



“We bought those [banquet chairs] 12 years ago, and they’re still here, they’re still working. Those have held up like a rock.”

— Tom Hauber,
Student Center Director

FEATURED PRODUCTS:

- ABS Tables
- Classic Banquet Chair

PHOTO CREDIT

Veronica Kraft,
University of Pennsylvania

DURABILITY BY DESIGN

OVERVIEW

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The University of Pennsylvania Student Union Center, Houston Hall, is America’s oldest Student Union Building. Designed by William C. Hays and Milton Medary in a student competition and named after its main benefactor Henry Howard Houston, Houston Hall was built in 1894, and covers more than 85,000 sqft.

CHALLENGE

Houston Hall is the center for all student activity at the University of Pennsylvania and holds up to 10,000 events a year. Rooms can turn over up to 3 times a day. With so much going on, the Penn staff is expected to turn over a room quickly. Tables are constantly dropped on their side during setup and takedown. Chairs need to withstand frequent stacking and un-stacking. “We tend not to handle our furniture gingerly,” said Tom Hauber, Director of the Student Center. “Our furniture was literally falling apart.”

SOLUTION

Penn selected tables from several different vendors and put them to the test to see if they could stand up to the rigors of Houston Hall’s event schedule. MityLite’s ABS tables and chairs passed and continue to pass the test as Houston Hall has been using MityLite for more than a decade.

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