



The tight timescale and manufacturing work required led to Sarah approaching NTU's sustainable design project, Future Factory, for support. She was given access to the University's workshop facilities with technical staff support to build five giant two-metre wide lights.

Each of the five large lights consisted of rings of plastic bottles surrounding a central globe and was constructed from 190 plastic Coca-Cola bottles. The centre point of each light is Sarah's Cola 30, the first light Sarah made from waste bottles. It was this original design which alerted Coca-Cola to Sarah's work.

Sarah said: "I wanted the lights to have an Olympic look which is why I chose to make them as circular disks with rings of plastic bottles, reminiscent of the Olympic rings."

...I always hoped that Coca-Cola would notice me and my work...

Sarah was also commissioned to make a nine-metre tall sculpture from waste Coca-Cola bottles and cans. Thousands of pieces were hand-cut then tied onto invisible wires in the form of a diver, freeze-framed in three different stages of a high dive.

She said: "The brief set by Coca-Cola was quite open, so I really got to use my imagination and creative recycling skills. Diving fascinates me, it's so precise and graceful, yet quick and over in a moment. I thought by capturing and almost freeze-framing the dive in its different stages we could celebrate it in more detail."

Coca-Cola were so impressed with Sarah's work that they asked her to create table centrepieces for the Langham Hotel in central London where many of Coca-Cola's guests were staying for the duration of the Olympics.

Eco-artist is the real thing

Alumna Sarah Turner entered into the Olympic spirit with an eco-friendly commission for Coca-Cola.

Coca-Cola first noticed Sarah's work over a year ago and have been in contact with her ever since, choosing her to design and make bespoke lighting and a sculpture for their Hospitality Centre at the Olympic Park.

Based at The Hive, NTU's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise, Sarah specialises in reusing locally collected waste plastic drinks bottles – sandblasting them before cutting and shaping them until they are unrecognisable from their original state.

Sarah, who graduated in 2008 with BA Hons Furniture and Product Design, said: "When I first started making lights from waste plastic bottles I always hoped that Coca-Cola would notice me and my work and get in touch. Being commissioned by them for the Olympics was a dream come true."

