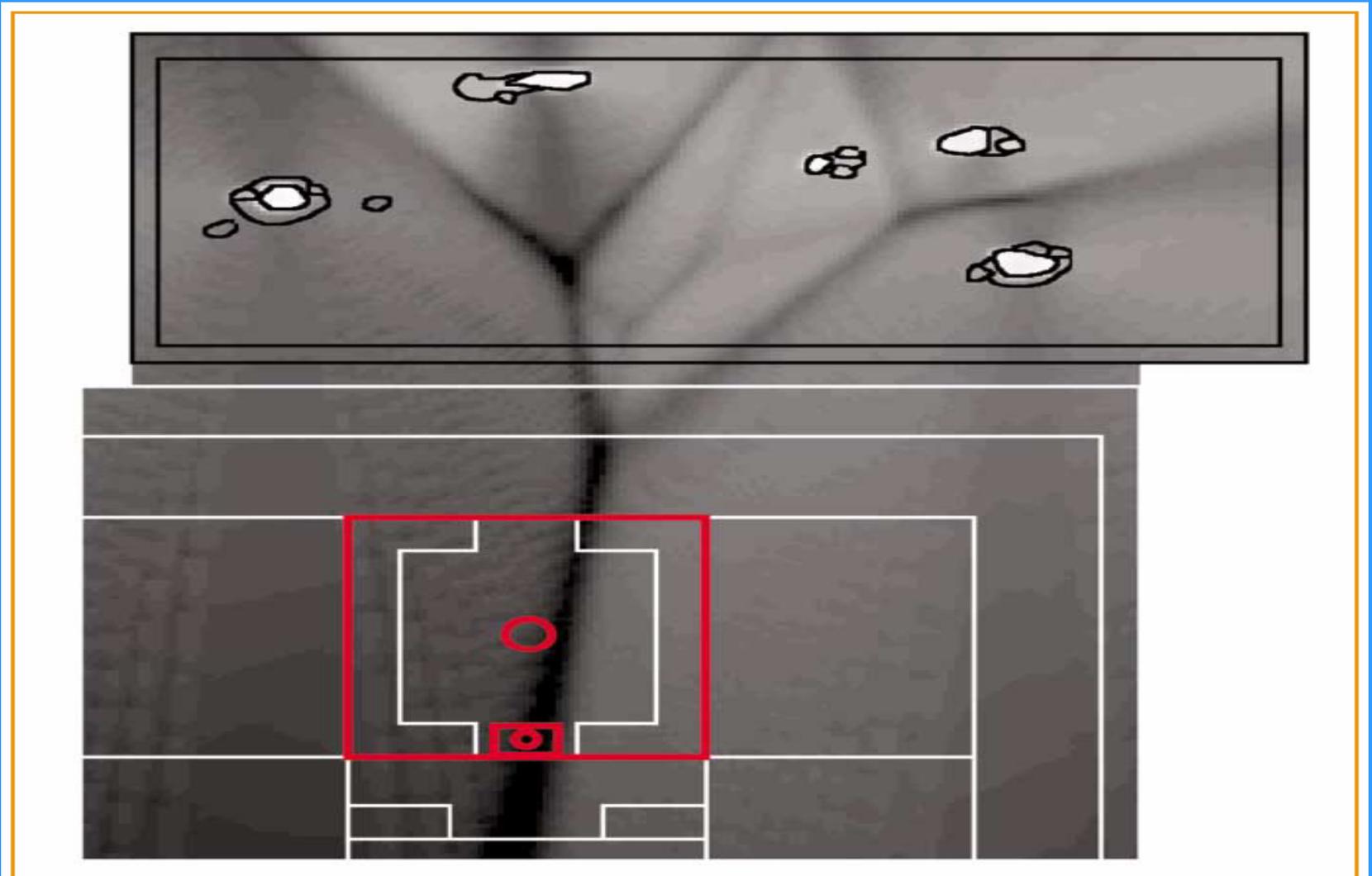
"Sin embargo, es preciso darse cuenta que, con la evolución histórica, la estructura del pensamiento humano igualmente cambia. El progreso de la ciencia no se expresa solamente en el sentido que aprendemos a conocer y a comprender hechos nuevos, sino igualmente en el sentido que reaprendemos sin cesar lo que significa la palabra "comprender".

Heisenberg, W. (1969) Der Teil und das Ganze. Gespräche in Umkreis der Atomphysik (La parte y el todo. El mundo de la física atómica)





**Figure 1** The Zen garden at Ryoanji Temple in Kyoto, Japan, showing the simple arrangement of rocks that constitutes its design.



**Figure 2** Medial-axis transformation of the layout of the Zen garden, showing the rock clusters (top) and building plan (AD 1681) of the temple (outlined in white). Red square, the main hall; circle, the traditionally preferred viewing point for the garden; rectangle, alcove containing a Buddhist statue. If the positions of the rock clusters are rearranged randomly, features that were incorporated deliberately into the original design of the garden are destroyed (see supplementary information).

There is a growing realization that scientific analysis can reveal unexpected structural features hidden in controversial abstract paintings<sup>7,8</sup>. We have uncovered the implicit structure of the Ryoanji garden's visual ground and have shown that it includes an abstract, minimalist depiction of natural scenery. We believe that the unconscious perception of this pattern contributes to the enigmatic appeal of the garden.

VAN TONDER, G.J., LYONS, M.K., EJIMA, Y. 2002. Perception psychology: Visual structure of a Japanese Zen garden. *Nature*, 419 (6905): 359-360.  
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