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BBC Radio Nottingham's Click of the Day

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You are in: [Nottingham](#) > [People](#) > [Profiles](#) > Design heroes: Sarah Turner



Design heroes: Sarah Turner

Furniture designer Sarah Turner wants to light up our living rooms with rubbish.

The Nottingham Trent Furniture and Product Design graduate has been brightening up design shows, from Nottingham to London, with her lighting range made from recycled soft drinks bottles.

The 24-year-old struck on the idea when sifting through her housemates' rubbish and was amazed at how many bottles they were throwing away.

Having melted them down, cut them up and put them through a variety of processes she found that when lights were shone through sandblasted plastic they looked great.

"A lot of plastic bottles in the UK don't get recycled. I live in an area where they are not collected by the council,

"My aim is to do something creative with them."

Sarah only set up her business last October but has already received accolades for designs.



The Cola 30

She came second in Concept of the Year at The Ideal Home Show, runner up in the international Make Some Green Design Competition and was shortlisted finalist in the Nottingham Creative Business Awards.

[Sarah Turner on her favourite Nottingham designs](#) >
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Labour intensive design

Her range of lamps and ceiling lights are all hand made and although Sarah's material costs might be quite low her labour hours are not.

A product such as the Cola 10 (opposite) can take up to eight hours to make.

Most of it is produced on premises at the HIVE business centre at Nottingham Trent University, where Sarah has access to lasers and sandblasters, but she admits to taking her work home.

"I have a 'bottle room' in my house where I do a lot of the glueing and sticking. It's very therapeutic."

She is now extending her product range to include other recycled material.



The Cola 10

[Visit Sarah's website to view more of her work](#) >
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Bid to be World Design Capital

Nottingham is bidding to become the World Design Capital in 2012. The city council, the Arts Council and Nottingham Trent University are behind the application to the International Design Alliance (IDA). Sarah is supporting the application along with Nottingham-born designer Paul Smith, who hopes it will encourage young designers.

[More about Nottingham's bid to become World Design Capital](#) >

You can hear more 'design heroes' every Tuesday with Frances Finn, 09:00 to 12:00 on BBC Radio Nottingham (95.5 & 103.8FM, DAB and online).

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