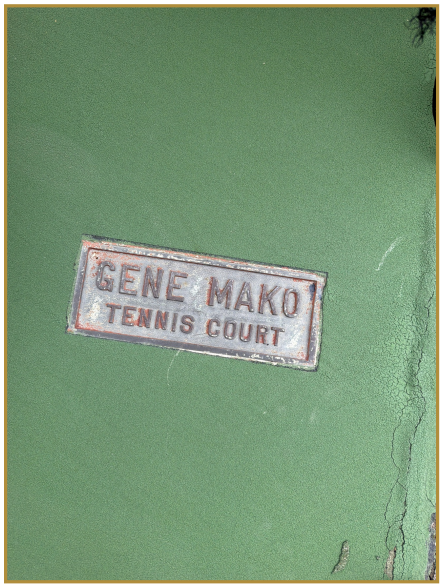
71308 CYPRESS DRIVE · RANCHO MIRAGE · FOR REFERENCE

The Tennis Court Was Designed by Gene Mako

International Tennis Hall of Fame, Class of 1973 · Don Budge's doubles partner

Who Gene Mako was

- **Constantine "Gene" Mako (1916 to 2013)** was one of the great doubles players of the 1930s, in the era when doubles was headline tennis.
- **Don Budge's partner.** Mako was the other half of the Budge doubles team, the most famous pairing of its day.
- **Four Grand Slam doubles titles:** Wimbledon in 1937 and 1938, and the U.S. Championships in 1936 and 1938.
- **USC champion.** He won NCAA singles and doubles titles at the University of Southern California.
- **Hall of Fame.** Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1973, alongside the legends of his era.
- **Second career.** After tennis, Mako designed and built tennis courts across Southern California, and he signed his work: an embedded plaque in the court surface, exactly as found at Cypress.



Maker's plaque set into the court itself, photographed October 31, 2026.

The court at Cypress

- Sunken eight feet below grade, Welton Becket's answer to the club's fence-height limit when the house was built in 1955.
- Lighted, and today also lined for two pickleball courts. The house is one of only two around Thunderbird Country Club with its own court.
- Mako's plaque survives in the playing surface, a signed piece of tennis history that comes with the house.

Possible listing line, for consideration only: "Sunken tennis court designed and built by Hall of Famer Gene Mako."

Prepared for Joe Tourtelot, Compass, at Dan Jessup's request · Reference only, not listing copy · October 31, 2026